



# Urban Youth Lead Becoming the Authors of Their Lives

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### **About This Guide**

Through *Urban Youth Lead*, Minnesota Urban 4-H Youth Development partners with schools, agencies, organizations, and volunteers to build sustainable leadership programs that meet the unique needs of urban youth. *Urban Youth Lead* is a leadership development program designed to expose young people to the worlds of higher education and careers, by using an innovative youth development approach. This guide provides a framework, as well as a curriculum, to help program leaders build an intentional learning environment and facilitate a process of youth identifying their interests and exploring possibilities for their futures.

### **About Minnesota Urban 4-H Youth Development**

Minnesota Urban 4-H Youth Development is a part of the Center for 4-H and Community Youth Development and the University of Minnesota Extension Service (Extension). Urban 4-H works on behalf of youth living in the Minneapolis and St. Paul area, including surrounding suburban communities, to measurably improve their learning through educational programs and applied research.

### **About University of Minnesota Extension Service**

Extension conducts community outreach in the areas of land, food, community development and vitality, and youth development and family living. Extension has been a part of the University of Minnesota since 1909. Extension's mission is to connect community needs and University resources to address critical issues in Minnesota.

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Maki Kawase has been working in the field of youth development in Minnesota and internationally since 1996. She holds a master of arts in cultural dynamics from the Graduate School for International Development and Cooperation in Hiroshima University, Japan. She also holds a Ph.D. in work, community, and family education, from the University of Minnesota. Her doctoral thesis focused on young people's experience of being "foreign" in everyday life. As a program coordinator with Urban 4-H, Maki works to bolster the volunteer base as well as to implement after school programs with highly interactive sessions that involve youth in planning, implementation, and participation.

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