



Out of School Time Summer Program

2016 Annual Report





Group of Summer Program Students on Cultural Exchange Day

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Photos Provided By: Liam Kavanagh-Bradette and Michael Kuby



Out of School Time Collaborative

THE OUT OF SCHOOL TIME COLLABORATIVE

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The Out of School Time Collaborative (OST) is a partnership of Edmonton citizens, community groups, community leaders, service delivery agencies and local institutions that have been working together since 2008. The formation of the OST was in response to concerns raised by immigrant and refugee families and community groups regarding the increased need for specific supports and programs for their children and youth when they are not in school. The OST has evolved and expanded its focus to include out of school time programs and supports for immigrant and refugee children and youth as well as all children and youth experiencing social vulnerability.

The goal of the OST Collaborative is to improve the resiliency of children and youth experiencing social vulnerability through widely accessible and quality out-of-school time programs. We believe that if vulnerable children, youth and families are connected to services, programs and opportunities through OST programs, they will become more actively involved in their communities, experience greater academic success, develop an enhanced sense of belonging and identity, and become productive, engaged Edmontonians.

Since 2015, REACH has provided full time coordination and backbone support for the OST as well as chairing the OST Secretariat and OST Gatherings. REACH assists partners in aligning the vision and objectives, provides constant communication and leverages the partnership to address complex, social issues more effectively.



Today, the OST Collaborative is supported by a Secretariat consisting of the following members:

- Africa Centre
- Bent Arrow Traditional Healing Society
- Boys and Girls Clubs Big Brothers Big Sisters of Edmonton & Area (BGBigs)
- City of Edmonton
- Edmonton Catholic School District
- Edmonton Mennonite Centre for Newcomers
- Edmonton Public School Board
- Norwood Child & Family Resource Centre
- REACH Edmonton Council for Safe Communities
- United Way of the Alberta Capital Region

The OST Secretariat is responsible for catalyzing the vision and activities of OST partners, responding to the needs of OST partners, securing resources, organizing meetings and training opportunities, and developing, supporting and monitoring the overall strategy. The OST Secretariat is backboneed and chaired by REACH Edmonton.

COLLABORATIVE FUNDING APPROACH

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A collaborative funding approach, piloted in 2015, was built upon in 2016 to better support groups, increase efficiency, and maximize outcomes for participants. As collaborators, the Butler Family Foundation, City of Edmonton, REACH Edmonton, and the United Way of Alberta Capital Region pooled resources and created a common process for funding and supporting OST summer programs.

This group met seven times to develop a joint grant application, review requests for funding, determine funding amounts, and design evaluation and feedback forms. REACH Edmonton staff played an advisory role and did not participate in funding decisions. Collectively, \$130,000 was pooled to support the summer programs (Butler Family Foundation \$30,000; City of Edmonton \$50,000; REACH Edmonton \$50,000).



PARTNERSHIP WITH IMMIGRATION, REFUGEES & CITIZENSHIP CANADA

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As a result of REACH's unique position providing backbone support for the OST Collaborative, a new opportunity to acquire federal funding was obtained. A proposal and detailed budget was submitted by REACH, on behalf of the OST Collaborative, to IRCC for funding to expand existing summer programs to serve immigrant and refugee children and youth, with an emphasis on individuals from Syria. REACH worked closely with BGCBigs and the United Way to submit a letter/proposal for funding. In July 2016 a contribution agreement was signed between IRCC and REACH Edmonton for \$244,999. This additional investment increased the number of organizations involved in providing summer programs, the number of programs funded and the number of participants.

REACH Edmonton provided backbone support and coordination, mobilized and managed the funding, completed all reporting requirements, maintained constant communication with groups delivering programs and the funder as well as worked with an external evaluator to provide an evaluation of the initiative.

FUNDING HISTORY

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Over the the past 5 years of OST Summer Program funding, 19 different groups have received funding and support for their summer program. Some groups also received provincial funding (STEP program) and/or federal funding (Canada Summer Jobs program), to hire students and provide them with a unique opportunity to work as staff in the programs.

Year	Funding Amount	Funders	# of Programs Funded	New Groups	Returning Groups
2012	\$100,000	City of Edmonton	10	10	N/A
2013	\$65,000	City of Edmonton	8	0	8
2014	\$50,000	City of Edmonton	7	1	6
2015	\$82,326	Pilot year for collaboration: Butler Family Foundation, City of Edmonton, REACH Edmonton, United Way	8	2	6
2016	\$130,000 + \$200,000	Butler Family Foundation, City of Edmonton, REACH Edmonton, United Way Immigration, Refugees & Citizenship Canada (IRCC)	16	10	6

2016 SUMMER PROGRAMS

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OST funding was distributed to all 11 groups who applied. Funding was awarded based on need, number of participants, length of program, and percentage of budget total being requested. Funding was used to supplement the financial resources that groups had secured from other sources including their own organization's membership. With the OST funding support, community groups had the resources they needed to provide rewarding summer programs.

Out of the 16 groups that received OST Collaborative funding in 2016, 6 groups were funded in previous years and the remaining 10 groups were new to the Summer OST program. The new groups funded in 2016 increased the number of programs available in the Southeast, Southwest and Central areas of Edmonton. The following four groups have been funded every year since 2012.

- Somali Canadian Cultural Society of Edmonton
- Brander Gardens ROCKS
- Christian Immigrant Support Services
- Nyarkenji Development Foundation of Alberta



2016 SUMMER PROGRAMS

Group	Funding Received	Participants	Location	Area of Edmonton
BGCBigs Metro Program	\$40,800 (IRCC)	42	Avonmore School	Southeast
Brander Gardens ROCKS	\$6,000 (OST) \$5,000 (IRCC)	50	Brander Gardens School	Southwest
Christian Immigrant Support Services	\$10,000 (OST)	26	Millbourne Community Centre	Southeast
Canadian Native Friendship Centre	\$2,300 (OST)	40	CNFC Building	Central
Catholic Social Services	\$15,000 (OST)	78	One World One Centre & St. Francis Assisi School	Central
Creating Hope Society	\$7,666 (OST)	15	Oliver School	Central
Free Footie	\$30,000 (IRCC)	65	Crestwood School	Central/West
Islamic Family & Social Services Association	\$40,000 (IRCC)	104	Glengarry School	Northeast
Nyarkenyi Development Foundation of Alberta	\$26,087 (OST) \$14,500 (IRCC)	154	J. D. Bracco School	Northeast
Somali Canadian Cultural Society of Edmonton	\$23,224 (OST)	124	Killarney School	Northeast
Somali Canadian Women & Children Society	\$18,222 (OST)	65	Kirkness School	Northeast
South Pointe Community Centre	\$7,000 (OST) \$19,950 (IRCC)	45	South Pointe Community Centre	Southwest
Sudanese Nuer Tiang Cultural Society	\$9,500 (OST)	45	Hillview Community Centre	Southeast
Welcome Centre for Immigrants	\$5,000 (OST) \$8,300 (IRCC)	86	Edith Rogers School	Southeast
YMCA/ASSIST	\$10,050 (IRCC)	18	William Lutsky YMCA	Southwest
YWCA	\$31,399 (IRCC)	18 to date	YWCA	Central

2016 GROUPS & PROGRAM DETAILS

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BGCBigs

BGCBigs ran a summer program in partnership with Metro Continuing Education to deliver programs to children and youth whose parents were taking LINC classes at the school. This was a six week program with a focus on cultural, educational, and recreational programming.



Brander Gardens ROCKS

Brander Gardens ROCKS is a collaboration focused on building the capacity of and supporting the diversity in the Brander Gardens community in Edmonton. Programming focuses on school readiness, fitness and recreation, music and art, leadership, environmental sustainability, and the celebration of diversity.

Canadian Native Friendship Centre

The CNFC was organized to welcome Indigenous newcomers to the city, provide referral services and help them access cultural, recreational and social programs. The CNFC is a connecting place for people to have meetings, social events, and community gatherings. The Centre delivered the summer OST program for 40 children with a strong emphasis on celebrating Indigenous culture, ceremony and tradition.

Catholic Social Services

Catholic Social Services offered a six-week World Links Summer Camp to 78 immigrant and refugee children of parents attending Language Instruction for Newcomers to Canada (LINC) classes. This was the first year the program was offered at two locations, One World One Centre and St. Francis of Assisi School.

Christian Immigrant Support Services

Christian Immigrant Support Services main focus is to advocate for and support immigrants to successfully settle in Canada. CISS has been running summer programs since 2012. This year's summer program focused on intercultural programming, recreation, leadership, and academic support for 40 children and youth.

Creating Hope Society

Creating Hope Society is an organization that uses a strength-based approach to support and create hope for Indigenous people negatively impacted by the Child Welfare system. The goal of their summer program is to provide a sense of belonging, independence, generosity, and cultural awareness and teaching. One field trip took the 15 participants and some parents to the country

to learn about and harvest various kinds of traditional medicinal and ceremonial plants. The group also partnered with the Somali Canadian Women and Children Association to jointly organize a day of intercultural sharing and celebration.



Free Footie

Additional IRCC funding was used to expand Free Footie's summer soccer camps to provide additional programming to 65 participants, many of which were recently arrived Syrian refugees. Programming consisted of week long soccer camps focused on skill development, strategy, and team building.

Islamic Family and Social Services Association

IFSSA developed a four week program (two two-week summer camps) that provided summer programming to 104 children and youth. Program participants were recently arrived refugees from Syria. In addition to recreational and educational activities, there was a large focus on learning English and learning about Canada.

Nyarkenji Development Foundation of Alberta

Nyarkenji Development Foundation of Alberta is a South Sudanese organization serving communities in Northeast Edmonton. 2016 was the sixth year that the group offered a Multicultural Summer Camp providing cultural, educational and recreational activities for 140 children and youth from a wide range of cultures and backgrounds.

Somali Canadian Cultural Society of Edmonton

The Somali Canadian Cultural Society of Edmonton has been offering summer programs for the past eight years. In addition to an Edmonton summer program focused largely on academics, the group also offered an out of town summer camp, called Camp Toosoo. The camp is focused on youth programming and is held over a period of four days. The goal of the camp is to build the confidence of Somali youth and to inspire them to be active and positive leaders in their community. These two programs served 120 children and youth.

Somali Canadian Women & Children Association

2016 was the first year this organization offered a summer program and the OST funding was key to making this possible. The name of the camp was the Horumar Summer Day Camp. The word Horumar means 'advance' in Somali. This four week program offered 65 participants activities on leadership, art, physical education, educational support and dhaqan (culture).

South Pointe Community Centre

South Pointe is a new community centre in Southwest Edmonton to help them meet neighbours and make new friends. 2016 was the first year that South Pointe Community Centre delivered a summer program for immigrant and refugee children and youth, with many from Syria, while their parents attended LINC classes. The program focused on learning about Canada and experiencing Canadian activities, games, foods, crafts, and history.

Sudanese Nuer Tiang Cultural Society

Sudanese Nuer Tiang Cultural Society has been running community programs since 2008. This was their first year of involvement with the OST Collaborative which supported and expansion of their summer program with increased opportunities for youth to develop their skills, abilities, self-esteem and leadership.



Welcome Centre for Immigrants

The Welcome Centre for Immigrants is a collaboration of Catholic Social Services, Edmonton Mennonite Centre for Newcomers, and Indo Canadian Women's Association that focuses on the provision of settlement and employment services in South Edmonton. The summer camp was operated in partnership with BGCBigs and incorporated recreational, educational, cultural, and youth leadership components into the program.

IMPACT

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The Out of School Time Collaborative works with groups to develop and build their capacity building around the evaluation of their programs and initiatives.

Information in the following section is based on direct feedback from groups that was obtained via surveys and face-to-face meetings.

Recreational

Recreational activities included a variety of sports, visiting parks, playing organized/strategic games, yoga, and dance. Program staff described the skills engaged in by the children & youth:

- Gross motor skills
- Social skills
- Teamwork & communication
- Interacting with staff/volunteers/other children/youth
- Learning & following rules

Outcomes from engaging in the recreational activities included:

- Access to healthy play and learning
- Passion and excitement for sports and recreational activity
- Social interactions with peers

Social

The social activities varied across the programs, but often included unstructured free time (unstructured play or allowing the kids to create their own games), relationship building activities, celebrating uniqueness and cultural differences, and other social orientated activities (cooking classes, potlucks, gardening). Many of the programs described intentional program planning and classroom settings that foster the children and youth to meet new people (sitting in groups of 4, splitting up siblings/family/friends).

The programs also described efforts to have diverse staff representation, inclusive & welcoming environments and positive and supportive attitudes. Social outcomes identified from the Summer OST programs include:

- Access to opportunities to develop social skills (including: communication, collaboration, self-esteem, honesty/integrity, leadership, teamwork, compassion, understanding, critical thinking, reasoning & problem solving)
- Social interactions with peers (and other families)



"A student came from Somalia to Canada this summer and could not speak English. It was inspiring how our staff and kids welcomed him and made him feel like a member of a family. He was quick to make friends and participate in all activities. Our staff spent extra time with him, helping him practice his English. He, in return, helped some of our staff and the other kids with the Somali language."

- Staff Member

Cultural

The Summer OST programs described many efforts to share multiple cultures and diversity with the children and youth in the programs, as well as with the families of the participants. Some of the cultural activities included taking field trips, doing arts and crafts, participating in music and dance, cultural sharing and learning words in different languages.

Some of the important skills development described by the program staff included:

- Tolerance, acceptance and respect for one another
- Celebrating diversity and uniqueness
- Learning about the importance of music and dance in culture; how music can connect people
- Learning about their own as well as other cultures

Outcomes reported from cultural activities included:

- Participants learning about their own culture
- Learning about the importance of having an (i) awareness and (ii) acceptance of other cultures
- Cross cultural sharing with the goal of fostering inclusive environments
- Cultural sharing with the goal of forming new relationships with peers



Educational

Many of the programs included educational components to their programs to assist the children and youth in skills development around English language learning, reading/literacy, writing, numeracy, healthy lifestyles, learning about their city, and other school preparedness (geography, math, science, history, debate, etc.). By providing a variety of educational activities through games, guest speakers and traditional classroom style learning, the Summer OST programs were able to focus on:

- School readiness (reading, writing, speaking, etc.) for the next school year
- Opportunities to learn in a fun, engaging and safe environment
- unique learning opportunities
- Connecting to community spaces in Edmonton

"There was one student in grade four who wasn't at the level that she should have been. I spent that class teaching her how to first multiply on paper and then how to multiply in her head. Because I spent that time helping her, she can now use the skills I taught her in the upcoming school year to surprise her teachers and be the brilliant student I know she can be!"

- Brander Gardens ROCKS' staff

Elder R: “We are one people, with one heart, under one sun.” We established a genuine relationship and have a strong bond that will always remain.

- Quoted at the Cultural
Exchange Day

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FEATURE SUCCESS STORY: CULTURAL EXCHANGE DAY

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Horumar Summer Day Camp &
Creating Hope Society

“We collectively agreed that our favorite moment/event was Cultural Exchange day. Creating Hope Society camp visited our camp on Thursday, July 21st, 2016.



The Horumar Summer Day camp is predominantly Somali, and all African camp, and the Creating Hope Society camp is Cree First Nations. We started our morning in a big circle in the gym where we did smudging and we exchanged prayers. Elder R gave us a brief history about First Nations in Canada as well as the importance of establishing relationships and remembering that ultimately *"we are one people with one heart under one sun."*

We took a brief break for lunch and we enjoyed bannock during snack time. We resumed our program by giving a brief history of Somalia and some regions in Africa. We took a break for lunch outside in the park, we enjoyed various Somali dishes. We resumed the rest of the program back in the gym, our campers did a traditional Somali dance for our guest. Drummers, singers, and dancers performed for all of us; a speaker told us the significance of drumming and what it means. We all participated in a round dance. We also had two birthdays, and so the drummers sang in Cree and wished them a blessed birthday. We concluded our program with a closing drumming, groups pictures, and gift exchange.

We learned so much from each other, we discussed our similarities and differences. We enjoyed each other's music, food, dancing, and different clothing. We established a genuine relationship and have a strong bond that will always remain.”

Team Member
(Horumar Summary Day Camp)



KEY LEARNINGS

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The OST Summer Programs were asked to reflect on the learnings this summer in their Final Report. This included program staff and volunteers reflecting on what they have learned from being part of these summer programs. Programs also engaged in their own evaluation of their program and shared those results in their final report.

Partnerships & Field Trips

Partnerships with various Edmonton organizations provided the Summer OST Programs access to a variety of opportunities they may not have had otherwise. Guest speakers and presentations from partners provided multiple and diverse learning opportunities to program participants. Noteworthy partnerships include, but are not limited to:

- Summer OST Programs partnering with each other to share resources (such as transportation for a field trip) or for intercultural sharing opportunities
- Many of the Summer OST Programs worked with various community partners for field trips & guest speakers:
 - ◆ Edmonton Public & Catholic Schools (providing space)
 - ◆ Edmonton Public Library (providing librarians & reading time)
 - ◆ Alberta Health Services (providing guest speakers around stress awareness)
 - ◆ Edmonton Fire Department (safety learning)
 - ◆ Other Edmonton not-for-profit groups (Action for Healthy Communities, BGCBigs, E4C, Edmonton Native Healing Centre, WE CAN Food Basket, REACH Edmonton) providing cultural awareness sharing, resources for other activities & organizational support

OST Programs partnered with anywhere from **one to nine** different Edmonton organizations to provide their programming.

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ALL summer OST programs provided food to participants. Majority of programs **purchased** food as part of their budget expenses. Only **3** programs accessed the Food Bank.

The programs highlighted the value of field trips as opportunities for the children and youth to (i) get connected with their community, (ii) learn about various topics, (iii) socialize and interact with others in different spaces.

- Field Trips some of the OST Groups took included:
 - ◆ City of Edmonton Facilities (Valley Zoo, Fort Edmonton Park, Recreation Centres, Edmonton Waste Management Centre)
 - ◆ Neighbourhood parks and green spaces
 - ◆ Nearby Camps

Staff & Volunteer Learnings

It was clear from the final reports that the staff and volunteers learned to appreciate the hard work and planning needed to run a program (especially with food services involved), whether it is one week or six weeks. Staff and volunteers report that they learned the role and value of these programs in their community and the needs they can fulfill. Some other staff and volunteer learnings included:

121 Volunteers	x
3640 Volunteer Hours	-
3.6 average # of Partners	-

- A new appreciation and understanding for the challenges that newcomers face, in particular the barriers they are faced with
- The OST Conference, Workshops & Training provide valuable learnings that informed program planning & practice
- Ongoing planning/preparation/debriefs/training were valuable to staff and volunteers
- Working and communicating with kids and families involves a diverse skill set and the recognition that kids have various learning styles. In the case in some of the programs, there were kids who had never attended school or hadn't attended in a long time
- Teamwork, leadership and supporting one another is a key to success

The biggest challenges that were reported by the groups were around the space they had access to (size, limitations, amenities), cost of transportation for families to attend the program and field trips, being prepared and planning in advance (early registration, activity planning, back up plans), and ensuring there are dedicated and motivated staff and volunteers for the entire length of the program. Reflection on these learnings provides the Summer OST groups and the OST Collaborative Table with opportunity to prepare, plan, and educate themselves on various aspects of program and community needs and to address these challenges in future years.

Program Feedback

The OST Summer Programs were urged to complete their own evaluation of the summer program for continuous learning and future program planning opportunities. All of the programs completed some form of evaluation involving surveys or conversation with (1) participants (children & youth), (2) parents, (3) staff & volunteers, and (4) partners. Some key results across programs were as follows:

- There is community interest in the program as it reportedly met the needs of the families. Children & parents reported interest in more activities and longer running programs
- Children & youth attending the program were learning skills and participating in opportunities they would not be able to access otherwise
- These programs are more than just recreation/social/cultural/educational programs, they are part of the community and provides kids with supportive environments to play, learn & grow

Key Outcomes of the Collaborative Funding of Summer Programs

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The Out of School Time Collaborative funding supported a number of positive outcomes for groups running summer programs.

- **Increased amount of funding available:** The collaborative approach to finding resources for groups led to \$130,000 being allocated towards summer programs. This is more funding than any year previously. Additionally, \$200,000 was received from IRCC.
- **Reduced application and reporting requirements:** By funding programs collaboratively, only a single application and final report was necessary. This takes a large administrative burden off of groups and allows them to direct more time and energy to the program.
- **Increased number of participants:** Seventeen community groups offered summer programs throughout the city providing summer programming to more than 975 children and youth.
- **Increased number of groups offering summer programs:** Four groups (CISS, CSS, Creating Hope Society, and SCWCA) may not have been able to offer these summer programs without the additional funding they received. These four programs alone provided an additional 184 children and youth with valuable summer programming.
- **Variety of programs offered:** There was an increase in the variety of programs offered. This included programs with an academic focus, cultural focus, language focus, recreational focus, creative arts focus and an out of town summer camp focused on youth empowerment and leadership. It also allowed groups to provide meaningful traditional and cultural experiences for their communities.
- **Increased length of programming:** Additional funding allowed three groups (CISS, NDFA and South Pointe Community Centre) to extend their summer programming into August.
- **Increased resources:** Additional resources allowed for some groups to hire additional staff, which improved the quality of their programs, and also allowed for all groups to provide more recreational and educational experiences. The additional funding made more field trips possible and allowed for children, youth, and families to connect with a greater number of attractions and activities throughout the city.

Summer programming is important to support the mental, physical, and social health of Edmonton's children and youth. These programs are often free for families and they provide invaluable academic, recreational, social, and cultural experiences to children and youth experiencing social vulnerability during critical hours. Supporting these programs is a preventative and proactive approach to building safer, healthier, and more vibrant communities.

It is a **positive** way to invest in the well-being of individuals, families, and communities throughout Edmonton. – REACH Coordinator

What's Next?

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Report Back to the OST Collaborative

In an effort to continuously engage in discussion around the successes, challenges, and learnings of the Summer OST programs, a report back and sharing opportunity will be provided to the program staff and the OST Collaborative.

Training

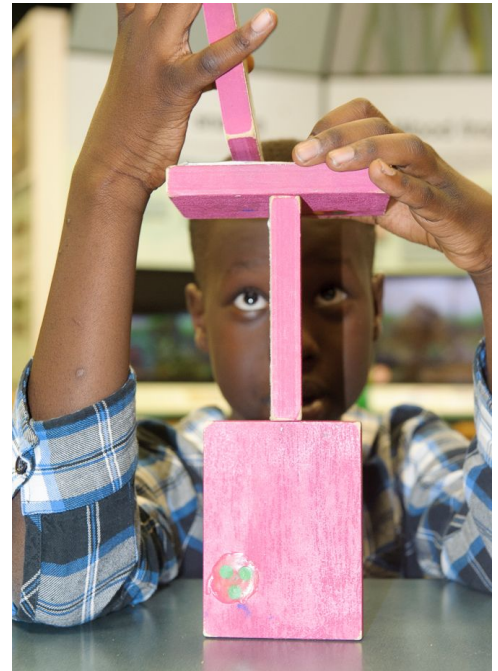
The OST Collaborative is dedicated to providing ongoing, relevant, and supportive training that will help the OST groups plan their programs and achieve their outcomes.

Training offered in 2016 consisted of:

- First Aid Training
- Admin and Logistics Training
- Goal Setting & Program Planning
- Financial Literacy Training
- LIN Database Workshop
- Evaluation Training
- Physical Literacy

In the past, the OST Collaborative has also provided:

- Mental Health First Aid Training
- 10 Steps to Creating Safe Environments
- Ever-Active Training Session



The OST Collaborative will use the final report feedback to continue providing relevant training and program planning support for staff and volunteers. Plans are underway to develop new training opportunities and resources in 2017 including a program resource manual.

2017 Out of School Time (OST) Conference

The final reports from the Summer OST Programs provided a lot of content that would be valuable to incorporate into the 2017 Out of School Time Conference.

