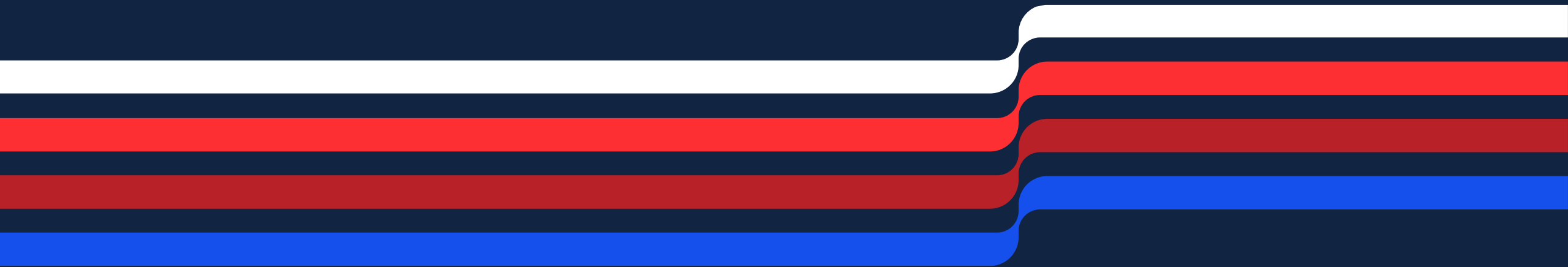


# 2022 Research Grantee Dialogue

## Embracing the Diversity of Civic Engagement: Opportunities for National Service

Thursday, May 19, 2022

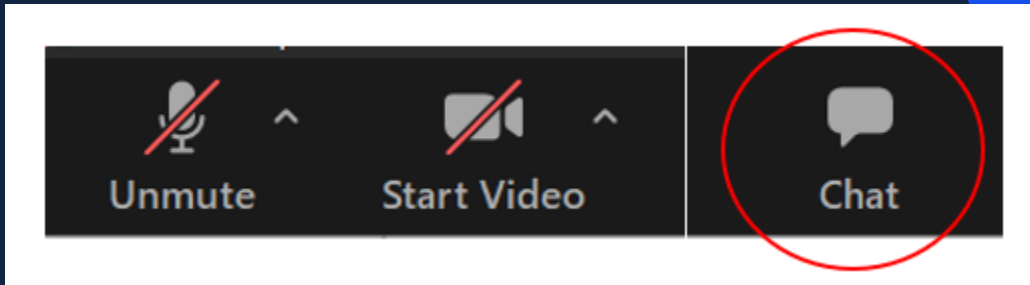


2022 Research Grantee Dialogue:  
Embracing the Diversity of Civic Engagement:  
Opportunities for National Service

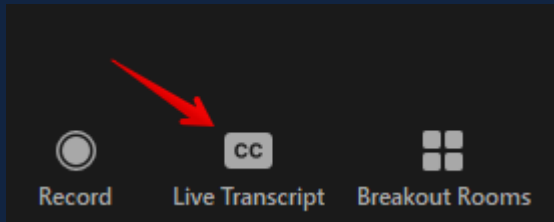
**Katy Hussey-Sloniker, MBA, MSW, LGSW,**  
*Learning Officer,*  
*AmeriCorps Office of Research and Evaluation*



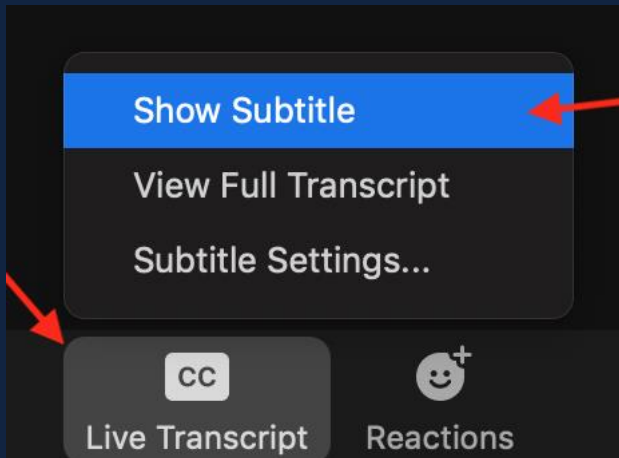
# Welcome!



Please be advised that all lines have been muted to avoid background noises and to allow for greater engagement.



Please use the chat feature to submit any questions throughout the presentations. Select Everyone when submitting your questions. We will read your questions for you.



2022 Research Grantee Dialogue:  
Embracing the Diversity of Civic Engagement:  
Opportunities for National Service

# African American Youth and Civic Engagement

Thursday, May 19, 2022



2022 Research Grantee Dialogue:  
Embracing the Diversity of Civic Engagement:  
Opportunities for National Service

## Introductory Remark

**Mary Hyde, Ph.D.**

*Director,*

*AmeriCorps Office of Research and Evaluation*



2022 Research Grantee Dialogue:  
Embracing the Diversity of Civic Engagement:  
Opportunities for National Service

**DATA DRIVEN:**

How the Office of  
Research and Evaluation (ORE)  
Injects Data into AmeriCorps





# African American Youth and Civic Engagement

*Panel Moderators*



**Andrea Robles, Ph.D.,**

*Research and Evaluation  
Manager,*

*AmeriCorps Office of  
Research and Evaluation*



**Shane Dermanjian**

*Research Assistant,*

*AmeriCorps Office of  
Research and Evaluation*



# African American Youth and Civic Engagement *Young Black Changemaker Project*



**Laura Wray-Lake, Ph.D.**

*Associate Professor, Social Welfare,  
University of California, Los Angeles*



The Role of Community-  
Based  
Civic Organizations  
in Sustaining  
Young Black Changemaking

---

**Laura Wray-Lake, PhD**  
**Department of Social Welfare,**  
**UCLA**  
**May 19, 2022**  
**AmeriCorps Research Grantee**  
**Dialogue**



# UCLA Young Black Changemakers Research Team



Laura Abrams, PhD, UCLA



Mariah Bonilla, UCLA



Elena Maker Castro, UCLA



Elan Hope, PhD, NC State



Dominique Mikell, UCLA



Victoria Millet, UCLA



Jason Plummer, UCLA



Sara Wilf, UCLA



Laura Wray-Lake, PhD, UCLA



Domonique Henderson, UCLA



Channing Mathews, PhD, NC State



Kaylon Kenyon, NC State



# Young Black Changemakers and the Road to Racial Justice

*Cambridge University Press, 2023*





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## Today's Aims

What experiences do young Black changemakers have in organizations that grow and sustain their efforts?

What implications can we draw for best practices in community-based civic organizations?

# About the Young Black Changemakers Study

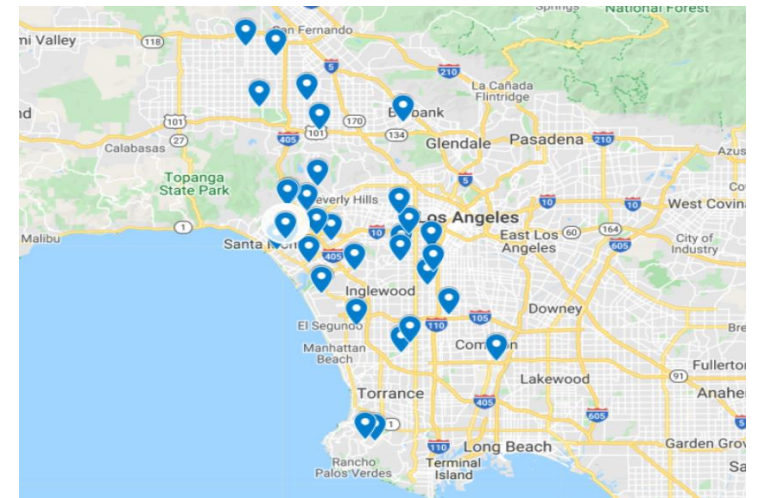
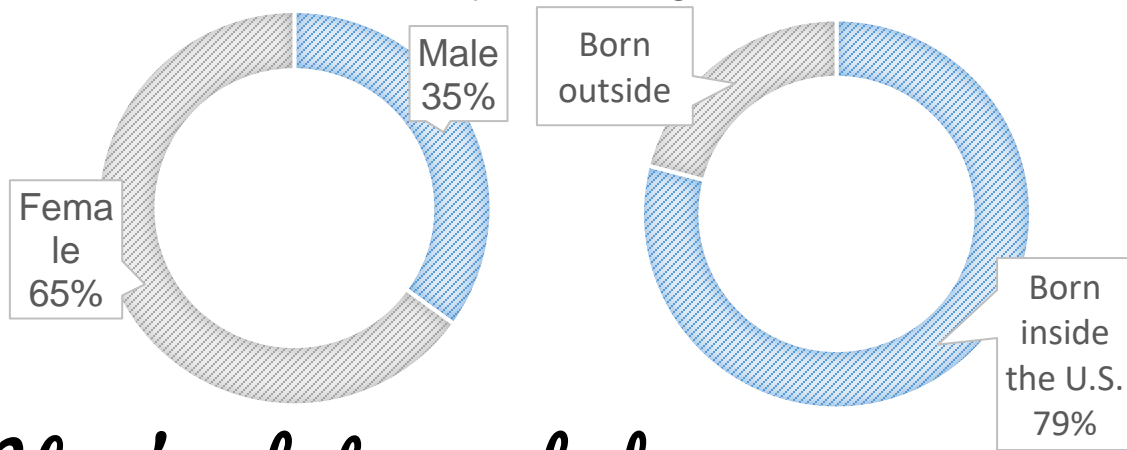
## 43 Black Youth in LA

..ages 13-18

..from 13 different orgs

..37 high schools

..interviewed remotely Feb-Aug 2020



## Here's what we asked

- Tell me about some of your civic activities and how you are engaged.
- Walk me through your own journey of becoming civically engaged.
- What is unique about civic engagement for Black youth?
- How does being Black matter for your civic engagement?
- What other identities do you hold that connect to your civic engagement?
- Tell me what this current moment of political action means to you.

# FINDINGS



---

## **Gaining Expertise as Changemakers**

Youth gain voice, civic skills, and a systems-perspective through experiences in orgs.

---

## **Being Sustained by Community**

Youth's involvement is sustained through support from adults and connections with others, especially when Blackness is celebrated.

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## **Seeing Impact of Civic Actions**

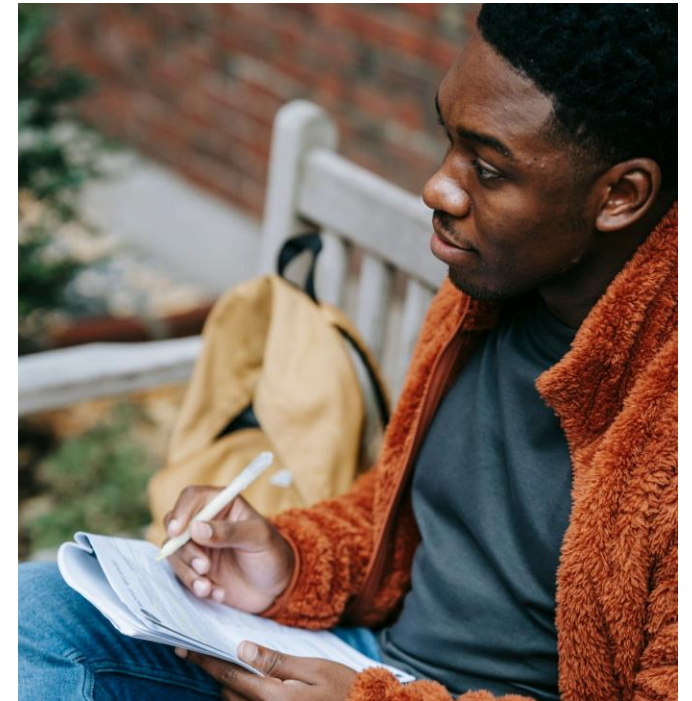
Youth saw different impacts of their changemaking that built meaning and agency.



---

“It is like our job to organize it ourselves. And so as I've gotten older in [ORG], I've really gotten more of an appreciation for like doing civic engagement and...organizing it myself based on, like, what I care about. Because when I'm younger, it's just like, oh, let's make like, lunches for homeless people. But now that I'm older, it's a lot more in my hands. And I've taken that into a lot more. I've taken that like experience into a lot more areas of my life...I've learned how to like advocate for not only myself, but like, people who don't have voices, in terms of like, stand up for everybody.” Camille, age 15 (she/her)

# Gaining Expertise as Changemakers



---

“It was like the gut feeling I got from being in there, because everybody there we just had like a good energy and they really wanted to just help people. And...they really uplift you. It just felt like a family in those [spaces]. It felt more like I wanted to be there with those people...The adults, they would just be like, so cool. They were like, support you in any way like you. Like, I was at the meeting like last week, I was, I talked, I gave an answer. And then like the adults, they just like were like, clapping, like they'll give you encouragement. They'll just have so much positive energy that it's just like, really good.” Cory, age 15 (he/him)

## Being Sustained by Community



---

“I have people at my school and people at [ORG] it's like, no, it's so you know, it's not a bad thing to be Black. It's like, it's beautiful to be Black. Like, you know, all these problems, these things happening right now. It doesn't mean, you know it's bad to be Black. That's basically what I'm learning. That's what I'm getting from people.” Quinn, age 16 (she/her)

# Being Sustained by Community



---

Oh, um, what keeps me going? So, um, just, like, knowing that I am supported because a lotta times, it wouldn't just be me there. It would be, like, my classmates and a few of my teachers would also be there with me and other volunteers, so knowing that, one, knowing that I was, like, helping those people and, like, them thanking me and me feeling good that I had helped them, and then also other people being by my side through the whole thing and, like, believing that, you know, we could really help these people and help them to survive, so yeah, those two things really helped me to keep going and stay passionate about it.” NA, age 13 (she/her)

# Seeing Impact of Civic Actions





---

“I felt empowered. Like, I felt like I could move the world. Because we actually got it to happen, that's the crazy part. Like it's one thing when you want something to happen, and then you just speaking on it, but when you really acting on it, that's something different. So when that happened, I was like, ‘Oh, we can really do this, like we're really out here.’ So yeah, I feel empowered. Like, I felt unstoppable, I was like, ‘Okay, Unique, you better go girl.’” Unique, age 17 (she/her)

# Seeing Impact of Civic Actions





# Implications

- Organizations can help support young Black changemaking by:
- Providing opportunities to take ownership, lead, and develop other skills.
  - Supporting and mentoring youth through new challenges.
  - Celebrating Black culture and identity.
  - Offering opportunities for youth to see impact through action.



# THANK YOU, AMERICORPS!



**Contact me:**

**Laura Wray-Lake, PhD**

**[wraylake@ucla.edu](mailto:wraylake@ucla.edu)**



**@wraylake**

# African American Youth and Civic Engagement

*Youth and Civic Engagement in a Diverse Urban Neighborhood:  
Reframing Partnerships with Youth*



**Maren King, MLA**

*Associate Professor and  
Director*

*State University of New  
York-ESF*



**Christina Limpert,  
Ph.D.**

*Assistant Professor of  
Environmental Studies*

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



# Youth and Civic Engagement in a Diverse Urban Neighborhood: Reframing Partnerships with Youth

AmeriCorps Office of Research & Evaluation

Research Grantee Dialogue: Embracing the Possibilities from Communities to Opportunities

May 19, 2022

Maren King, MSLA and Christina Limpert, PhD

This material is based upon work funded by the Office of Research and Evaluation at the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) under Grant No. 18RE204028 through the Community Conversations research grant competition. Opinions or points of view expressed in this document are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the official position of, or a position that is endorsed by, CNCS.



Syracuse  
Peacemaking  
Project

# Meet the Team



**Jylecia**

Teen Researcher

"I got involved because I thought it'd be a good experience to get involved with the community"



**Madeline**

Teen Researcher

"I always wanted to help the community and show others that they could do something good and be the change that could make a big difference."



**Nicky**

Teen Researcher  
Interview Group



**Maren King**

Associate Professor  
SUNY ESF

"I am excited that our team is learning and applying participatory research skills."



**Christina Limpert, PhD**  
Assistant Professor  
SUNY ESF

"To support university-community research partnerships and youth in our community."



**Alex**

Graduate Research Assistant

"Assisted teen researchers with project research dissemination and Peacemaking garden implementation"



**Q**

Teen Researcher



**Savanna**

Teen Researcher

"I joined to meet new people and learn more about my community."



**Yaya**

Teen Researcher

"Joined to make a difference in my teen community! Take that first step to chance!"



**Leah Russell**

Peacemaking Project Coordinator

"To empower young leaders by connecting them with resources, community stakeholders, and opportunities for personal and professional development."



**Maddie**

Graduate Research Assistant

"I enjoy mentoring, coaching, and helping teens achieve their goals."



**Bridget**

Graduate Research Assistant

"Mentored teen researchers in poster design to share research findings visually"



**Achol**

Teen Researcher

"Insert quote about why you got involved with the project/ what you wanted to accomplish"



**Alonzo**

Teen Researcher

"I felt like I was doing my community/ neighborhood a service by telling our story and trying to better ourselves."



**Dante**

Teen Researcher

"My sister told me about the project and told me Tina was involved in it so I joined too."



**Yanira**

Neighborhood Project Assistant

"To set a good example for youth like me that grew up in the neighborhood and to get my neighborhood into a better place for future children in the neighborhood, especially my son."



**Grace**

Graduate Research Assistant

"This project allowed me to get involved with the Syracuse community through collaborative environmental research."



**Renee**

Graduate Research Assistant

"Analysis and evaluation of the project in its end phase by organizing data and writing a literature review"



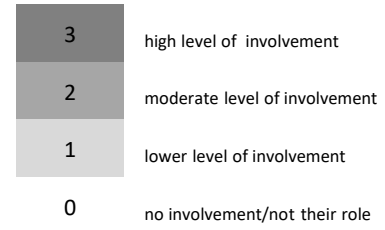


## Reframing Partnerships with Urban Youth

- Youth as partners
- Youth as amplifiers of assets and issues
- Youth as community builders

# Youth as partners

STAGES OF RESEARCH PROCESS	ESF-FACULTY	TEEN TEAM MEMBERS	ESF - GRAD STUDENTS	NEIGHBORH OOD COORDINAT OR	PMC - DIRECTOR	PROJECT ADVISORY COMMITTEE	PMC - STAFF	Total for Stage	
Project proposal	3	0	0	0	2	0	0	5	3 high level of involvement
Institutional Review Board Application	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	4	2 moderate level of involvement
Team recruitment	2	1	1	0	3	2	0	9	1 lower level of involvement
Team building	3	3	3	3	2	0	2	16	0 no involvement/not their role
Ethics training	3	3	3	3	2	0	0	14	
Intro to Research Methods	3	3	3	3	1	0	0	13	
Topic Selection	1	3	1	2	1	0	0	8	
Method selection & development	3	3	3	3	1	2	0	15	
Carrying out research	3	3	3	3	1	2	0	15	
Data documentation	3	3	3	1	1	0	0	11	
Data analysis	3	3	2	0	1	0	0	9	
Data representation & communication	3	3	3	0	1	0	0	10	
Gathering Garden	3	3	3	1	1	1	2	14	
Establishment of Youth Impact Team	1	1	2	3	3	1	3	14	
Total for Participant Group	37	32	31	22	20	8	7		





# Violence + Crime <sup>gun</sup>

## Why an issue?

- unsafe
- people getting hurt
- to many deaths/random people dying everyday
- no communication b/w groups
- affecting EVERYONE; lives in jeopardy
- can't use public spaces in community
- peoples state of mind; paranoia, trauma
- loss of loved ones
- makes you question tomorrow

## Who is affected?

- "people behind the desks"
- Kids affected; loss of social skills
- parents; afraid for their children to play outside
- elders- parents, grandparents, great grands
- teachers
- peoples communication

## Why important to research?

- safety for others - apart of everyday life
- can help improve conditions - we can feel safe in our neighborhood
- we can find out more about this problem to come up w solutions
- end the common fear

## Problems of researching issue?

- complex issue with so many factors
- have to put ourselves in harms way to research
- having to find the right people to talk to about this
- may not feel safe > might make you a target
- people idolize the issue

## Benefits

- Start with a smaller factor
- better understanding of possible solutions
- \* precursors
- \* the way people are living their lives b/c of the presence of violence
- brings more attention to this issues
- can help us provide other outlets to offender; boxing....
- understand where violence is happening
- can solve + bring more attention to the issue
- people will start to take the issue more seriously

# Youth as partners







# Youth as partners



# Youth as partners



## Syracuse's Near Westside Carrying Out The Research

### Research Participants



Teachers and Parents



Huntington Center  
Parents Group



Peacemakers



Police officers



Project Advisory  
Committee



Community Impact Team



Mundy Library Staff



Other teens







## Youth as Amplifiers of Assets and Issues





# Youth as Amplifiers of Assets and Issues





# Youth as Amplifiers of Assets and Issues



## Syracuse's Near Westside Stories From The Community

### Crime And Violence Impacts All Members Of The Neighborhood

#### Strength Through Stories

Although crime and violence may be something many people see as a bad thing strengths emerged from people sharing their stories.

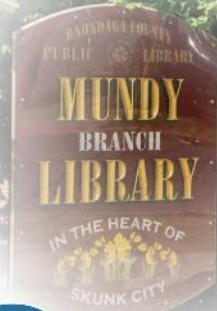
*"The library is a family."*

Sharing  
Stories

Unites  
Community

Institutions

Community  
Organization



# Youth as Amplifiers of Assets and Issues

**Systemic Inequities: Diversity in Multicultural and Community Leaders**

This infographic highlights the importance of diverse leadership in addressing systemic inequities. It features a grid of 24 diverse youth portraits and a central circular diagram with five interconnected nodes.

**Systemic Inequities: Building On A Strong Community**

This infographic focuses on building strong communities despite systemic inequities. It features a central map of the United States and surrounding text detailing community strengths and challenges.

**Systemic Inequities: Identifying Issues & Make Positive Change**

This infographic provides a framework for identifying community challenges and making positive change. It includes icons for issues such as housing, education, and health, and a section for team research topics.

**Systemic Inequities: Matching the Research Questions with Methods**

This infographic illustrates how to match research questions with appropriate methods. It features a flowchart with three main categories: 'What do we want to know?', 'What methods can we use?', and 'What resources do we have?'.

**Systemic Inequities: Mapping What Features Affect Us**

This infographic shows how to map neighborhood features that affect the community. It includes a map of a neighborhood and various data points representing different features and their impacts.

**Systemic Inequities: Crime And Violence Impacts All Members Of The Neighborhood**

This infographic explores the cycle of crime and violence in neighborhoods. It features a circular diagram with five stages: 'Violence', 'Trauma', 'Substance Use', 'Homelessness', and 'Crime', showing how they interconnect.

**INSPIRE**  
**INFORM**  
**CONNECT**  
**INFLUENCE**  
**CIRCULATE**

What if more people used social media to locate others and to share positive information?

**Systemic Inequities: The Following Issues**

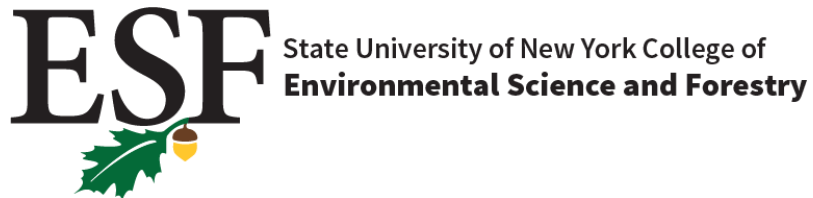
This infographic presents a collage of photos illustrating various community issues and activities, such as youth organizing, community meetings, and local events.







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



This material is based upon work funded by the Office of Research and Evaluation at the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) under Grant No. 18RE204028 through the Community Conversations research grant competition. Opinions or points of view expressed in this document are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the official position of, or a position that is endorsed by, CNCS.



# Youth as community builders





# Youth as Community Builders





# Youth as Community Builders

meeting objective: to further conversations about placemaking and continue community walks.

## Community Walk

- 1. PMC Gathering Garden
  - part of the teen research team project
  - variety of flowering plants
  - bench seating
  - gathering space
- 2. 610 Gifford Street Community Garden
  - variety of plants- though some past their peak
  - a few of the youth identified plants including basil, thyme, and cilantro that they cook with at home
- 3. Vacant Parcel
  - the parcel seemed to have some memories attached to it, though the teens did not disclose the detail- potentially a hard to talk about situation
  - houses use to sit in these lots but now it is an empty grass lot
  - “what could make this space more enjoyable?”
    - “barbeque”
    - “block party”
    - “basketball court”
    - “events”
- 3. Brady Stone Soup Garden
  - more clear arrival sequence
  - youth immediately drawn into the space- especially the gathering circle space behind the shed tucked in the back of the garden. one teen suggested we “do circle” here because we start each meeting at the Peacemaking Center with circle.
  - we all gathered in the space and did a quick pass around the circle:
    - What is one word that describes this garden?
    - “quiet” “circle” “lush” “good”
    - “peaceful” “happy” “healthy” “hidden”
    - “cool” “natural”





# Continuing Research: Reframing Complex Partnerships to support continued work in this realm

- Changing nature of partnerships at different stages of the process
- Transdisciplinary - how is this evident or actualized? Landscape architecture and community design, sociology and youth studies, activism and placemaking
- Transcultural - african-american, latino, white, mixed race
- Transectoral - participants from different sectors: academic institution, non-profit organization, secondary school, general employment
- Transgenerational - teens, young adult, middle age and older adult

# African American Youth and Civic Engagement

Anti-displacement: The Untapped Potential of University Community Cooperative Living



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

Associate Professor

*Lily School of Philanthropy,  
Drexel University*



**Rachel Wenrick, Ph.D.**

Founding Director of Writers Room

*Drexel University*



**Carol Richardson  
McCullough**

*Founding Member  
Writers Room*



**Devin Welsh**

Artist Year Fellow  
Artist Year





# African American Youth and Civic Engagement

Drexel University Team

Anti-displacement: The Untapped Potential of University  
Community Cooperative Living

## Study Background

- 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 and youth

### INTERGENERATIONAL

- Researchers ages 18-80 represent Robeson HS (African American Youth), YouthBuild Philly (African American Youth), Drexel, and the Mantua and Powelton neighborhoods

### INTERDISCIPLINARY

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



# African American Youth and Civic Engagement

Our team's collaborative data analysis process

Drexel University Team

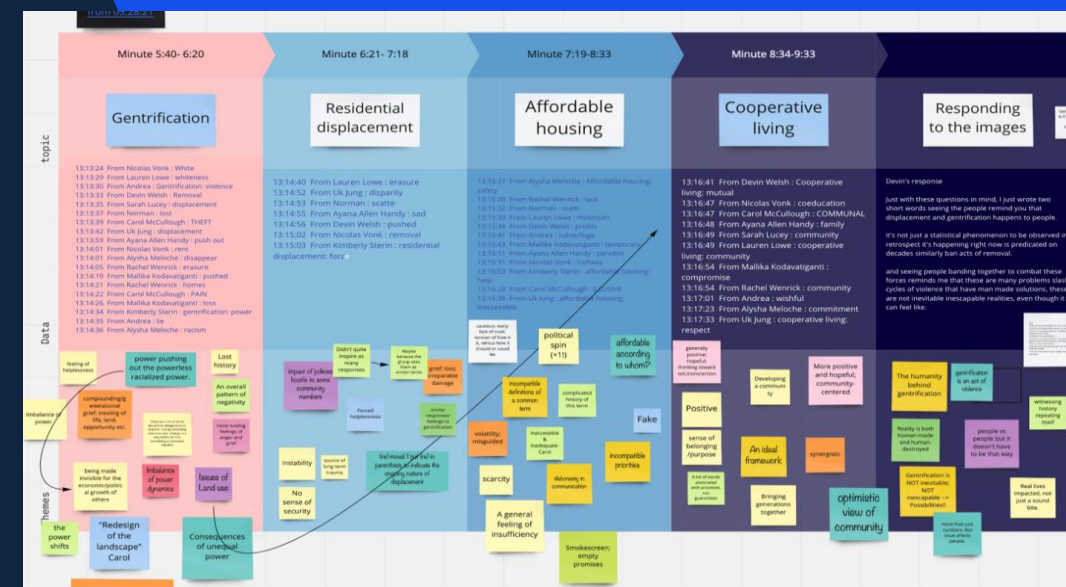
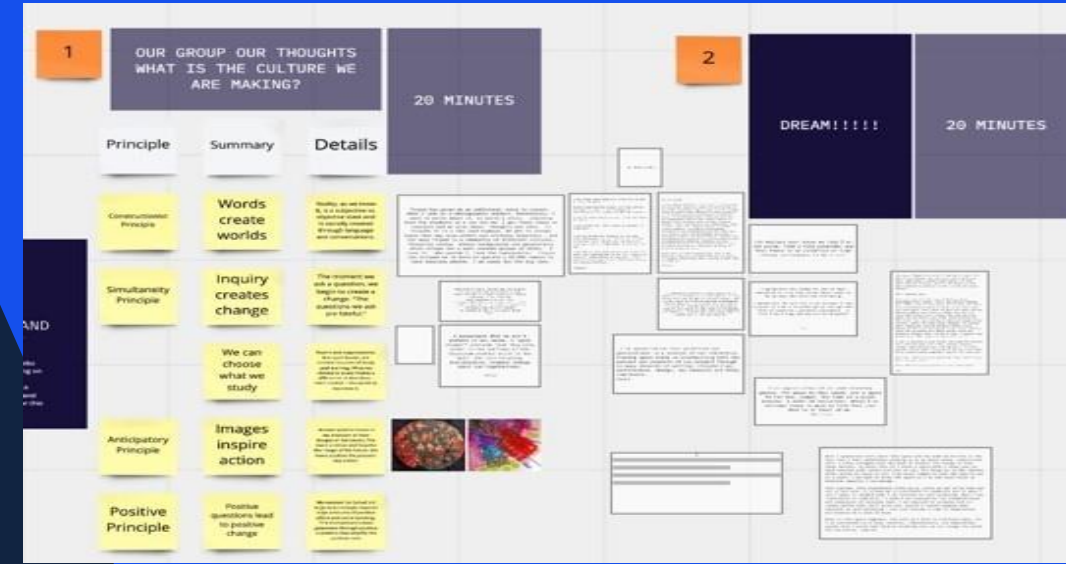
Anti-displacement: The Untapped Potential of University Community Cooperative Living

## Study Design

- **Community-led PAR Project:** CPAR is dynamic and involves community generated and executed problem identification, research and plan development, collection and analysis of evidence, reflection on the findings, sharing of results, and taking action to address the problem (Burns, Paul, & Paz, 2012)

- **Multi-modal Research Design:**

- Our team has collected data through interviews with community residents and civic leaders, focus groups, census and GIS data, photovoice, narrative, document analysis.
- We have engaged in a collaborative data analysis process that leverages the expertise and input of our entire team.





# African American Youth and Civic Engagement

Drexel University Team

Anti-displacement: The Untapped Potential of University Community Cooperative Living

## Findings

**Finding #1:** The Sandwich Effect-active gentrification and displacement of Black residents from the north and south- "squeezing" remaining residents in the center where they will eventually be pushed out.

**Finding #2:** Mantua residents are particularly cost burdened where housing costs are more than 30% of income and even 50% in some neighborhood census blocks.

**Finding #3:** Currently examining housing typologies for aging in place. Findings show that the community is excited about cooperative living and co-living as anti-displacement strategies. Including new partnership with Lomax Real Estate Group and Village Square on Haverford Affordable Housing Project



Pearl Street House (Helma's House) Evidence Based Design for Phased Intergenerational Co-living

# African American Youth and Civic Engagement

Drexel University Team

Anti-displacement: The Untapped Potential of University  
Community Cooperative Living

## Action

**Second Story Collective:** Forging partnerships with neighborhood, university, public and private stakeholders, Second Story Collective-an intergenerational co-housing network of homeowners and student tenants engaged in storytelling and the shared creation of community.

**Village Square on Haverford:** a new, multi-use construction development in Mantua that will offer 116 market rate rental units, 32 affordable rentals, 18 for-sale workforce housing units, a 21,000 sq ft supermarket, as well as house WURD Radio





# African American Youth and Civic Engagement

Drexel University Team

Anti-displacement: The Untapped Potential of University  
Community Cooperative Living

## Engaging African American Youth

*We Start With Story~Writers Room*

- Intergenerational Sharing of Stories
- Co-constructing Knowledge Across Intersecting Identities and Differences
- Youth Empowerment through Research and Action



# African American Youth and Civic Engagement

Reflections: Turning Research to Action



**Jacqueline  
Dulude**

*Recruitment & Outreach  
Manager*

*AmeriCorps Office of  
External Affairs*



**Meg Ansara**

*Director*

*AmeriCorps VISTA*



**Betsheell Louis,  
MNM, CNP**

*Senior Advisor*

*AmeriCorps CPO \ Office  
of Regional Operations*



# African American Youth and Civic Engagement

Panelist Discussion and Q&A



**Andrea Robles, Ph.D.**

*Research and Evaluation Manager,*

*AmeriCorps Office of Research and Evaluation*



**Maren King, MLA**

*Associate Professor and Director*

*State University of New York-ESF*



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

*Associate Professor*

*Lily School of Philanthropy, Drexel University*



**Meg Ansara**

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**Shane Dermanjian**

*Research Assistant*

*AmeriCorps Office of Research and Evaluation*



**Christina Limpert, Ph.D.**

*Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies*

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



**Carol Richardson McCullough**

*Founding Member*

*Writers Room*



**Betsheell Louis, MNM, CNP**

*Senior Advisor*

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**Laura Wray-Lake, Ph.D.**

*Associate Professor, Social Welfare,*

*University of California, Los Angeles*



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*Drexel University*



**Devin Welsh**

*Artist Year Fellow*

*Artist Year*



**Jacqueline Dulude, MPA**

*Recruitment & Outreach Manager*

*AmeriCorps Office of External Affairs*

2022 Research Grantee Dialogue:  
Embracing the Diversity of Civic Engagement:  
Opportunities for National Service

## Closing Remarks

**Mary Hyde, Ph.D.**

*Director,*

*AmeriCorps Office of Research and Evaluation*





# 2022 Research Grantee Dialogue: African American Youth and Civic Engagement

Thursday, May 19, 2022

## Closing Remarks

**Katy Hussey-Sloniker, MBA, MSW, LGSW,**

*Learning Officer,*

*AmeriCorps Office of Research and Evaluation*

