A PROPOSED EVALUATION PLAN FOR
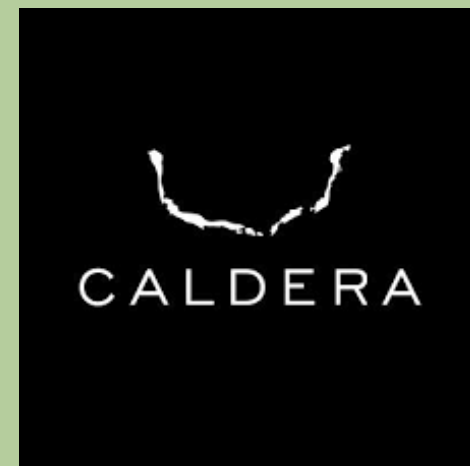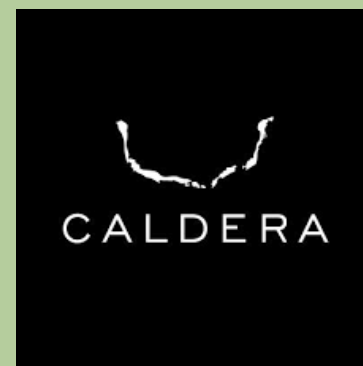

CALDERA ARTS

CREATED BY EVALU8TORS ENSEMBLE

FOR THE AEA STUDENT CASE COMPETITION 2024
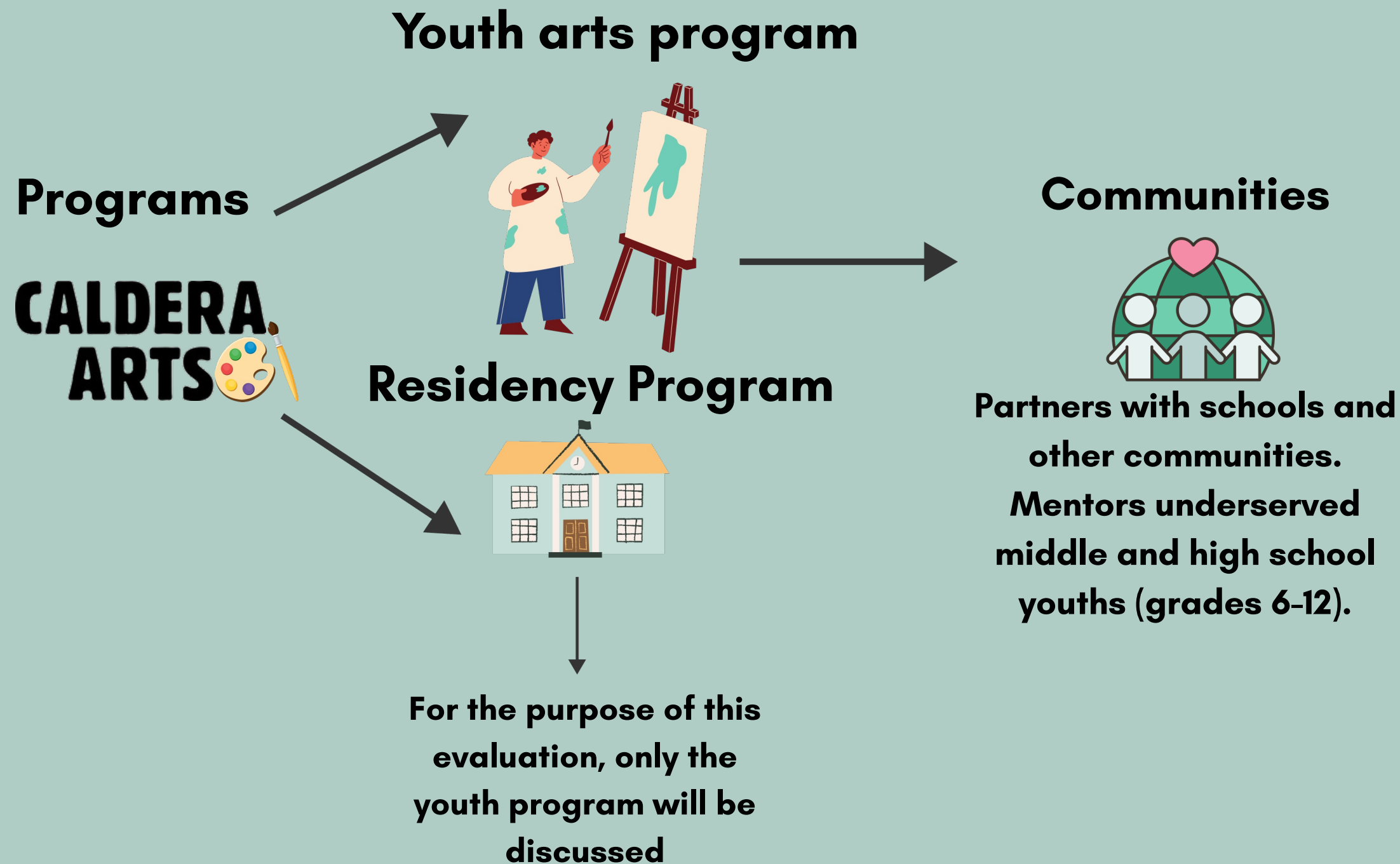
OVERVIEW: UNDERSTANDING CALDERA

CALDERA is a non-profit that inspires and supports youth from underserved rural and urban communities by awakening their creative voices through a fusion of the arts, environment, and mentorship.

Programs

CALDERA ARTS

Youth arts program

Residency Program

For the purpose of this evaluation, only the youth program will be discussed

Communities

Partners with schools and other communities. Mentors underserved middle and high school youths (grades 6-12).

Learners may participate throughout middle and high school for a total of seven years.

Guides learners to build a future through creative learning experiences with support from dependable long-term mentors.

Provides opportunities for learners to express themselves creatively via cooperative learning among peers to encourage academic, social, and leadership success.

Up to 350 learners participate for a total of 1000+ hours of art and nature-based learning.

OVERVIEW: THE YOUTH PROGRAM

MENTORSHIP

- During the school year, middle school learners meets with a mentor once per week during school hours implements a student-centered curriculum with creativity as a tool.

- In high school, via after-school and weekend workshops, Caldera uses unique projects to build creative practice with mentor support

Weekend Intensives

- In the fall and spring, middle and high school youths come together up to 4 times a week for a weekend learning experience.

- Meets separately in Portland and Central Oregon

- For community-building activities, environmental learning, and art workshops with professional artists, environmentalists, and mentors

Camp Caldera

- Summer 8-10 day sessions at the shores of Blue Lake in Cascade mountain range– in nature –
- 150 learners from both Portland and Central Oregon
- Courses on music/audio production, visual arts, photography, dance, theater, filmmaking, comics, drumming, and creative writing from experienced professionals and mentors).
- Learners become alumni upon graduation from high school.

OVERVIEW: PARTICIPANTS CHARACTERISTICS

RACIAL DEMOGRAPHICS

72% of the youths are BIPOC, including:
- **Multiracial 20%**
- **Latino 18%**
- **Indigenous Americans 16%**
- **African American 13%**
- **Asian 4%**
- **Pacific Islander 1%**
- **White 28%**

GENDER IDENTITY

- **Female 64%**
- **Male 22%**
- **Non-binary 9%**
- **Gender-fluid/Self-described 5%**

Main emphasis on black, indigenous, and people of color (bipoc) , & under-resourced rural residents

Proponents of racial equity and inclusion

UNDERSERVED POPULATION

70% are from underserved populations. Including:
- **Youths eligible for free and reduced lunch**
- **low-income families or in foster care**

GEOGRAPHY

Central Oregon 60%
Portland metro area 40%
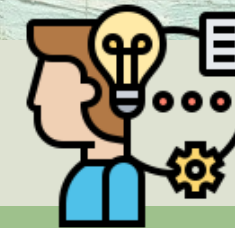
OVERVIEW: PROGRAM OUTCOMES

AIM

- To provide creative space and voice through prolonged engagement, nurturing a sense of belonging and connection within an inclusive creative community.

- To help learners thrive academically, develop confidence and self-efficacy, persevere, and become leaders among peers.

LEARNING SKILLS

- Critical thinking
- Communication,
- Collaboration
- Creativity

LIFE SKILLS

- Flexibility,
- Initiative
- Social skills
- Productivity
- Leadership

LITERACY SKILLS

- Information literacy
- Media literacy
- Technology literacy

PARTNER ANALYSIS

The analysis will be structured to provide inclusivity and cultural responsiveness, aligning with Caldera's values.

The information provided in the detailed Partner Analysis is strategically developed based on common practices in program evaluation, the specific details and context provided in the Caldera case documents, and principles of effective and inclusive community engagement.

Evaluation of the Caldera Youth Program will include both primary and secondary intended users of the evaluation.

Primary partners: Caldera staff members, Youth Program learners and alumni, and a diverse array of community organizations.

Secondary partners: External evaluators, Parents and guardians, school counselors, artists, cultural workers and others.

PARTNER ANALYSIS

Partner Group	Engagement Strategies	Communication Aspects	How Findings Will Be Used	Basis for Engagement Strategy	Considerations for Inclusivity & Responsiveness
Caldera Staff	Bi-weekly meetings, email updates, dedicated portal	Regular two-way updates, feedback mechanisms on findings, clear channels for input	Program improvement, strategic planning	Direct responsibility for program implementation	Regular communication ensures alignment, adaptability, and staff buy-in
Mentors & Educators	Focus groups, individual interviews	Collaborative discussions, preliminary insights shared for feedback, summaries in various formats	Enhance mentoring strategies, improve educational content	Direct involvement in program delivery	Capture on-the-ground insights, respect their expertise
Community Orgs & Schools	Collaborative workshops, joint evaluations, customized outreach	Community-specific reports, co-presenting findings, ongoing dialogue on shared goals	Align program with needs, demonstrate support for community objectives	Key role in community context, facilitate buy-in	Culturally sensitive timing/locations, language options, co-creation of forums
Participants **Current and Alumni**	Surveys, interviews, participatory methods, mobile app	Age-appropriate language, multiple feedback channels, creative/visual options, translated materials	Tailor program to needs, refine support services	Central to the program experience	Age-appropriate, engaging methods ensure their voices are heard
Parents & Guardians	Feedback forms, community forums, online surveys, in-person options	Plain-language reports, updates through existing channels (parent groups), culturally tailored info	Improve family support, understanding of program impact	Influence participant engagement, offer outside perspective	Accessible avenues for participation, clear jargon-free communication

PARTNER ANALYSIS

ENHANCEMENTS FOR PARTNER ANALYSIS
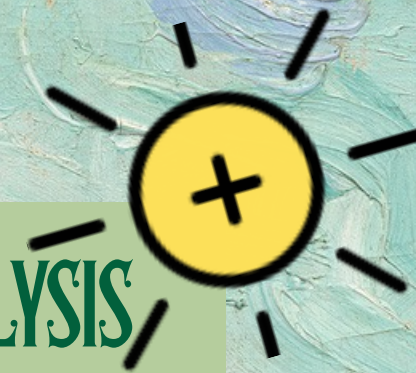
- *Specify Quantitative and Qualitative Metrics*
- *Detail the Feedback Mechanisms*
- *Highlight Data Privacy and Security Measures - Anonymity*
- *Incorporate Visual Aids to all Evaluation Materials*
- *Expand on Cultural Responsiveness*

This partner analysis ensures that all relevant partners
are not only considered but actively engaged in the evaluation process.

LOGIC MODEL

RESOURCES

- 20 staff members
- 350 middle school & high school youth
- Mentors
- Program alumni

ACTIVITIES

- **Mentorship**
  - 1:1 meetings
- **Weekend Intensives**
  - workshops/
  - classes held over the weekend
- **Camp Caldera**
  - 10-day immersive experience

OUTPUTS

- # of student-mentor meetings held & # of trained mentors participating

- # of weekend sessions, participant attendance lists
- # of different types of activities
- # of completion certificates/awards

- # of projects completed,
- # of courses at Camp

SHORT-TERM OUTCOMES

- Improved artistic skills
- Increased motivation and engagement in arts education
- Increased technology literacy skills
- Increased life skills
- Enhanced social skills in collaboration and communication

LONG-TERM OUTCOMES

- Retention in post-secondary education
- Increased job attainment
- Continued engagement with the Caldera program (as mentors or community partners)
- Increased community transformation with strengthened ties through arts

LOGIC MODEL: NARRATIVE

The Caldera Youth Arts Program aims to provide creative space and voice using prolonged engagement to nurture a sense of belonging and connection within an inclusive creative community. Through mentorship, weekend intensives, and a 10-day "Camp Caldera" experience, Caldera helps learners thrive academically, develop confidence and self-efficacy, persevere, and become leaders among peers.

Key assumptions of Caldera include learners consistently engaging actively with all planned activities, continued financial and community support for mentors, supplies, and facilities, and that the program activities will remain culturally relevant and appealing to learners from diverse backgrounds. The Caldera program environment will be conducive to learning, and supportive by skilled and empathetic staff.

Evaluation Matrix: Narrative

Evaluation Approaches

A **data-justice approach integrated with an assess-based evaluation** requires us to be transparent with community-driven needs, challenges, and strengths, be representative of the Caldera community, and treated the evaluation finds in ways that promote community self-determination.

EFFECTIVENESS
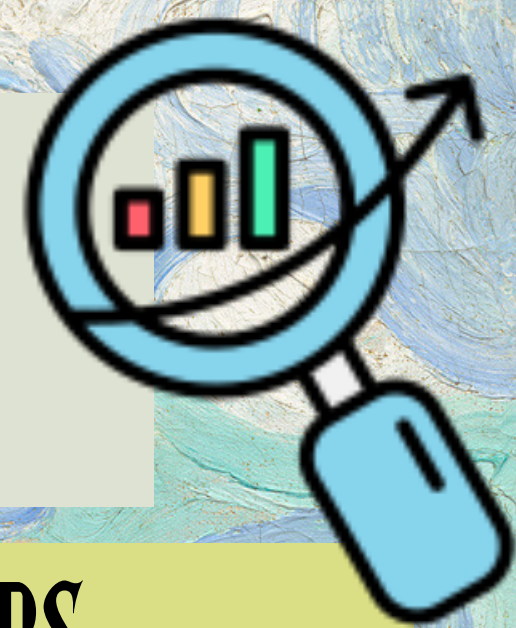
COMMUNITY TRANSFORMATION

GOALS

YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

MENTORSHIP

Participatory assessment techniques will be used to **allow evaluators to be** inclusive and sensitive to cultural differences, in keeping with Caldera's stated values of Data Justice, Inclusion, and Creativity.

This approach **gives priority** to the opinions of historically marginalized and underrepresented groups, such as Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) and rural leaners with limited resources.

What specific creative skills have improved due to participating in Caldera?

How do learners' self-efficacy and confidence in their creative abilities change throughout the program?

EFFECTIVENESS

Do the experiences in Caldera change by age group?

What evidence supports these improvements?

MEASURABLE INDICATORS

- Skill-specific assessments
- Learner and mentor ratings
- Course completion rates
- Confidence ratings
- Testimonials

DATA SOURCES

Pre/Post Surveys to Learners

Mentorship Meeting Notes

Focus Groups

Observations at Camp Caldera

EVALUATION QUESTION 2:
HOW DOES CALDERA ENGAGE YOUTH IN THE ARTS?

How does Caldera impact the youth involvement in community events or volunteering activities outside the program?

How many Caldera program alumni have a desire to participate as mentors the following year?

Youth Engagement

What activities do Caldera learners desire to engage with immediately following the program?

How does Caldera prepare learners to continue in the next step of their artistic journey?

Measurable indicators

- Increased involvement by mentors
- Increased self-efficacy for continued involvement in the arts

Data sources

Alumni tracking

Focus groups

Post-program survey

Evaluation Question #3: How does the Caldera Youth Arts Program contribute to the cultural and social transformation in the community?

How does Caldera foster continued community engagement in the arts?

What changes have been observed in the community's cultural activities and appreication of the arts?

COMMUNITY TRANSFORMATION

How has participation in community events changed following the conclusion of the Caldera program?

Are there notable increases in community-led* projects or events?

*specifically with Caldera alumni

MEASURABLE INDICATORS

- Community feedback
- Social Network Expansion
- Community Participation Rates
- Increased number of Community Events

DATA SOURCES

Event Calendars, Social Media Analysis, Partner Feedback,

Evaluation Question #4: How accessible is the Caldera Youth Arts Program to all potential learners?

How did learners hear about the Program? What recruitment methods were used?

Have the demographics of the learners changed from previous years? Are there differences among age-levels?

ACCESSIBILITY

What barriers did learners experience in Caldera?

What strategies could be implemented to improve accessibility?

MEASURABLE INDICATORS

- Multiple sources of information
- Comparison to community demographics
- Types of barriers
- Key motivators for engagement

DATA SOURCES

Pre/Post Surveys

Focus Groups

Ongoing Participant Tracking

Mentorship Meeting Attendance Records

Learner Intake Form – Recruitment

ANTICIPATED CHALLENGES

LOGISTICAL ISSUES

Logistical issues, such as varying internet access and transportation availability, complicate data collection efforts, particularly in engaging rural participants effectively.

Proposed Solutions: Utilize both online and offline data collection tools to ensure comprehensive coverage.

Engagement of Diverse Participant Groups

The program serves a highly diverse group. Hence, engaging these groups may present challenges due to varied cultural backgrounds and potential socioeconomic barriers to consistent participation, especially given that the learners are minors under the age of 18.

Proposed Solutions: Implement culturally tailored engagement methods, like community liaisons and multilingual materials, to ensure inclusive participation. While these strategies can enhance engagement, fluctuations in participation due to external socioeconomic factors may still occur, potentially affecting the representativeness and reliability of collected data.

Subjective Outcomes in Creative Development

Caldera aims to enhance creative skills and emotional well-being, which are **subjective and difficult to measure**. The need to quantify outcomes like increased creativity, self-efficacy, confidence, and a sense of belonging poses methodological challenges.

Proposed Solutions: Use a mixed-methods approach, combining quantitative surveys with qualitative interviews and participant observations, to **capture a broader spectrum of impacts**. Despite rigorous methodological designs, the subjective nature of these outcomes might still limit the precision of the evaluations.
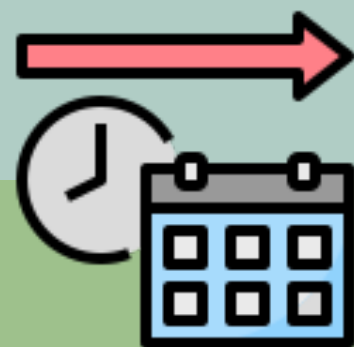
ANTICIPATED CHALLENGES

Long-term Tracking of Youth Development

Difficulty in maintaining longitudinal contact with participants who may transition out of the program and relocate

Proposed Solutions:
Develop a robust alumni network and use digital tools like social media for ongoing engagement.
Implement incentives for continued participation in follow-up surveys or interviews.

Keeping alumni engaged through networks and ongoing communication helps maintain contact and encourages their participation in follow-up studies.

Resource Constraints

Limited resources (staff, budget) could restrict the ability to cover all necessary aspects of the program, especially given the program's broad objectives and extensive participant base.

Proposed Solutions:
Prioritize key evaluation questions to focus resources more effectively.
Explore external funding opportunities to expand evaluation capabilities.

Integration of Evaluation Activities

Incorporating evaluation activities could disrupt participant experiences.

Proposed Solutions:
To avoid disruption, evaluation activities can be designed to align with and even enhance the program's activities, making them feel less like additional requirements and more like part of the natural program flow.

CALDERA ARTS

Thanks !

It would be our pleasure to conduct evaluation of the Caldera Youth Arts Program which fuses arts, environment, and mentorship to inspire and support youth creative voices.

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