



Youth Innovation Hub

Using a co-design and speculative design approach to envision scenarios of supporting the youth at the Rideau Hub with employment challenges.

The focus of our initiative was to understand the underemployment and unemployment challenges that occur in the community, particularly with the youth. Youth Innovation Hub is a community workspace that inspires creativity, play, work, and focus. Currently, there are multiple NGOs within the Rideau Hub that all work to improve the communities that surround them. However, there is a disconnect between the NGOs, and a lack of collaboration and co-design. The innovation hub will function as a space for the NGOs to come together and collaborate on different projects. It also allows them to engage with the youth that attend the hub and share their knowledge. By creating this space, NGOs, and external city members of all kinds of career paths can work collectively to inspire and educate the next generation, hire potential volunteers and employees, and host workshops and presentations to advertise their programs.

The Innovation Hub will benefit youth in several ways. The career aptitude test surveys participants and determines their skills, strengths, and passions to narrow down on potential career paths that best align with their goals. The hub will also function as a safe space for youth to momentarily step away from real-world problems and receive support where needed. This element is what differentiates the hub from a typical library or community center. The hub will be an all-in-one resource center to equip youth with the tools they need to navigate life and the barriers of living in a socio-economically underdeveloped community.

The space will have group workstations, computer stations, mentors, 1-on-1 meeting rooms, a team meeting room, individual work pods, a presentation space, and lounge chairs for social and beneficial conversations. The space will also feature two basketball nets for healthy breaks, and walls of nature, art, and design to stimulate and inspire the mind. This will be a safe space, promoting a cooperative environment filled with collaboration and productivity. Green walls and glass panels on doors and windows make the space open, transparent, and friendly.