



NAZA

NASHVILLE AFTER ZONE ALLIANCE



ANNUAL REPORT



2025-2026

NASHVILLE AFTER ZONE ALLIANCE



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FOREWORD



Dear Reader,

NAZA and partners completed another great year of creating positive life experiences and lasting impact for thousands of Nashville youth through afterschool, summer and mentorship programs. In fiscal year 2026 (FY26), NAZA appropriated over \$4.3 million in grants to 22 different youth development organizations that enabled over 3,500 youth to access high quality afterschool, summer, and mentorship programming. Youth programs empowered participants to explore their interests and talents from arts to career options as well as receive academic support and homework assistance. We would like to thank all NAZA-funded and affiliated partners for their commitment and tireless work to provide these opportunities for youth.

We thank the Mayor's Office and Metro Council for continuous NAZA support. Their commitment to sustained NAZA funding enabled many organizations across Nashville and Davidson County to create safe and welcoming spaces for young people and offer them positive learning and development opportunities.

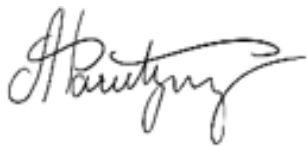
Due to this commitment, we were able to sustain funding for mentorship programs for middle and high school aged youth, including those in the Juvenile Detention Center and two Alternative Learning Centers. These programs were intentionally designed and delivered by caring adult professionals individually or through small groups to teach youth essential life skills such as self-management, goal setting, planning, and positive communication.

NAZA continued working with MDHA to expand access to summer programs for youth in public housing communities as we remain committed to narrowing the opportunity gap for Nashville youth. NAZA partners offered safe and supportive environments, summer fun and exposed young people to career and learning opportunities through field trips.

As a new direction this year, we have focused conversations with our partners on how AI is shaping many dimensions of youth development, including individualized learning, workforce skills transformation, the safe and responsible use of AI, and the potentially adverse effects of AI on youth mental health. We explored these topics through the lens of Nashville's Vision for Holistic Youth Development to ensure that the community remained centered on building human-centered skills.

I would like to acknowledge Nashville Public Library Foundation for general support and Economic Club of Nashville (ECON) whose contribution provided unique opportunities for young people and their families to visit cultural institutions and enrich their experiences at no cost. I also would like to acknowledge several Metro departments, including Metro Nashville Public Schools, Metro Parks, Juvenile Court, Metro Development and Housing Agency and our home department, Nashville Public Library for their continuous and meaningful cooperation and their participation in NAZA's Leadership Council. Together, we defined the needs, priorities, and advocated for increased resources to support out-of-school time (OST) youth programs across Davidson County.

Sincerely,



Anna Harutyunyan
Chief Executive, Nashville After Zone Alliance

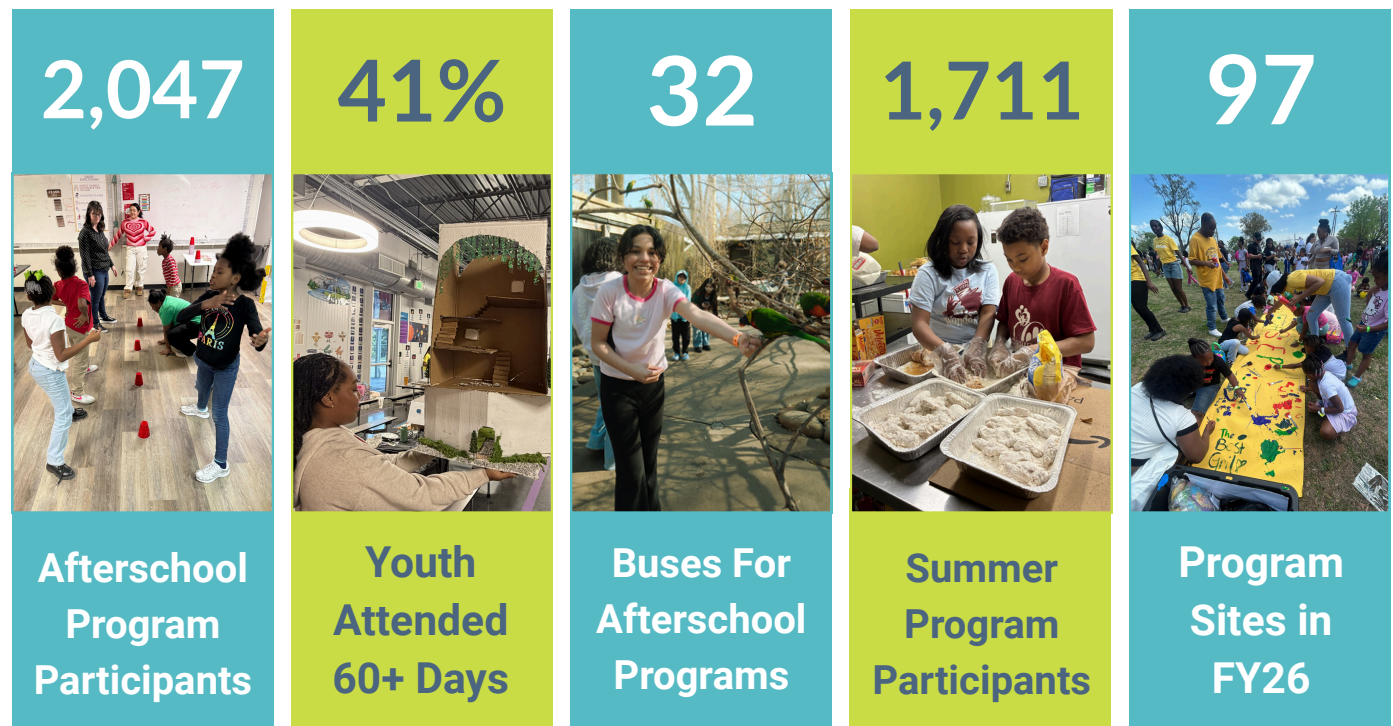


YOUTH IMPACT

In 2025–2026, NAZA supported 62 afterschool programs including 40 school based sites and 22 community based sites. Programs served students from 60 schools, including 29 MNPS middle schools, 16 MNPS elementary schools, and 15 charter schools. NAZA also funded three (3) mentorship programs for middle and high school youth attending Alternative Learning Centers and the Metro Juvenile Detention Center.

A total of 2,047 youth in grades 5 - 8 participated in NAZA-funded afterschool programs, with 41% of participants attending for 60 days or more (in line with our target of 40%). Programs focused on developing social, emotional, and cognitive skills; creating youth leadership opportunities; and aligning activities with the practices outlined in Nashville's Vision for Holistic Youth Development.

FY26 Impact Data (Figure 1)



To support youth access, NAZA funded 26 school buses for school-based sites and provided additional funding for transportation at six (6) charter school and community-based sites. With the support of ECON and Metro funding, NAZA partners provided over 50 field trips to places like the National Museum of African American Music, Adventure Park, and Nashville Sounds.

In FY26, NAZA-funded partners operated 35 summer camps during the Metro Nashville fiscal year in July 2025 and June 2026. Summer programs served 1,711 young people (duplicated) and provided participants opportunities for career exploration, athletics, academics, social-emotional growth, educational and cultural field trips, leadership development, and relationship-building.

YOUTH DEMOGRAPHICS

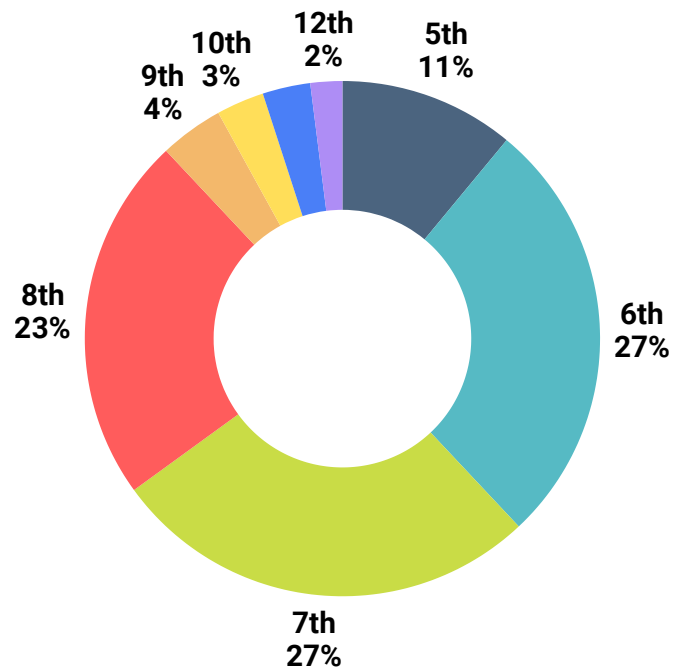
As part of a data-sharing agreement with Metro Nashville Public Schools (MNPS), NAZA obtained demographic information for youth enrolled in NAZA-funded programs. MNPS data represented approximately 90% of youth participants in FY26.

In 2025-2026, 77% of youth enrolled in NAZA-funded programs were in grades 6 - 8, while 11 % were in grade 5. An additional 12% were high school students participating in mentorship programs.

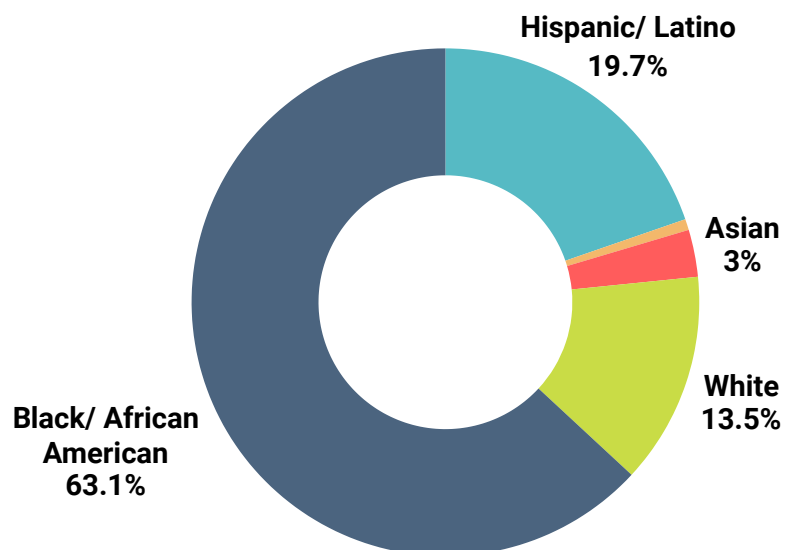
The ethnic composition of program participants included 63% Black or African American, 20% Hispanic or Latino, 14% White, 3% Asian, and 0.7% American Indian, Alaska Native, or Native Hawaiian.

Additionally, 47% of youth served by NAZA-funded programs were classified as economically disadvantaged. In FY26, 16.7% of participants were identified as students with disabilities. Furthermore, 13.5% of enrolled youth were English Language Learners.

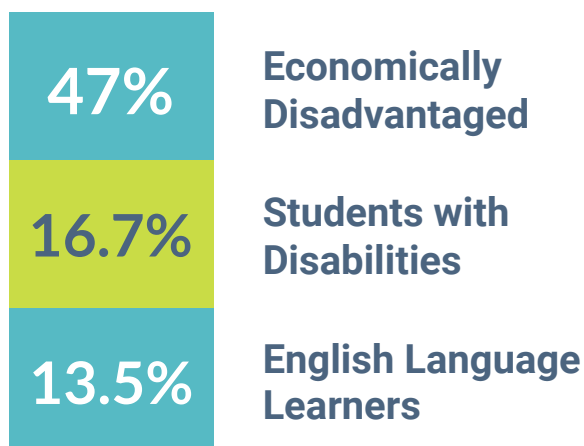
Enrollment by Grade (Figure 2.1)



Enrollment by Ethnicity (Figure 2.2)



Special Populations (Figure 2.3)



OUTCOMES

NAZA-funded partners use several methods to evaluate the effectiveness of their youth programs, including the Leading Indicator Survey (LIS). The LIS gathers feedback from youth, staff, and caregivers about their experiences with afterschool programming and their perceptions of its impact on youth participant development.

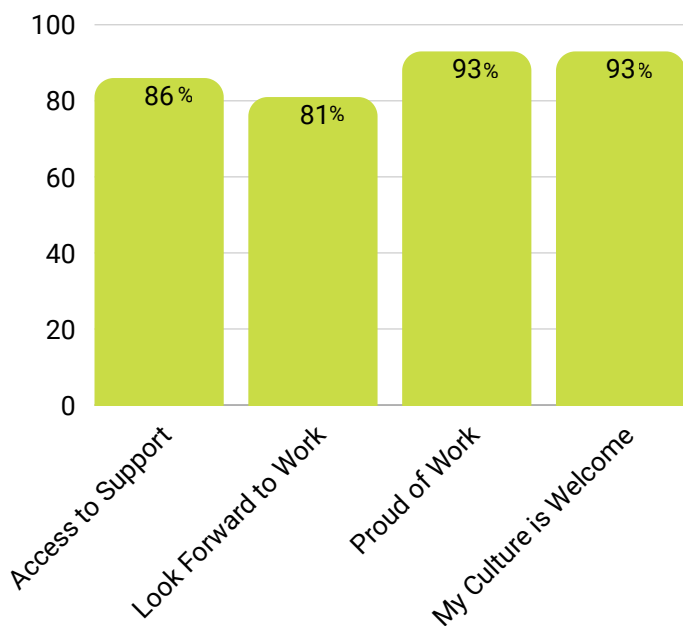
LIS Youth Results (Figure 3.1)



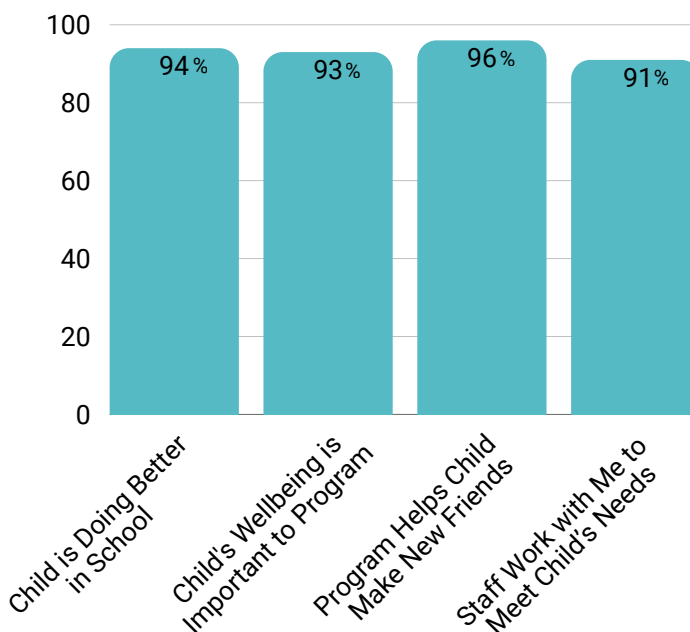
The Youth Survey collected responses from 807 young people, 39% of afterschool participants, across five categories related to cognitive and social & emotional development. The Staff Survey gathered input from 199 staff members on youth program quality and work experience. The Caregiver Survey included 302 respondents and captured parent/caregiver perspectives on their involvement in programming and its effects on their child.



LIS Staff Results (Figure 3.2)



LIS Caregiver Results (Figure 3.3)



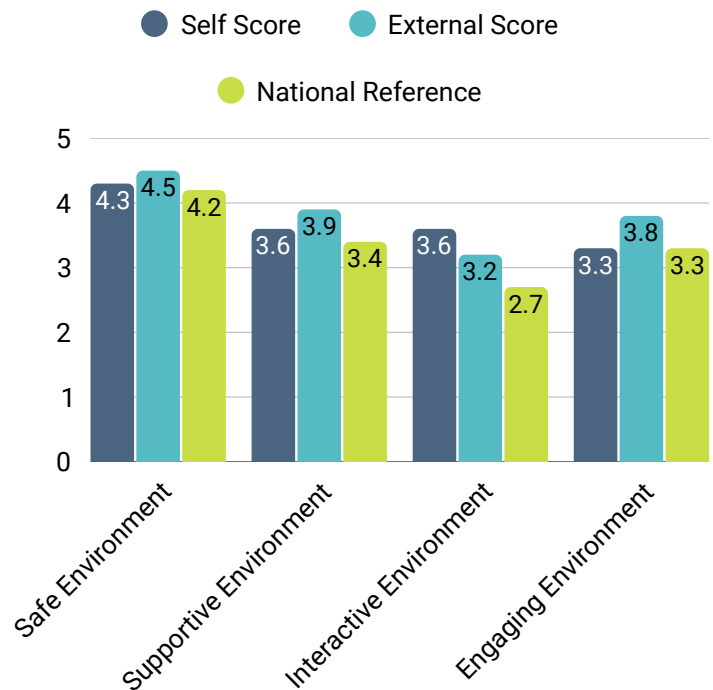
Program Quality Assessments

NAZA-funded partners also use Program Quality Assessments (PQA) to evaluate the quality of their programming. The Youth PQA (YPQA) measures general program quality, while the Social Emotional Learning PQA (SEL PQA) focuses on practices that support social and emotional development. Both tools rely on self-assessments from program staff and external observations conducted by independent evaluators, with scores ranging from 1 to 5.

YPQA Results (Figure 4.1)



SELPQA Results (Figure 4.2)



Summer Program Satisfaction

For summer programs, NAZA-funded partners administered program satisfaction surveys. A total of 468 young people responded, providing feedback on their summer camp experience and indicating whether they would recommend NAZA-funded programs to their peers.

Summer Satisfaction Data (Figure 5)

83%

Positive Experience

On a scale of 1-5, 5 being the highest, 83% of youth rated their experiences at a 5 and 4. 15% of youth rated a 3 and 2% of youth rated a 2 or 1.

71%

Would Recommend Program

71% of youth would recommend their summer program to friends. 26% answered "maybe", and 3% of youth answered "no".

CAPACITY BUILDING

NAZA delivered 39 in-person professional development workshops in FY26 (including LED Conference) serving 866 participants (duplicated) for a total of 1,623 training hours. Workshops offered training, coaching, and networking that strengthened youth program providers and supported thousands of young people in Nashville. Overall, 64% of participants reported an increase in knowledge and 94% reported that workshops met their program needs.

NAZA also managed the Learning Hub, an online learning platform offering youth development resources. The Learning Hub includes asynchronous courses on subjects ranging from financial management to Vision curriculum implementation. In FY26, 179 users completed a total of 302 online courses.

FY26 PD Data (Figure 6)

In-Person Workshops

39

Hours of Learning

1,623

Online Courses

302

Total Participants

1,045

Increase in Knowledge

64%

Training Met Needs

94%



2026 LED Conference

The 4th Annual Learn, Engage, and Develop (LED) Conference was held on March 5, 2026. The annual event provided free training, resources, and networking opportunities for OST professionals.

The conference featured a panel of youth leaders and OST practitioners discussing the impact of AI on young people and strategies for incorporating AI literacy into youth programs. Attendees also participated in 11 workshops covering topics such as emotional coaching, youth life skills, and positive childhood experiences. In total, 138 participants attended, representing numerous youth-serving organizations, schools, and government agencies.



PARTNERSHIPS

Affiliated Partners

NAZA supported 26 Affiliated Partners in FY26, including two (2) new partners, who provided afterschool programming across Nashville and served approximately 1,000 youth. Although NAZA-affiliated partners do not receive funding, they benefit from access to evaluation tools, professional development, and operational support. One (1) affiliated partner was awarded funding for the 2026–2027 program year.



IMPACT Soccer Collaboration

In June 2026, NAZA partnered with Nashville Soccer Club (NSC) to bring unique sports programming to Nashville youth. NSC hosted two (2) IMPACT Soccer events, sponsored by Powerade, at Coleman Park and Frederick Douglass Park. NSC players collaborated with NAZA-funded partners to lead youth in skill-building activities and friendly competitions. Over 100 youth participated as they learned soccer fundamentals, practiced teamwork, and pursued athletic goals.



YOUTH IN ACTION!

Youth In Action! (YIA) is NAZA's leadership initiative to amplify youth voice and empower young people to take action on issues they care about. Through funding and coaching, NAZA supported youth in NAZA-funded programs as they designed and implemented projects that strengthened their communities.

In 2025–2026, NAZA-funded partners delivered nine (9) youth-led projects that engaged 200 youth and community members. YIA projects transformed community spaces with new book nooks and school gardens, organized donation drives supporting people experiencing homelessness, and brought communities together through events such as fundraisers and a youth film festival.



NASHVILLE'S VISION FOR HOLISTIC YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

In 2026, NAZA completed the development of all 12 Individual Growth Practice (IGP) curriculum guides for Nashville's Vision for Holistic Youth Development. Created in partnership with Vanderbilt University and more than 25 community organizations, the Vision provides a comprehensive youth outcomes framework that supports young people in building essential skills for success in school, careers, and life.

IGP curriculum guides are centered around key skills such as communication, empathy & compassion, and critical thinking & problem solving. Each guide includes practical lesson plans for educators, including hands-on activities, dialogue prompts, and reflection exercises.

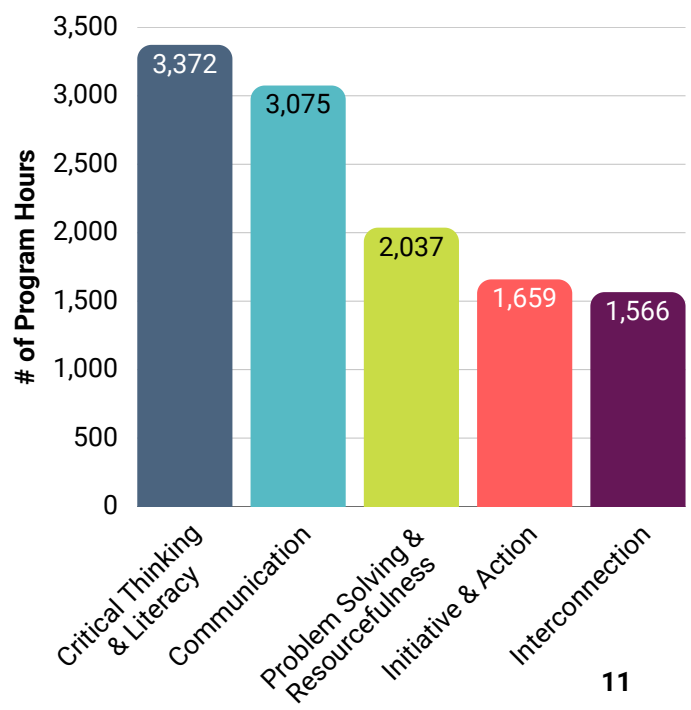
Throughout the year, NAZA led in-person workshops to introduce youth development professionals to the Vision and train them on integrating IGP content into their programs. NAZA also offered online courses through the Learning Hub, expanding access to asynchronous learning for partners.



NAZA-funded partners put the Vision into action by using IGP curriculum with their youth groups and weaving growth practice themes into their existing programming. In FY26, partners delivered nearly 8,000 hours of Vision-aligned programming, marking a major milestone in advancing holistic youth development across Nashville.



Top Growth Practice Areas (Figure 7)





15 YEARS OF NAZA

On December 11, 2025, NAZA celebrated its 15th Anniversary with more than 120 guests at the Adventure Science Center. The event showcased NAZA's achievements and the long-term impact of out-of-school time (OST) learning on Nashville youth and families.

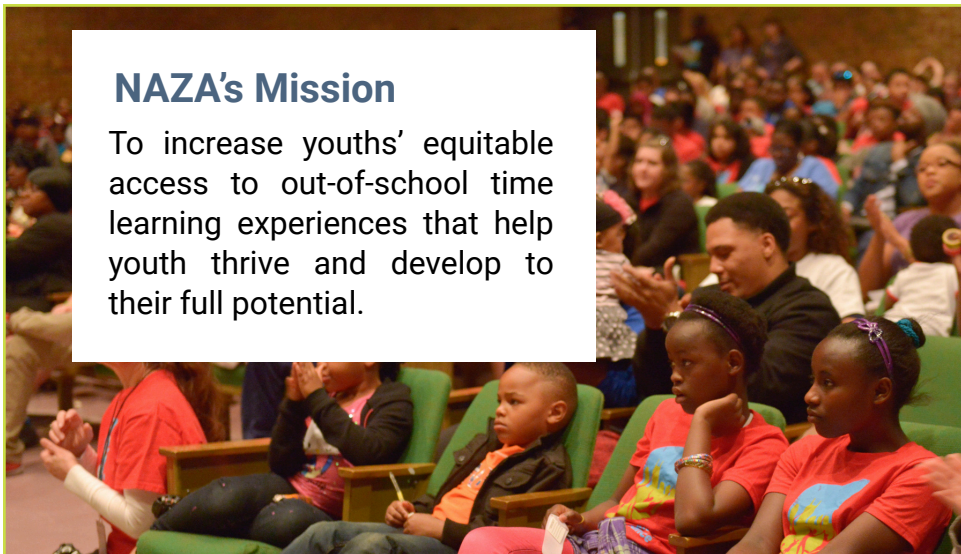
City and library leaders, including former Mayor Karl Dean, who established NAZA 15 years ago, reflected on NAZA's legacy and its vision for the future. Youth voices were highlighted during the evening, with remarks and performances by former youth participants.

NAZA honored several partners and advocates who have strengthened youth development citywide, including the Martha O'Bryan Center, YMCA of Middle Tennessee, Councilmember Burkley Allen, and Allie Duke, founder of Youth In Action!

Since 2010, NAZA has funded over 30 nonprofit youth organizations, trained thousands of youth development professionals, and provided free OST programming for more than 30,000 middle school students in Nashville.

NAZA's Mission

To increase youths' equitable access to out-of-school time learning experiences that help youth thrive and develop to their full potential.





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