

# Hopes, Fears, and Expectations

*Empowering Youth through Transformative  
Organizing*



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Development*

## Who we are

- Youth ages 15-19
- Youth-Led Organizing
- 20 years running
- ~2 yrs: **youth-driven**  
Non-Profit



# HOW DO WE?



Respect  
someone's  
autonomy  
and agency

Serve and  
Support

Make an  
impact



*What's the difference between you & youth?*

# Youth At the Impact of Oppression

Internalized: The psychological acceptance of oppressive ideas about you and your community as true or somewhat valid.

Institutional: The social enforcement of oppression through policy, school, government agencies, and police.

Interpersonal: The social interactions where oppressive ideas and practices are utilized in relationships

*How do you build a growth-centered community?*

# Frameworks integrated in our youth organizing approach

## Trauma-Informed Care

- **Recognize** the impact of trauma both on the individual and community
- **Exposure** to pathways to empowerment
- **Realize** the resiliency of your experience and appreciate others like you

## Positive Youth Development

- **Collectively build** norms of empowerment
- **Paced** progressive Mentorship
- **Trust** build and expect transparency

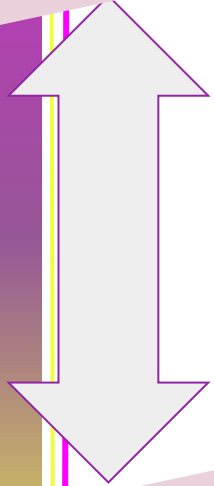
## Transformative Justice & Restorative Practices

- **Externalize** norms of empowerment
- **Advocate** for justice and harm reduction
- **Transformative** dialogues and actions that confirm resiliency

# Restorative & Transformative Community Culture

*Mutual Accountability ↔ Mutual transparency ↔ Mutual growth*

**Internalize**



**Externalize**

<b>Power of Agency</b>	<b>Self-Efficacy</b>	<b>Building Trust</b>	<b>Servant Leadership</b>
<b>Creating Alternatives to Safety</b>	<b>Community Empowerment</b>	<b>Repairing Harm with Empathy</b>	<b>Collection Action</b>





*Young people part of the YA-YA Network find their political home and exercise their power through a body called Action Committee (AC).*

*AC houses our grassroots campaign, Make Schools Safe Again. As part of AC, young people take leadership through horizontal decision-making, shaping our campaign's strategy, direction, actions, and outcomes.*



# ALWAYS account for these core standards & their norms

## Youth Development

- Responsibility to community
- Self Advocacy
- Referrals to services that support educational/medical/social access

## Youth Leadership

- Youth can acquire skills necessary to organize and advocate for social change.
- We can only win sustainable changes through youth leadership

## Civic Engagement

- YA-YAs Invest is in community based initiatives.
- YA-YAs have meaningful and impactful visions for their communities
- YA-YAs share the responsibility with a larger political community to enact change.