



YD Co-Lab Steering Committee Election – Nominated Candidate Information

Dear YD Co-Lab Members,

We are pleased to present 21 exceptional candidates for the YD Co-Lab Steering Committee election. Each nominee brings unique expertise and perspectives to support our mission of strengthening youth development in South Africa. From this diverse and accomplished pool, members will elect up to 12 representatives to form our new Steering Committee.

Leadership Composition Strategy: To maintain strategic continuity while embracing new ideas, we have structured the Steering Committee to include:

- Up to 6 seats reserved for previous Steering Committee members, ensuring stable transition and preservation of institutional knowledge
- Up to 6 seats for new members, bringing fresh perspectives and additional expertise to our growing organization.
- This balanced approach strengthens our governance while fostering innovation and inclusive representation.

Voting Information:

- Voting Period: November 18-24, 2024
- Each member organization gets one vote per available position (up to 12 votes)
- Member organization must have completed the YD Co-Lab Member Agreement by October 30, 2024
- Only one representative per member organization may vote
- Members may vote for up to 12 different candidates
- Each candidate can receive only one vote from your organization
- Results will be announced at our Annual General Meeting on November 27, 2024
- *Important Note: If multiple representatives from your organization submit voting forms, only the first submission will be counted.*
- If any queries or corrections are needed, please contact Lolo Phakathi via info@ydcollab.org.za

Cast your votes:
[https://bit.ly/YDCoLab
SteerCo_Voting](https://bit.ly/YDCoLabSteerCo_Voting)



Steering Committee Member Requirements:

- Minimum 3 years of experience in youth development, social impact, or nonprofit governance
- Demonstrated alignment with YD Co-Lab's mission and values
- For self-nominations: Minimum 1 year of involvement or contribution to a YD Co-Lab member organisation
- For member-nominated individuals: Formal backing from their nominating organization
- Ability to commitment to 2 years' service on the YD Co-Lab Steering Committee
- Ability to attend 4 quarterly meetings per year (approximately 3 hours each)
- Willingness to participate in sub-committees or working groups
- Commitment to represent YD Co-Lab at relevant events




Below you will find detailed profiles of our nominees, each of whom has met these eligibility requirements and brings unique expertise to support our mission of strengthening youth development in South Africa. Candidates are listed in alphabetical order by first name.

We encourage you to review these profiles carefully before casting your votes.






Candidate Name & Org	Candidate Bio & Motivation
<p>Name: Adela Ndlovu Organisation: Click Learning Role/Title: Youth Learning and Pathway Manager</p> 	<p>Bio: Adela Ndlovu leads youth career development as the Youth and Career Pathway Manager at Click Learning. A founding member of YD Co-Lab since 2020, she currently serves as Vice Chairperson. Her experience includes serving as Lead for Coalitions Building at Harambee Youth Employment Accelerator and Technical Director of their USAID-funded Inclusive Digital Employment Activity, where she created opportunities for youth with disabilities. A community development practitioner, she specializes in multisectoral partnerships and youth empowerment. Adela holds a Certificate in Social Entrepreneurship (GIBS), Honours in Community Development (UNISA), and a B.Tech in International Communications (TUT).</p> <p>Motivation: Adela brings a wealth of experience and leadership in youth development and organizational growth as YD Co-Lab's Vice Chairperson. Her tenure has advanced strategic initiatives that align with empowering youth-led organizations through capacity building and development. Her ability to build strong partnerships, navigate complex stakeholder dynamics, and promote inclusive growth has been instrumental to YD Co-Lab's success. Her expanded professional network spans private industry, government, civil society, and youth-focused organizations, bringing new perspectives and collaboration opportunities. Her exposure to different organizational cultures and leadership approaches will enrich the committee's decision-making process as the organization scales and diversifies its programming.</p>
<p>Name: Alana Bond Organisation: Lucha Lunako Role/Title: Director</p> 	<p>Bio: Alana Bond is Co-founder and Director of Simanye, developing innovative approaches to impact and change, including using Black Economic Empowerment as a tool. With over 20 years of strategic consulting experience, she is a B-BBEE subject matter expert with extensive experience in economic development, social enterprise, and youth development. In 2020, she co-founded Lucha Lunako ("The Youth Have It") to address youth unemployability in South Africa. A founding member of YD Co-Lab, she serves on several foundation boards and has founded numerous social enterprises. Alana holds a Bachelor of Business Science with Honours in Finance from UCT and previously worked with global management consultancy Accenture.</p> <p>Motivation: Alana Bond has been instrumental in YD Co-Lab's development since inception, serving as Treasurer since 2021 and playing a vital role in securing essential funding. She demonstrates commitment through both strategic leadership and financial stewardship, believing in the power of collective impact and ensuring sustainability of social purpose organizations. Her experience in financial management and social enterprise leadership has significantly contributed to YD Co-Lab's strategic direction and growth. Her expertise spans fundraising, governance, and sustainable organizational development. Her vision focuses on building strong collaborative networks that maximize youth development impact through sustainable funding models and effective partnerships.</p>






Candidate Name & Org	Candidate Bio & Motivation
<p>Name: Bokang Mokoena Organisation: Forgood/Phakamani Young Minds Academy Role/Title: Programme Manager/ Director & Founder</p> 	<p>Bio: Bokang Mokoena brings over 10 years of nonprofit sector experience, excelling in strategic leadership, operational management, and program development. As Programme Manager, he has successfully managed campaigns for major clients including Vodacom Foundation and Coca-Cola Beverages South Africa. His role as Executive Director of a youth-focused organization and recognition among the Top 100 Young Independents in sub-Saharan Africa demonstrates his commitment to youth empowerment through education. Bokang specializes in developing innovative solutions and strategic partnerships.</p> <p>Motivation: With extensive experience in nonprofit management and corporate CSI programme leadership, Bokang aims to strengthen YD Co-Lab's fundraising and strategic partnerships. His experience leading the Vodacom Discover Graduates NPO Business Challenge provided deep insights into nonprofit challenges and solutions. He is passionate about creating sustainable funding models and diversifying income streams to ensure long-term stability. His expertise in stakeholder relationships will support membership growth and impact initiatives.</p>
<p>Name: Edward Mashaba Organisation: Save Them Edu Project Role/Title: Founder and Executive Director</p> 	<p>Bio: Edward Mashaba is the Founder of Save Them Edu Project, serving 150 learners in Steelpoort. As Program Manager at Sakhimfundo Youth Program, he leads initiatives supporting over 400 learners in Alexandra. His experience includes serving as Volunteer Champion Ambassador and Project Coordinator at the University of Johannesburg's Community Engagement division, where he worked with over 4,000 students on sustainable development goals. Edward brings extensive experience in NPO management and youth development.</p> <p>Motivation: Edward envisions YD Co-Lab as both a national and global organization addressing youth challenges worldwide. Drawing from his experience in township development, he recognizes that many organizations struggle due to insufficient mentorship and knowledge. His focus is on developing strategic partnerships and providing comprehensive support to emerging organizations, particularly in township areas. He aims to strengthen the ecosystem of youth development organizations through collaborative learning and resource sharing.</p>
<p>Name: Iemraan Kara Organisation: The Strategic Thinking Partner Role/Title: CEO / Founder</p> 	<p>Bio: Iemraan Kara is a seasoned Strategic Sales & Operations Leader with extensive experience across various domains, including banking, investments, and financial services. He has held senior leadership roles at Standard Bank Insurance, Absa Investments, FNB Homeloans, and Tactical Software Systems. Iemraan is a Social Scientist with a MBA, Master in Management Leadership in Emerging Countries, Post Grad Dip in Leadership Development and a certified expert in regulatory and compliance, with qualifications in personal and commercial lines insurance. He has also a thought leader in the Call Centre Industry been a BPESA judge locally and at prestigious industry awards and has a global perspective from working in countries like Namibia, Nigeria, London, Tanzania, and Dubai.</p> <p>Motivation: Iemraan is driven by his passion for youth development and strategic collaboration. His research on Afrillennials and Gen Z informs his understanding of youth challenges and opportunities. He aims to contribute by fostering strategic partnerships, promoting innovative solutions, and enhancing skill development initiatives. His vision includes creating a robust ecosystem that nurtures young talent while addressing youth unemployment through entrepreneurial guidance and skills development.</p>






Candidate Name & Org	Candidate Bio & Motivation
<p>Name: Ilka Stein Organisation: Kids Haven Role/Title: YouthHub Manager</p> 	<p>Bio: Ilka Stein leads Kids Haven's Pathway program, guiding young people from education to employment opportunities. A trained process facilitator with expertise in systems thinking, she brings valuable experience in children's rights and childhood studies. Her background in organizational development includes deep understanding of change processes for individuals, organizations, and systems. She specializes in creating effective transitions for youth into earning or learning opportunities.</p> <p>Motivation: Ilka brings her understanding of youth development in Ekurhuleni and strong facilitation skills to shape systemic change. Drawing from Kids Haven's 30-year legacy in child and youth care, she advocates for innovative approaches to youth development. Her experience as an activist and process convener strengthens her ability to foster collaboration and pilot new ideas. She focuses on creating holistic solutions for youth well-being and development.</p>
<p>Name: Jason Bygate Organisation: Capacitate Social Solutions Role/Title: Director</p> 	<p>Bio: Jason Bygate brings 20 years of experience in the development sector, and is a founding member of YD Co-Lab. His work as an ecosystem enabler has significantly influenced multiple areas of youth development. As Director of Capacitate Social Solutions, he has demonstrated expertise in building sustainable development initiatives and fostering collaborative partnerships across sectors. His approach combines strategic thinking with practical implementation experience.</p> <p>Motivation: As a founding member of YD Co-Lab, Jason remains committed to strengthening the youth development ecosystem through collaboration. His extensive experience in the sector provides valuable insights for organizational growth and sustainability. He aims to continue building effective partnerships and advancing initiatives that support young leaders across the continent. His vision focuses on creating sustainable impact through collaborative approaches to youth development.</p>
<p>Name: Lesedi Makoane Organisation: Future Leaders Academy Role/Title: Founder of SA Future Leaders Academy</p> 	<p>Bio: Lesedi Makoane founded DoSomething Youth Organisation in 2013, focused on providing young people with career guidance resources. In 2024, she transformed the organization into a youth leadership academy, developing future soft skills through the Eyespeeled Mathematics organisation in Soweto. Her work demonstrates consistent commitment to youth empowerment, with a focus on practical skills development and leadership training. She brings innovative approaches to youth development programming.</p> <p>Motivation: Through YD Co-Lab, Lesedi aims to expand her impact in youth leadership development and community engagement. She values the opportunity to build valuable connections and drive positive change through experiential learning and mentorship. Her focus on creating inclusive learning environments and developing practical leadership skills aligns with YD Co-Lab's mission. She brings expertise in creating educational programs that address both academic and soft skills development needs.</p>





Candidate Name & Org	Candidate Bio & Motivation
<p>Name: Lindelani Solomon Ntuli Organisation: South Africa School Social Affairs & Safe-Hub Alexandra Role/Title: Program Manager (Safe-Hub), SASSA -Founder</p> 	<p>Bio: Lindelani Solomon Ntuli is a qualified Child & Youth Care Worker with 18 years of experience in youth development. His expertise includes counseling, mentoring, and program implementation. Currently managing Safe-Hub Youth Cafe Program, he previously co-founded Make Us Model Academy and worked with Afrika Tikkun. He recently established South African School Social Affairs, expanding the South African Youth Parliament's reach. His work focuses on developing positive relationships with youth, families, and stakeholders.</p> <p>Motivation: Lindelani brings extensive experience in community engagement and youth empowerment to the Steering Committee. His background in program management, particularly in education and digital literacy, provides unique insights into disadvantaged communities' needs. He aims to enhance YD Co-Lab's impact through strategic program development and collaborative initiatives. His focus includes addressing skills gaps, promoting career readiness, and fostering innovative approaches to youth development.</p>
<p>Name: Luna August Organisation: Self Role/Title: Education Changemaker</p> 	<p>Bio: Luna August is a higher education futurist and youth development advocate with over six years of experience in program coordination, curriculum design, and educational policy. At the University of Cape Town, Luna leads strategic projects in academic advising and student engagement, focusing on equitable learning environments. Their collaboration with youth-centered networks, including Save the Children South Africa, supports 21st-century skills development in education. Luna's expertise spans stakeholder engagement, governance, and education advocacy.</p> <p>Motivation: Luna seeks to contribute to South Africa's youth development landscape through education strategy and collaborative advocacy. Their dedication to advancing equitable learning opportunities aligns with YD Co-Lab's mission of creating a responsive youth development ecosystem. Luna brings expertise in program development, monitoring, and policy advocacy to enhance YD Co-Lab's initiatives. Their focus includes developing sustainable resource-sharing models and amplifying youth voices in policy discussions.</p>
<p>Name: Luvuyo Maseko Organisation: Bertha Centre for Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship Role/Title: Project Manager Youth Innovation Portfolio</p> 	<p>Bio: Luvuyo Maseko brings over 10 years of experience in youth development, with significant roles at both Bertha Centre and YD Co-Lab. His work has provided comprehensive insights into partnership development and ecosystem support within youth development. At Bertha Centre, he has demonstrated expertise in fostering innovation and managing strategic youth initiatives. His experience spans program development, stakeholder engagement, and strategic planning.</p> <p>Motivation: As a founding member of YD Co-Lab, Luvuyo has contributed significantly to building momentum and establishing strong foundations. Luvuyo has served as Chairperson of YD Co-Lab since 2023. His commitment is evidenced by consistently going beyond required responsibilities to advance the organization's mission. His current role at Bertha Centre complements YD Co-Lab's objectives, bringing additional resources and perspectives to strengthen youth development initiatives. He aims to continue fostering innovative approaches and sustainable partnerships.</p>






Candidate Name & Org	Candidate Bio & Motivation
<p>Name: Lwando Fanana Organisation: BIG PROJECT FOUNDATION 27 / Wells Resource Role/Title: CEO/ Executive Director</p> 	<p>Bio: Lwando Fanana is a social economy engineer and ecosystem builder focused on youth activism and development. As CEO of BIG PROJECT FOUNDATION 27 and Wells Resource, he leads initiatives that drive social change and youth empowerment. His work centers on creating collaborative networks and sustainable development solutions. Lwando specializes in building partnerships that address systemic challenges facing young people.</p> <p>Motivation: Lwando's alignment with YD Co-Lab stems from his commitment to extensive collaboration and ecosystem development. He aims to strengthen organizational partnerships addressing national challenges including unemployment, skills development, and entrepreneurship. His approach focuses on creating conducive environments for youth development through strategic collaboration and innovative programming. He brings expertise in building sustainable networks that support youth empowerment initiatives.</p>
<p>Name: Martina Lastikova Organisation: ESRAG Role/Title: Environmental Sustainability Storytelling</p> 	<p>Bio: Martina Lastikova brings over a decade of experience in international development, working with youth-led organizations, INGOs, and UN agencies. Her expertise lies in delivering high-impact projects that drive community development through inclusive, impact-driven approaches. She specializes in creating sustainable impact that resonates at both local and global levels, with particular focus on environmental sustainability and youth engagement.</p> <p>Motivation: Martina is committed to advancing youth development through meaningful collaboration and knowledge-sharing. Her experience with impact-driven initiatives across Southern Africa positions her to contribute significantly to YD Co-Lab's mission. She aims to foster connections between organizations, share best practices in stakeholder engagement, and support strategic initiatives that amplify youth development impact. Her focus includes building sustainable partnerships and promoting environmental awareness in youth development programs.</p>
<p>Name: Mdu Menze Organisation: Waumbe Youth Development Centre Role/Title: Executive Director</p> 	<p>Bio: Mdu Menze brings 18 years of experience across corporate and development sectors, including Oil and Gas, Industry, and Mining. His technical expertise spans project engineering and management of initiatives ranging from ZAR300 million to ZAR2.2 billion. At Waumbe Youth Development Centre, he applies his corporate governance experience and project management skills to youth development initiatives. His leadership experience includes significant roles in academic and religious organizations.</p> <p>Motivation: Mdu's decade-long commitment to youth development aligns with YD Co-Lab's vision and mission. He brings valuable corporate experience and project management expertise to strengthen youth development initiatives. His focus includes applying professional management principles to enhance program effectiveness and sustainability. He aims to bridge the gap between corporate resources and youth development needs through strategic partnerships and innovative programming.</p>




Candidate Name & Org	Candidate Bio & Motivation
<p>Name: Nathacia Olivier Organisation: Activate Change Drivers Role/Title: National Network Support Coordinator</p> 	<p>Bio: Nathacia Olivier has four years of dedicated experience in youth development through her work with Activate Change Drivers. She actively engages with young people at the grassroots level, demonstrating creativity and adaptability in program implementation. Her collaborative work includes partnerships with organizations like Harambee, Youth Capital, and Imvelo Wealth, focusing on addressing youth unemployment challenges.</p> <p>Motivation: Nathacia is interested in joining the Steering Committee because she is an open-minded person, who has worked in good collaboration with various stakeholders like Harambee, Youth Capital, Imvelo Wealth, STB etc to help combat issues related to youth unemployment as well as advocating for the promotion of fair youth entrepreneurial opportunities and transference of much-needed knowledge and skills by youth in various communities across different provinces. Within the committee, she'll be able to contribute as much as she can to drive positive change within the space. It would be such an honour to play an important role with the members of the committee in serving the youth of South Africa for greater impact, influence and good.</p>
<p>Name: Nontobeko Pamela Tshozi Organisation: At vision ninety nine(pty) Ltd Role/Title: Co-founder</p>	<p>Bio: Nontobeko Pamela Tshozi is an entrepreneur and agricultural professional dedicated to youth empowerment and social impact. As co-founder of Vision Ninety Nine Pty Ltd, she leverages small-scale organic farming expertise to educate rural communities about sustainable agriculture. With three years of experience in youth development and climate-conscious initiatives, she champions female empowerment in agriculture. Her initiatives include annual book covering drives supporting education, and she recently enhanced her skills through the AXL career essentials program in AI learning.</p> <p>Motivation: Nontobeko is committed to supporting YD Co-Lab's youth empowerment mission, bringing entrepreneurial and agricultural expertise. Having engaged with the organization since its early stages, she aims to expand its reach in rural communities and agricultural sectors. She focuses on creating sustainable opportunities for young people, particularly in agricultural entrepreneurship and digital innovation. Her approach combines practical skills development with environmental consciousness.</p>
<p>Name: Penny Foley Organisation: Harambee Youth Employment Accelerator Role/Title: Head Civil Society: Stakeholder Relations</p> 	<p>Bio: Penny Foley has been involved in youth development since 1989, playing key roles in shaping South Africa's youth development policy post-democracy. Her experience spans policy drafting, program implementation, and cross-sector collaboration between government and civil society. At Harambee Youth Employment Accelerator, she leads civil society engagement, bringing deep understanding of youth development challenges and opportunities.</p> <p>Motivation: With 35 years of youth development experience, Penny brings comprehensive knowledge of policy frameworks and implementation challenges. Penny has been involved as a strategic advisor to YD Co-Lab since its inception in 2020. Her commitment to YD Co-Lab stems from understanding the critical need for collaborative approaches in youth development. She aims to strengthen the organization's impact through strategic partnerships and policy advocacy. Her expertise in navigating both government and civil society sectors positions her to advance YD Co-Lab's mission effectively.</p>



Candidate Name & Org	Candidate Bio & Motivation
<p>Name: Rufaro Mudimu Organisation: Tafara Advisory Role/Title: Founder/Director</p> 	<p>Bio: Rufaro Mudimu brings over 17 years of experience in youth development and executive leadership. As CEO of enke: Make Your Mark for 9 years, she scaled the organization's impact threefold and raised over R30 million. A Yale World Fellow and Obama Foundation Leader, she's demonstrated expertise in building collaborative networks and fostering youth development initiatives. Rufaro was YD Co-Lab's founding Chairperson (2021-2022), and is currently serving as YD Co-Lab's Project Manager. She has already contributed to growing the network's membership and bringing executive leadership capacity to strengthen the youth development ecosystem in South Africa.</p> <p>Motivation: Since YD Co-Lab's inception in 2020, Rufaro has demonstrated commitment to strengthening youth development through collaboration. Her Project Manager role provides valuable insights into operational needs and strategic opportunities. She brings expertise in organizational governance, strategic planning, and resource mobilization from her experience scaling enke and serving on boards like IkamvaYouth. Her focus includes implementing summit insights, strengthening capacity-building initiatives, and fostering cross-sector collaborations for sustainable youth impact.</p>
<p>Name: Sizakele Kumalo Organisation: Awaken Yavuka Imbokodo Role/Title: Manager</p> 	<p>Bio: Sizakele Kumalo is the founder of Awaken Yavuka Imbokodo, dedicating eight years to youth empowerment through education and skills development. Her expertise in project management and community event organization has helped improve youth employability. She specializes in creating connections between educational initiatives and practical skills development, focusing on sustainable community impact. Her work combines grassroots engagement with strategic program implementation.</p> <p>Motivation: Sizakele brings grassroots experience in youth empowerment and a strong belief in collaborative change. Her work with Awaken Yavuka Imbokodo demonstrates the impact of focused educational initiatives on youth employability. She aims to contribute project management expertise and community engagement skills to YD Co-Lab's mission. Her focus includes enhancing collaborative efforts to address youth unemployment and skills development through innovative, community-centered approaches.</p>
<p>Name: Thokozile Qalanto Organisation: Khayelitsha Youth In Business Role/Title: Chairperson</p> 	<p>Bio: Thokozile Qalanto is founder and director of Makwande Development Solutions, specializing in digital marketing and business development. With 16 years in youth and enterprise development, she has dedicated her career to empowering young entrepreneurs. A Raymond Ackerman Academy graduate, she won UCT Graduate School of Business's Best Business Idea award in 2019. Her work spans both non-profit and corporate sectors, implementing mentorship programs for aspiring entrepreneurs. She is a 2024 Womandla Women in STEAM Awards finalist in Advocacy and Rising Star categories.</p> <p>Motivation: Drawing from 25 years in community development, Thokozile brings expertise in democratic leadership and community empowerment. Her experience includes establishing successful youth initiatives, from neighborhood watch programs engaging unemployed youth to supporting township entrepreneurship. She focuses on connecting emerging business owners with resources and opportunities, demonstrating practical impact through security programs and entrepreneur support. Her approach combines grassroots understanding with strategic development expertise.</p>



Candidate Name & Org	Candidate Bio & Motivation
<p>Name: Zonja Penzhorn Organisation: Human Nature Role/Title: Head of Marketing</p> 	<p>Bio: Zonja Penzhorn advocates for collaboration between for-profit and non-profit sectors to improve youth access to essential services. Her expertise spans public health, focusing on HIV/GBV prevention and economic strengthening, alongside experience in the FMCG industry. She brings a strategic approach to identifying and addressing service gaps, with skills in consumer insight and program design. Her work emphasizes culturally informed, socially relevant solutions across Southern Africa.</p> <p>Motivation: Zonja is committed to developing collaborative solutions that address youth needs comprehensively. She advocates for innovative thinking that brings together diverse sectors to create sustainable impact. Her vision emphasizes the integration of people, planet, and product in youth development initiatives. She believes in the central role of youth in achieving continental success and aims to strengthen cross-sector partnerships that enhance youth opportunities.</p>