

Civic Engagement as a Catalyst for Community Change: 2021 Research Grantee Dialogue.

Rising Up to the Challenge: Civic Engagement in the Time of COVID

June 10, 2021

Civic Engagement as a Catalyst for Community Change: 2021 Research Grantee Dialogue

Tuesday, June 8, 2021 – Thursday, June 10, 2021

Welcome

Mary Hyde, Ph.D.

Director,

Office of Research and Evaluation



Rising Up to the Challenge: Civic Engagement in the Time of COVID

Panel Moderator

Melissa Gouge, Ph.D.

Research Analyst

*Office of Research and Evaluation/
AmeriCorps NCCC*



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Fielding Graduate University / School for Leadership Studies

Dawn Jackman Murphy, MAT, MAHOS

Marie Fielder Fellow – PhD Candidate

Fielding Graduate University, School for Leadership Studies

Leading from the Roots: US Community-Based Folk Schools Inspiring Social Action

2018 Community Conversations Grantee

Kirsten Skoglund

Program Coordinator

Marine Mills Folk School



Rising Up to the Challenge

Grantee Program Accomplishments

- 9 Folk Schools Engaged in Participatory Action Research in 8 states
- 10 Community-Based Participatory Action Research Plans and Projects led by Heritage Artists, Craftspeople, and Culture Bearers
- 8 Participatory Research projects
- 10 Mini-documentaries
- Leveraged community cash \$100,000+
- 13,470 Pounds of food donated
- Hundreds of Herbal Care Packages delivered to BIPOC community members
- Hundreds of volunteer hours



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Anti-Displacement: the Untapped Potential of University-Community Cooperative Living

Ayana Allen-Handy, Ph.D.

Founding Director, Justice-oriented Youth Education Lab

Assistant Professor of Urban Education

*Drexel University
2018 Grantee*

Rachel Wenrick, MFA

*Founding Director, Writers Room
Associate Teaching Professor of English*

*Drexel University
2018 Grantee*



*From "We Exist in Multitudes" (2020),
a Writers Room collaboration with
Mark Strandquist, Courtney Bowles
and Mural Arts Philadelphia*

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Anti-Displacement: the Untapped Potential of University-Community Cooperative Living

Our Community-led Participatory Action Research (CPAR) study aims to investigate the effects of gentrification on residential displacement and affordable housing options in West Philadelphia.

CO-DESIGNED

Centers the voices, expertise, and lived experiences of long-standing community members

INTERGENERATIONAL

Researchers ages 18-80 represent Robeson HS, YouthBuild Philly, Drexel, and the Mantua and Powelton neighborhoods

INTERDISCIPLINARY

Incorporates creative writing, photography, music, architecture, design, and green building construction



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Anti-Displacement: the Untapped Potential of University-Community Cooperative Living

In response to these urgent issues in our community, we are co-creating an intergenerational cooperative living network, **Second Story Collective**.

CROSS-SECTOR

Collaborators include MCA, PVCA, PA Department of Aging, ArtistYear, and YouthBuild

INCLUSIVE

Demographically diverse collective expands cohousing's current reach of white, older participants with advanced degrees and higher incomes

ARTS-CENTERED

Leverages the arts to spark community cohesion, neighborhood stability, and economic mobility



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National Latino Research Center –
Cultivando Sabiduría / Cultivating Wisdom

Marisol Clark-Ibáñez, Ph.D.
*Professor of Sociology,
California State University San Marcos
2017 Grantee*

Arcela Nuñez-Alvarez, Ph.D.
*Research Director,
National Latino Research Center ,
California State University San Marcos
2017 Grantee*



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Grantee Program Accomplishments

Cultivando Sabiduría sought to connect Latinx elders to civic engagement curriculum and activities.

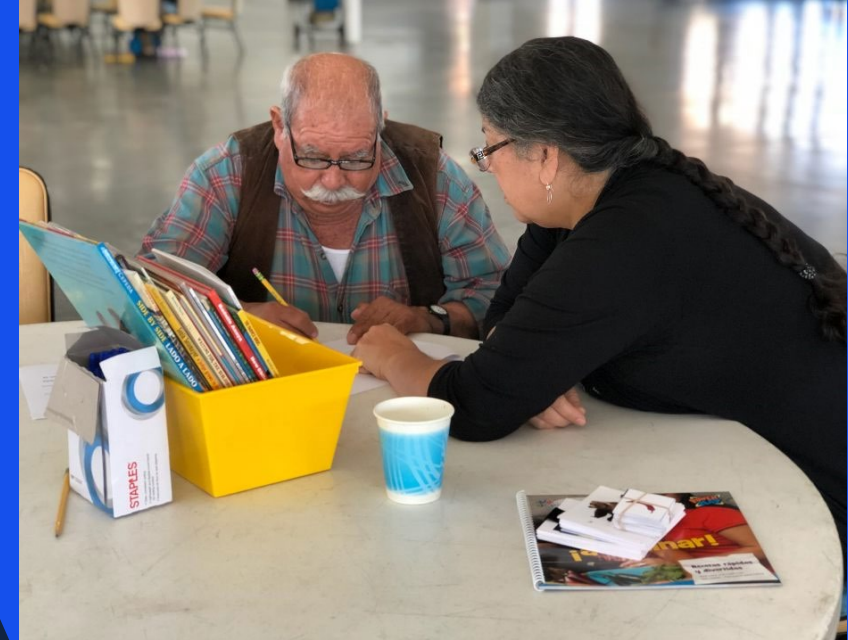
- Culturally and linguistically appropriate pedagogy
- Popular Education model (Paolo Freire)
- Honors elders' life experiences
- Cultivates learning, wellness, community leadership, and civic engagement.
- Created by Universidad Popular or People's University (founder Dr. Nuñez-Alvarez)



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Grantee Program Accomplishments

- Successful enrollment of over 300 students for class once a week:
 - Began with breakfast & movement
 - Civic engagement “charla”
 - Class: Technology for computers, Technology for smart phone or tablets, crafting, literacy for Spanish, and multilingual literacy
 - Field trips
- Used mixed methods to understand the students’ experiences:
 - Photo-ethnography
 - Pre- and post-surveys
 - Qualitative Interviews



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Grantee Program Accomplishments

- Major findings
 - Survey data is being analyzed
 - Descriptive data indicates strong voting practices
 - Increased knowledge of political issues, especially local
 - Elders expressed excitement for going to "school," a dream that they had to defer most of their lives
 - Leadership and volunteer opportunities reported by students through connections in the class
 - Connection to literacy was crucial to civic engagement



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*SUNY College of Environmental Science & Forestry
Community Conversations*

Maren King

Associate Professor

*SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry,
Department of Landscape Architecture, in partnership with
the Syracuse Peacemaking Project*

2018 Grantee



Raising the Next Generation of Community Leaders: A Participatory Research Project in the Near Westside Neighborhood of Syracuse, NY

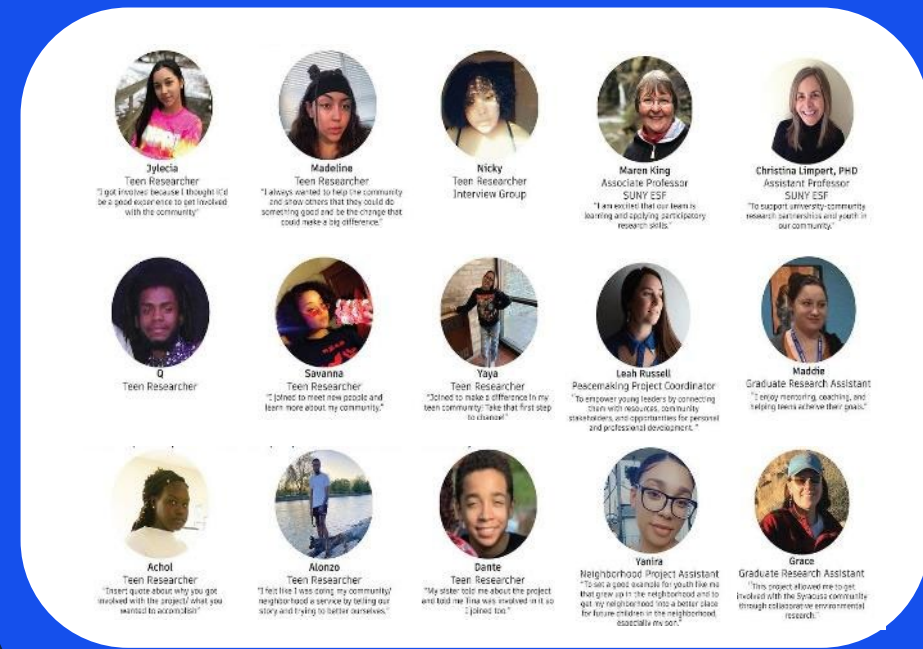
Grantee Program Accomplishments

A Youth Participatory Action Research project with goal of creating a **Youth Community Impact Team**.

- Youth as integral members of research team
- Transdisciplinary, intergenerational, multicultural
- Placemaking as a vital practice

Research Topic: How crime and violence affects lives of community members

- Suite of participatory methods: focus groups, mapping, storytelling, interviews



Raising the Next Generation of Community Leaders: A Participatory Research Project in the Near Westside Neighborhood of Syracuse, NY

Findings:

- Proximity to supportive neighbors, programs and services affects sense of safety
- Poor physical conditions create hazards and access problems, and vacant buildings communicate lack of care
- Crime and violence affects the lives of everyone in the neighborhood
- COVID presented unexpected challenges

Accomplishments:

- Placemaking – Gathering Garden
- Dissemination – Posters, Presentations, Social Media



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Panelist Discussion and Q&A



Melissa Gouge, Ph.D.,

Research Analyst

*Office of Research and Evaluation/
AmeriCorps NCCC*



**Ayana Allen-Handy,
Ph.D.**

*Founding Director, Justice-
oriented Youth Education Lab*

*Assistant Professor of Urban
Education*



**Arcela Nuñez-Alvarez,
Ph.D.**

Research Director,

National Latino Research Center

*California State University San
Marcos*



**Dawn Jackman Murphy,
MAHOS, MAT, ACC**

*Fellow, Fielding Graduate University's
Marie FieldeDawn Murphyr Center
for Democracy, Leadership, and
Education*

*Board Secretary, Folk Education
Association of America*



Rachel Wenrick, Ph.D.

Founding Director, Writers Room

*Associate Teaching Professor of
English*

*Drexel University, College of Arts
and Sciences*



Maren King

*Associate Professor,
Landscape Architecture*

*SUNY College of
Environmental Science and
Forestry (ESF)*

*Director of the ESF Center for
Community Design Research*



Kirsten Skoglund

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Marine Mills Folk School



**Marisol Clark-Ibanez,
Ph.D.**

Professor of Sociology

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