



# GRow1000 Summer Youth Employment Program

## 2024 Report

The GRow1000 program, established in 2020 by City Manager Dr. Mark Washington during the global pandemic as a strategy to mitigate the effects of the economic downturn, closures, and heighten racial injustices.

Over the course of five summers, GRow1000 has employed 1,150 youth in meaningful summer jobs at over 100 unique job sites at area businesses, nonprofit organizations, higher education institutions and governmental entities.

During the 2024 iteration of GRow1000, the City of Grand Rapids remained the employer of record and partnered with area employers who provide wage reimbursements to the City for their participation. A total of 162 young people ages 15 to 24 were employed from June 10 to July 19, 2024 and worked 20 hours per week for six weeks. Additionally, "GRowers" who opted in for a mentor were matched with local professionals who provided additional support to ensure a successful work experience.



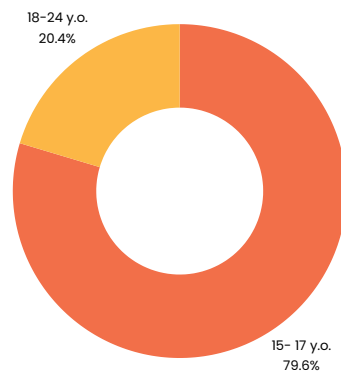
*"I am humbled by the collaboration that created GRow1000 and I'm grateful for the collective impact that will be felt for years to come."*

**Dr. Mark Washington**  
City Manager

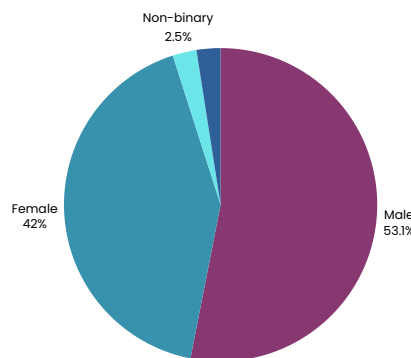
### Demographics

*N= 162 Participants*

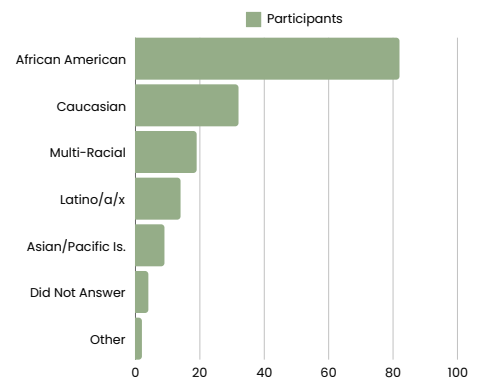
#### Age Range:



#### Gender:



#### Race & Ethnicity:



#### Participants' Residential Zip Codes:

49507 - 46 (28%)	49512 - 11 (~7%)	49525 - 5 (3%)	49302 - 1 (<1%)
49508 - 17 (10%)	49506 - 10 (6%)	49509 - 3 (~2%)	49401 - 1 (<1%)
49503 - 14 (~9%)	49546 - 7 (4%)	49316 - 3 (~2%)	49428 - 1 (<1%)
49504 - 14 (~9%)	49548 - 7 (4%)	49301 - 2 (~1%)	
49505 - 14 (~9%)	49519 - 5 (3%)	49544 - 1 (<1%)	

*"It was heartwarming to see high schoolers grasp the significance of their contributions and express gratitude for the experience. We were truly grateful for all three of our dedicated GRowers!"*

**- GRow1000 Employer**

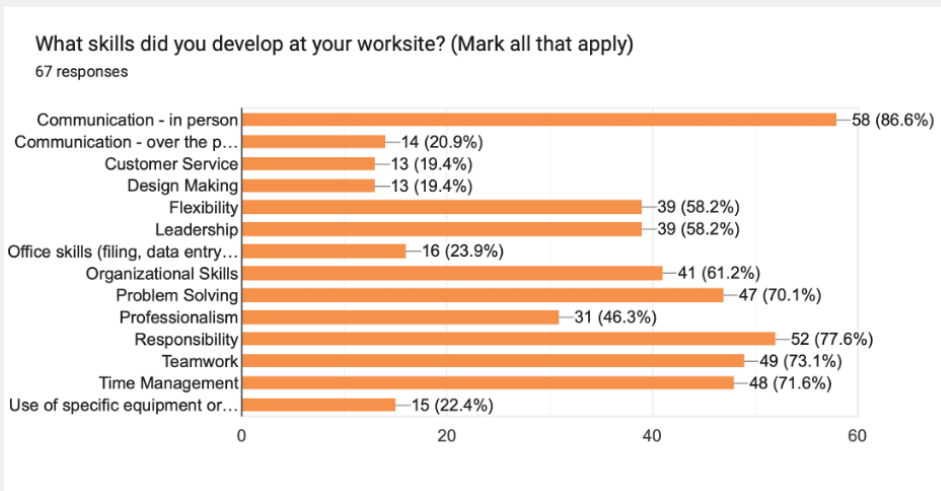


For a second consecutive year, a series of professional development workshops was integrated into the GRow1000 experience. *GRow Further Fridays* (GFF) occurred every Friday for three hours at Grand Rapids City Hall.

GFF was curated by Our Community's Children, which managed GRow1000, to provide additional training on transferable skills and to build community among GRowers. Workshops included resume writing, entrepreneurship, dressing for success, financial literacy, college access and more.

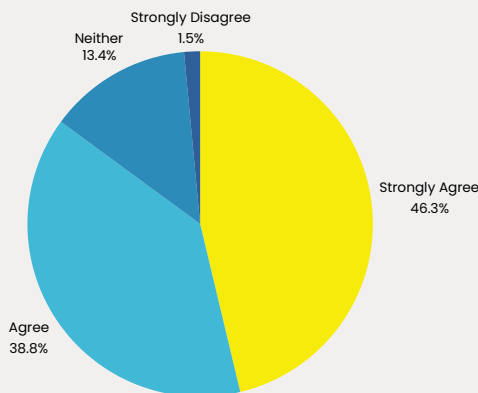
### 2024 Youth Participant Survey

“What skills did you develop at your worksite? (Mark all that apply).”



“Overall, GRow1000 met my expectations.”

Result: **85% Strongly Agreed or Agreed**



#### **2024 Employers**

- Autocam Medical
- Baxter Neighborhood Association
- Brooklyn's Thrifty Threads
- Brown's Funeral Home
- Butterball Farms, Inc.
- Cascade Engineering
- City of Grand Rapids
  - 61st District Court
  - Clerk's Office
  - Community Development
  - Development Center
  - Environmental Services
  - Facilities Dept.
  - Human Resources Dept.
  - Ofc. of Oversight & Public Accountability
  - Our Community's Children
  - Parks and Recreation
  - Public Works
  - Special Events
  - Water Dept.
- City of Rest GR
- Corewell Health
- Creston Neighborhood Association
- Dewpoint
- Downtown Grand Rapids, Inc
- First Tee West Michigan
- Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park
- Girls Choral Academy
- Grand Rapids Children's Museum
- Grand Rapids Housing Commission
- Grand Rapids Public Library
- Grand Rapids Rotary Club
- Grandville Avenue Arts & Humanities
- Heartside Gleaning
- Hope Gain Network
- In The Image
- KConnect
- Marvelous Lifestyles Outreach
- Mobile GR
- NIA Centre
- Oakdale Neighbors
- Public Thread
- Puertas Abiertas
- STEM Greenhouse
- The PLAYGROUNDgr
- West Grand Neighborhood Association
- Windquest Group, Inc.
- YMCA of Greater Grand Rapids
- Young Money Finances

#### **2024 GRow1000 Sponsors:**

Bank of America | Virginia DeHaan | Dick & Valerie Peacock | Progressive AE| Warner, Norcross + Judd, LLP | Wege Foundation

For more information about the City of Grand Rapids' GRow1000 Summer Youth Employment Program, please contact Our Community's Children at 616.456.3558 or visit [www.ourcommunityschildren.com](http://www.ourcommunityschildren.com).

