



Republic of the Philippines  
**Department of Education**  
Cordillera Administrative Region  
**SCHOOLS DIVISION OF BAGUIO CITY**



**ADVISORY NO. 029, 2025**

**LIWLIWA YA SURSURO YOUTH INNOVATION CHALLENGE**

June 25, 2025

In compliance with DepEd Order No. 8, s. 2013  
this advisory is issued not for endorsement per DO 28, s. 2001  
but only for the information of DepEd Officials, personnel, staff, as well as the  
concerned public. (visit [www.deped.gov.ph](http://www.deped.gov.ph))

The Baguio City by the Cordilleran Youth Center (CYC) in partnership with the City Planning, Development, and Sustainability Office (CPDSO) and ICLEI Southeast Asia is inviting **All Students** to participate in the “Liwliwa Ya Sursuru” which means “Learning while Having Fun” which aims to empower young people to co-create innovative solutions that address safety, inclusion, and well-being issues in their communities. Through this challenge, participants will be mentored and guided in designing and implementing locally relevant projects with the support of multi-stakeholder partners.

Enclosed are the details for your reference and information. Participation and expenses on the said activity is personal and voluntary and shall be subjected to the “no-disruption-of classes” policy stipulated in DepEd Order No. 9, s. 2005, titled “Instituting Measures to Increase Engaged Time-On-Task and Ensuring Compliance Therewith”.

For more queries, you may reach out to Ms. Kristianne Jemi Santos, Sr. Project Officer of ICLEI SEA through email: [jemi.santos@iclei.org](mailto:jemi.santos@iclei.org)

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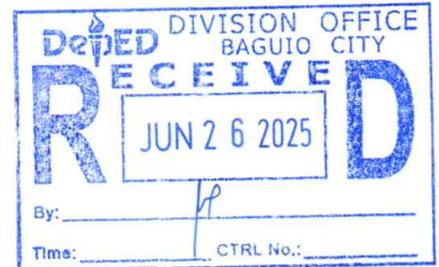
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24 June 2025

Ms. Soraya T. Faculo, PhD, CESO IV  
Schools Division Superintendent  
Department of Education (DepEd)  
Baguio City



**Subject:** *Endorsement of Support for the Liwliwa Ya Sursuro Youth Innovation Challenge under the Safe and Sound Cities Phase II Program*

Dear **Ms. Soraya T. Faculo, PhD, CESO IV:**

Greetings from ICLEI Southeast Asia!

We respectfully write to seek your support and collaboration in the implementation of the **Liwliwa Ya Sursuro Youth Innovation Challenge**, a flagship initiative under the **Safe and Sound Cities (S<sup>2</sup>Cities) Phase II** program being implemented in Baguio City by the Cordilleran Youth Center (CYC) in partnership with the City Planning, Development, and Sustainability Office (CPDSO) and ICLEI Southeast Asia. This program is part of a global movement to promote youth-led urban safety and resilience, with Baguio as one of the focus cities in Southeast Asia.

**"Liwliwa Ya Sursuro"**, which means *Learning while Having Fun*, aims to empower young people to co-create innovative solutions that address safety, inclusion, and well-being issues in their communities. Through this challenge, youth participants will be mentored and guided in designing and implementing locally relevant projects with the support of multi-stakeholder partners. A primer is attached to this letter with more details about the program.

We believe that your office plays a vital role in enabling the success of this initiative. We kindly request your support in the following ways:

- **Encouraging the participation** of youth, youth organizations, and barangay youth leaders in key activities of the challenge;
- **Providing mentorship** and guidance to young innovators based on your expertise and experiences;
- **Delivering presentations** or inputs during capacity-building workshops and events wherever relevant;



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- **Linking youth initiatives to possible funding or grant opportunities** that can help bring their ideas to life;
- **Facilitating coordination** with local institutions, schools, and/or barangay councils to enhance collaboration.

We are excited about the opportunity to work with you to build a safer, more inclusive, and youth-responsive Baguio City. Your active engagement will be instrumental in nurturing a new generation of local changemakers.

Thank you very much for your continued dedication to youth empowerment and sustainable development. Please feel free to contact us should you need additional information or wish to explore specific areas of support. You may reach out to **Ms. Kristianne Jemi Santos**, Sr. Project Officer of ICLEI SEA at [jemi.santos@iclei.org](mailto:jemi.santos@iclei.org).

With appreciation and respect,

**VICTORINO AQUITANIA**  
Regional Director  
ICLEI Southeast Asia (ICLEI SEA)

Noted by:

**ARCH. DONNA TABANGIN**  
Department Head  
Baguio City Planning,  
Development, and Sustainability  
Office (CPDSO)



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## LIWLIWA YA SURSURO 2.0 FULL PRIMER

### What is Liwliwa ya Sursuro?

**Liwliwa ya Sursuro 2.0: Baguio Youth Innovation Challenge** (Translation: *Learning while having fun*) is a youth innovation incubation program designed to spark creative, community-based solutions to urban safety and inclusion issues. It is the second youth innovation challenge hosted by the Safe and Sound Cities Baguio<sup>1</sup> following its successful launch in 2023. It will gather youth innovators from all over the city in a 2-month innovation cycle from October to November 2025! Application process for the LYS 2.0 will commence on July 1, 2025 to September 5, 2025!

After an inspiring first run in 2023, **Liwliwa Ya Sursuro 2.0** builds on real success. The first phase of the challenge sparked meaningful change through **four youth-led initiatives**, namely: 1.) Community Wellness Hub of Team Salun-at, Happy Paws Pet Park of Team Sulong Bayan, 3. Pop-up Theater Initiative of Team Malayang Tanghalan and 4.) Indigenous Peoples Center Hub Renewal Project of Team Saluysoy (See more details [here](#)).

Central to this program is the use of [placemaking and relational wellbeing](#) as core approaches. Together, these approaches encourage holistic, youth-led responses to urban challenges that integrate both spatial and relational transformation.

This program gives young changemakers the tools, mentorship, and resources to transform their ideas into real-life projects. From unsafe public spaces to civic exclusion, this is a call for young people to reimagine the city they live in—and shape it themselves.

This year, Liwliwa Ya Sursuro 2.0 levels up with a new theme and challenge:

### *Let's S.H.A.P.E. Our Own City!*

#### **Spark Youth-Led and Community-Rooted Action**

*Young people aren't just participants, they're leaders. This principle puts youth at the core of reimagining city solutions through ideas grounded in their lived experiences and the realities of their communities.*

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<sup>1</sup> The [S2Cities program](#) is a global initiative that promotes inclusive, safe, and youth-friendly urban development. It recognizes the potential of young people to co-create safer and more just urban environments through collaborative and placemaking approaches to innovations. It is led globally by the Global Infrastructure Basel (GIB) and is currently operating in 6 Programme cities in Ecuador (Ambato, Cuenca), Colombia (Envigado, Cartagena) and the Philippines (Baguio, Naga)!



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### Highlight Co-Creation and Collaboration

*Change proves more impactful when it's inclusive. Participatory and consultative processes across all sectors: youth, government, civil society, and private institutions, drawing from the four-streams approach.*

### Amplify Advocacy for Safer and More Inclusive Cities

*Beyond solutions, we stand for social change. We support ideas that challenge societal issues, advocate for rights-based approaches, and push for safer, more equitable urban environments.*

### Placemaking in Action

*Placemaking connects people and places. Youth-led placemaking and relational wellbeing have the power to transform underused areas into inclusive, and foster human-centered spaces where communities can thrive.*

### Engineer Sustainable Change Through Innovation

*Creation of space for bold ideas that are innovative and built with long-term sustainability in mind, ensuring that youth-led innovation translates into lasting, meaningful impact.*

**Liwliwa Ya Sursuro 2.0** aims to multiply that impact by:

- Strengthening training and mentoring tracks by field experts, advocates and civic leaders that will help develop your ideas!
- Supervising **7 shortlisted teams** and awarding **2 final winners** from ideation, mentoring up to project implementation.
- Deepening focus on **placemaking** and **relational wellbeing** as transformative approaches to safety and inclusion, ensuring alignment to various stakeholders including the public and private sector, CSO and advocacy groups, academe, etc!
- Providing a **bigger seed funding with a maximum amount of PHP1,000,000** to launch and implement the winning ideas! This will kick start the project as we gather support from the community for project sustainability.



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## Who Can Join?

All passionate, creative, and critical youth from Baguio and nearby areas are encouraged to join! Maximum participation from schools, barangays, civil-society organizations, and young individuals are encouraged to participate. Minimum requirements are as follows:

- ✓ Age: 15–24 years old (youth age based on UN standards)
- ✓ Currently residing, studying, or working in Baguio City
- ✓ Willing to learn, co-create, and be mentored
- ✓ Teams of at least 3 members

## How to Join?

1. Form a team of at least 3 members or apply as you are! You may be a group of friends, neighbors, classmates or school representatives. Youth and student organizations are also encouraged to apply, just nominate representative/s to be on top of the challenge!
2. Ideate! Think of ideas that may seek to address safety challenges in our city with respect to these thematic areas: a) *Unsafe and Underutilized Public Spaces*, b) *Limited Spaces for Meaningful Civic Participation*, c) *Urban Blight and Low Livability Index* (See details [here](#))
3. Make sure to clearly identify your problem, elaborate on your proposed solution, and place/s or area/s of the project!
4. Fill out the applicant information sheet through this form: [bit.ly/LYS2Application](https://bit.ly/LYS2Application)
5. Showcase your ideas! Proposal template is available here: [bit.ly/LYS2ProposalTemplate](https://bit.ly/LYS2ProposalTemplate), but you are free to get creative!

## What to Expect

The Liwliwa ya Sursuro 2.0 Innovation Challenge will run from **July to December 2025** in the following phases:

<b>Call for Proposals</b>	July 1 – September 5, 2025	– Youth teams submit their project ideas based on the three key urban safety issues. At least 20 teams will be selected for the interview process.
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<b>Screening &amp; Shortlisting</b>	September 2025	Seven teams are selected and matched with mentors. Shortlisted teams join a pre-pitch orientation.
<b>Training &amp; Mentoring</b>	October 2025	Centralized and decentralized training on placemaking, design thinking, budgeting.
<b>Pitch Competition</b>	November 2025	Finalists present their refined ideas before a panel of public and private sector partners. Two winning teams are selected.
<b>Implementation Prep</b>	December 2025	Contracts are signed, and preparations begin for implementation with stakeholder coordination and logistical planning.
<b>Implementation for Winning Initiatives and Continued Mentoring</b>	January 2026 onwards	Selected winning teams implement their projects with continued mentorship and monitoring.

Winning teams will receive **mentorship, technical assistance and a seed funding of at most 1,000,000 PHP** to bring their ideas to life!

At the heart of every youth-led innovation is the power of community. While Liwliwa Ya Sursuro 2.0 supports young people in designing and launching their ideas, the true test of sustainability lies in how well these projects are embraced and maintained by the community itself. The broader S2Cities program will continue running until 2028, but our long-term goal and success depends on our collective ability to grow roots within its local context, to be supported and even adopted by various stakeholders (public and private sector), institutions, and residents alike.



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## Organizers

Liwliwa Ya Sursuro 2.0 is implemented under the **Safe and Sound Cities Program**, an initiative proudly led by **Global Infrastructure Basel**, hosted by **Swiss Philanthropy Foundation**, with the support of **Fondation Botnar**. Baguio is the first city in the Philippines and second in Southeast Asia selected to be part of this global initiative.

Locally, the program is facilitated by the **Cordilleran Youth Center, Inc.**, in collaboration with the local government of Baguio through the **City Planning Development and Sustainability Office (CPDSO)** and in partnership with **ICLEI - South East Asia Secretariat** and the **Progressive Igorots for Social Action (PIGSA)**.

**Here's a guide for a successful application!**

## What We're Tackling Together

Through a series of focus group discussions, and consultations with youth leaders, community-based organizations, and local government partners, three major urban safety concerns consistently rose to the surface. These issues reflect real, everyday struggles faced by youth and communities in Baguio and nearby areas, from the lack of safe and inclusive public spaces, to barriers in youth participation, and environments that fail to support well-being and creativity. These themes serve as a compass for the challenge, guiding youth to create solutions on:

### 1. **Unsafe and Underutilized Public Spaces**

Public spaces such as streets, parks, alleys, terminals are often left in disrepair or made unsafe by poor lighting, lack of upkeep, or the absence of inclusive design. In some cases, facilities and other spaces are even idle or unmaximized. These areas should foster connection, safety, and creative expression, creating more places for young people and the community to converge and engage. By reimagining and reclaiming these areas, young people can help turn them into vibrant, welcoming hubs of activity.

### 2. **Limited Spaces for Meaningful Civic Participation**

Many young people feel excluded from civic processes and decision-making that impact their lives. There are few channels where youth voices are actively heard, and limited opportunities to co-create solutions with government and other sectors. Critical issues of the youth such as access to quality education, mental health, human rights, gender equality and other pressing issues need further amplification. We need youth



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innovations that aim to open up democratic spaces, encourage civic engagement, and empower collective action from the ground up.

### 3. Urban Blight and Low Livability Index

Decades of poor urban planning and unchecked development have created limited services and pockets of unsafe environments. According to a study by the City Planning Development and Sustainability Office, only 1 out of Baguio's 128 barangays is considered fully livable. The majority fall below optimal standards for access to health, water, food, and public services. Another study from NEDA-CAR revealed that our city has long breached its urban carrying capacity. It is now a challenge to design solutions that not only improve safety, but also promote environmental sustainability, mobility, disaster resilience and livability.

## How do we innovate solutions?

Guided by the Safe and Sound Cities Programme Methodology, innovative projects to be selected must be aligned with the following approaches:

### Placemaking Approach

Placemaking invites people to collectively reimagine and reinvent urban spaces as the heart of every community to maximize shared value. It facilitates creative patterns of use, considering the physical, cultural, and social identities of a place, as well as the needs of different users. Our youth innovators must ask, *"Are we creating, transforming or reinvigorating spaces for the youth as a place of solidarity, community and practice?"*

### Relational Wellbeing Approach

RWB is an integrative approach to understanding wellbeing that looks beyond individual psychology or behaviour and focuses on the underlying processes that promote healthy environments and happy lives. The concept is centred around three interlinked dimensions of wellbeing: material (having enough), relational (being connected), and subjective (feeling good). We are not only creating safer environments, we are fostering a community.

## Take a look at the Past Winning Initiatives from 2023!

The first phase of Liwliwa Ya Sursuro inspired real community impact and showed just how powerful youth-led innovation can be. Young people didn't just propose ideas- they brought them to life. They turned unsafe, overlooked, or underused spaces into hubs of connection, healing, and hope. From digital platforms to performance art, from creative hubs to pet-friendly parks, these projects revealed what happens when youth are given the trust and tools to shape their communities.

### Team Salun-at - Community Wellness Hub



To address the need for greater access to mental health services and the continuing stigma surrounding mental illness, Team Salun-at launched a Community Wellness Hub with a digital and mobile component. Since February 2024, they have reached over 20 communities in the city and about 2,000 individuals through its Wellness on Wheels caravan providing young people various discussions and training on mental health and psychological first aid. In October 2024, they launched an online mental health platform connecting practitioners,

patients, and advocates and providing relevant resource materials on mental health and wellbeing. This initiative employed an approach that integrated science and indigenous knowledge for community and collective care, also providing training on alternative healing modalities (AHM) and Indigenous Knowledge Systems and Practices (IKSP).

### Team Malayang Tanghalan - Pop-Up Theatre Initiative

For Team Malayang Tanghalan, addressing crime prevention and deviant activities of the youth is deeply cultural and social. To confront this challenge, the team launched the Pop-up Theater Initiative to attract young people to meaningful activities and cultural engagements that not only veers them away to antisocial doings but also provides platforms and spaces for cultural integration. The team brought theatre into neighborhoods, schools and public spaces to engage young people through storytelling and performance. They have launched 3 Theater

Cliniques with a youth-appropriate module they developed and produced 6 public cultural productions. The impact extends beyond performance—the forging and formation of cultural collectives (with a network of at least 6 organizations), providing youth with a safe and creative outlet, and strengthened arts-based community organizing.

**Team Saluysoy - Indigenous Peoples Center Renewal Project**

Tackling the lack of IP youth development spaces, Team Saluysoy worked on rehabilitating an underutilized government-owned IP Center located at the 3rd floor of CEPMO Building in Burnham (beside the City Library). In a co-creative process, the



Team managed to collaborate with the IP Center Management Committee led by Ibaloi elders and leaders and CEPMO. With the support from CEPMO, a major renovation of its roof and ceilings were

done along with other dilapidated areas. The team, together with various youth organizations, co-designed the space and is continuously improving the space with co-creation corners, a reading nook, provision of indigenous music instruments and other features. It also now hosts a collaborative mural. The center serves as a venue for knowledge exchange and youth leadership development. It has re-emerged as a safe space where intergenerational learning thrives.

**Team Sulong Bayan - Happy Paws Pet Park**

Responding to mental health concerns and animal welfare, limited green spaces, and the risks associated with certain areas of Burnham Park (part of the Baguio Tourist Information Park along Jose Abad Santos Drive), team Sulong Bayan revitalized the then-known “hotspot”

of antisocial activities of young people and transformed it as the Happy Paws Pet Park. The park encourages human-human and human-nature connections while promoting animal welfare. Formally launched in May of 2024, the park has initiated events like Pet Socialization and a month-long Pet Summit, as well as volunteer activities at a local pet sanctuary. These engagements helped foster connection with nature and fellow pet owners, reduce stray animal



risks, and provide therapeutic interaction spaces for the broader community. With overwhelming support from the community, the project has partnered with at least 12 pet clinics, animal welfare advocacy groups, and private establishments.

These youth-led efforts ignited meaningful and measurable change across key areas- mental health, cultural development, Indigenous Peoples' rights, and animal welfare, all of which deeply adding up to our advocacy for urban safety and inclusive city building. More importantly, they proved that young people are not just the future, these young innovators are already shaping our urban spaces today: creating solutions, shifting narratives, and ultimately, **shaping our cities today.**

Got a bold idea to make our city safer, livelier, and more inclusive?  
Gather your team. Shape your vision. Be part of **Liwliwa ya Sursuro 2.0!**

*Let's shape our city together!*

#### Inquiries?

Reach out through our official communication channels or message us on social media. We're excited to co-create this journey with you.

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