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SLAM: Youth Working with Youth for Youth

Youth working for youth, with youth, demonstrates that LA: Its Happening Here. The Skate Lewiston Auburn Movement or SLAM brought a whole spectrum of youth and other community members together with one goal in mind, to create a skate park. In a society where teenagers have gotten a bad reputation, and are seen as “uncooperative” and “destructive”, these teenagers saw passed that stereotype and got to work.

Months of research went into why a skate park was vital. SLAM justified their need for a skate park based on the lack of legal areas to skate in the twin cities, the US Department of Agriculture’s naming of Lewiston’s downtown neighborhoods as an Enterprise zone, and the increasing number of Somali immigrants to our community. Research wasn’t the only huge stage of development, fundraising was key in the project, especially when the project had a 250,000 dollar price tag. For teenagers to pledge themselves to months of research and fundraising, for a cause the feel is necessary just shows how cooperative teenagers can be.

With no places to skate, and an interest to improve the health and quality of the community youth, by youth, just goes to show why Lewiston is an All-America City. Serving on the Lewiston Youth Advisory council, I know how import youth civic engagement truly is. The new skate park is not only beautiful insight, but in meaning. It’s nice to see that other teenagers are noticing no matter what race, gender, or creed one may be, teenagers can work together.