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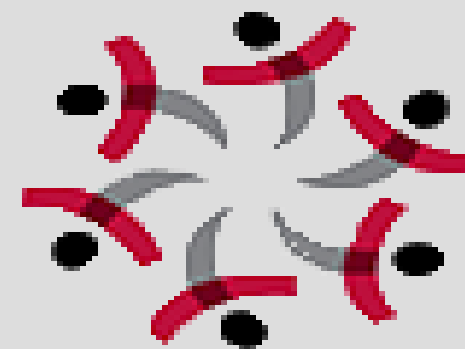
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LEARNING

# Youth Voice in Action: Tips, Strategies, and Advice from Youth Evaluators

YouthPower Learning  
Youth Engagement Community of Practice  
& American Evaluation Association Youth Focused Evaluation Group

September 13, 2017



*Advancing solutions to transform the lives of young people*



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# YouthPower Learning

## Advancing Solutions to Improve Young Lives

- **YouthPower Learning** advances solutions through integrated research and development programs to improve the capacity of youth-led and youth-serving institutions.
- By engaging youth, their families, communities, and governments in innovative programs, we **build** young people's skills, assets, and competencies; **foster** healthy relationships; **strengthen** the enabling environment; and **transform** systems.

### What is Positive Youth Development (PYD)?

PYD programs recognize youth's inherent rights and result in youth who have assets, the ability to leverage those assets (agency), and the ability to contribute to positive change for themselves and their communities, surrounded by an enabling environment that supports them

<http://www.youthpower.org/positive-youth-development>



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## **YouthPower Learning Youth Engagement (YE) Community of Practice (CoP)**

- Co-champions
  - Christy Olenik, Making Cents International
  - Mike Sweigart, Independent Consultant
- Facilitator:
  - Lindsey Woolf, Making Cents International
- Started December 2015
- 300+ members





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## YE CoP

**Goal 1:** Contribute and disseminate a shared definition of YE for YouthPower

**Goal 2:** Support the development of measurement indicators focused on YE

**Goal 3:** Create a space for the sharing of YE experiences and group problem solving

**Goal 4:** Develop a clearinghouse of resources and tools on YE

**Goal 5:** Bring the youth voice into YouthPower activities



### POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT MEASUREMENT TOOLKIT

A PRACTICAL GUIDE FOR IMPLEMENTERS OF  
YOUTH PROGRAMS



December 2016

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# Thank You to our Co-Hosts

## American Evaluation Association

## Youth Focused Evaluation

## Topical Interest Group



Topical Interest Group  
within AEA

Approximately 300  
members (US and  
Global members)

Meetings, webinars,  
newsletters, exchanges,  
and community of  
practice





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## Speakers



Jessica Hackbarth  
McCreary Centre Society



Annie Smith  
McCreary Centre Society



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## Speakers



Leili Lyman  
RYSE Youth Center



Brian Villa  
RYSE Youth Center





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## Speakers



Sergio Bustamante  
International Republican Institute





YOUTH RESEARCH ACADEMY

# WHAT SKILLS WE LEARNED FROM MCCREARY

- ❖ Data entry
- ❖ Analysis
- ❖ Database creation
- ❖ Survey development
- ❖ Literature review
- ❖ Claymation creation
- ❖ Workplace Etiquette
- ❖ Computer skills – Excel, PP, Word
- ❖ Statistical Software- SPSS (frequencies, crosstabs)
- ❖ Facilitation and workshop development
- ❖ Note-taking
- ❖ Presentation skills



# PROJECT INVOLVEMENT

- Representative for Children & Youth (RCY) Educational Outcomes
- Federal Youth Justice Project
  - Culturally sensitive practices for residential drug treatment centres
- Collective Impact
- Deprivation Index



# RCY EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES

☆ Who works there?

→ What skills/experience do they have?

★ → What qualities do they have?

★ What does the physical environment look like?

★ What does the emotional environment ~~look~~ feel like?  
is this created/maintained  
soccer  
bingo/badminton

What does ~~your~~ <sup>the</sup> environment ~~look~~ feel like?  
 How is this created/maintained?  
 soccer / skating / badminton  
 exercise / physical  
 day or 3x per week

activities

How is this created?

activities

- swimming, sports
- exercise, massage
- every day or super week
- soccer / skating / badminton
- physical
- science world (educational)
- climbing

- How long is the program?
- How much time do you spend programming? five times?

How does the program build on the strengths of...

- ↳ the participant? their family? ...
- Cultural background?

How is culture respected and valued?  
→ For all youth? For Aboriginal youth?

gender - I can share my personal identity



# WHY INCLUDING YOUNG PEOPLE'S VOICE IS IMPORTANT

# TIPS AND STRATEGIES

- Topic of interest to young people
- Be mindful of the barriers youth face
- Be flexible in hours
- Cover transportation/food
- Target youth through youth workers and school counselors
- Have a work place point person
- Open space (with others but can work alone)
- Recognise different dynamics



# TIPS AND STRATEGIES

- Agenda that is flexible
- Be ready for the craziness!
- Chances for advancement
- Easily accessible (on transit)
- Chance to network and see other opportunities
- Empathetic and safe environment
- Build connections
- Recognise topic might be hard or triggering
- Be open to youth's ideas

# TIPS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

- “Take this job because it’s not like any other job that you can get as a youth, and it’s a good learning experience which can expand into a career”
- “It’s a learning experience and it allows you to have a voice in things that you are passionate about.”
- “It’s a good opportunity to get into the field of research or youth health-related things”



[HTTPS://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/  
WATCH?V=VF7DH4SHOUE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VF7DH4SHOUE)

Ground Breaking Research

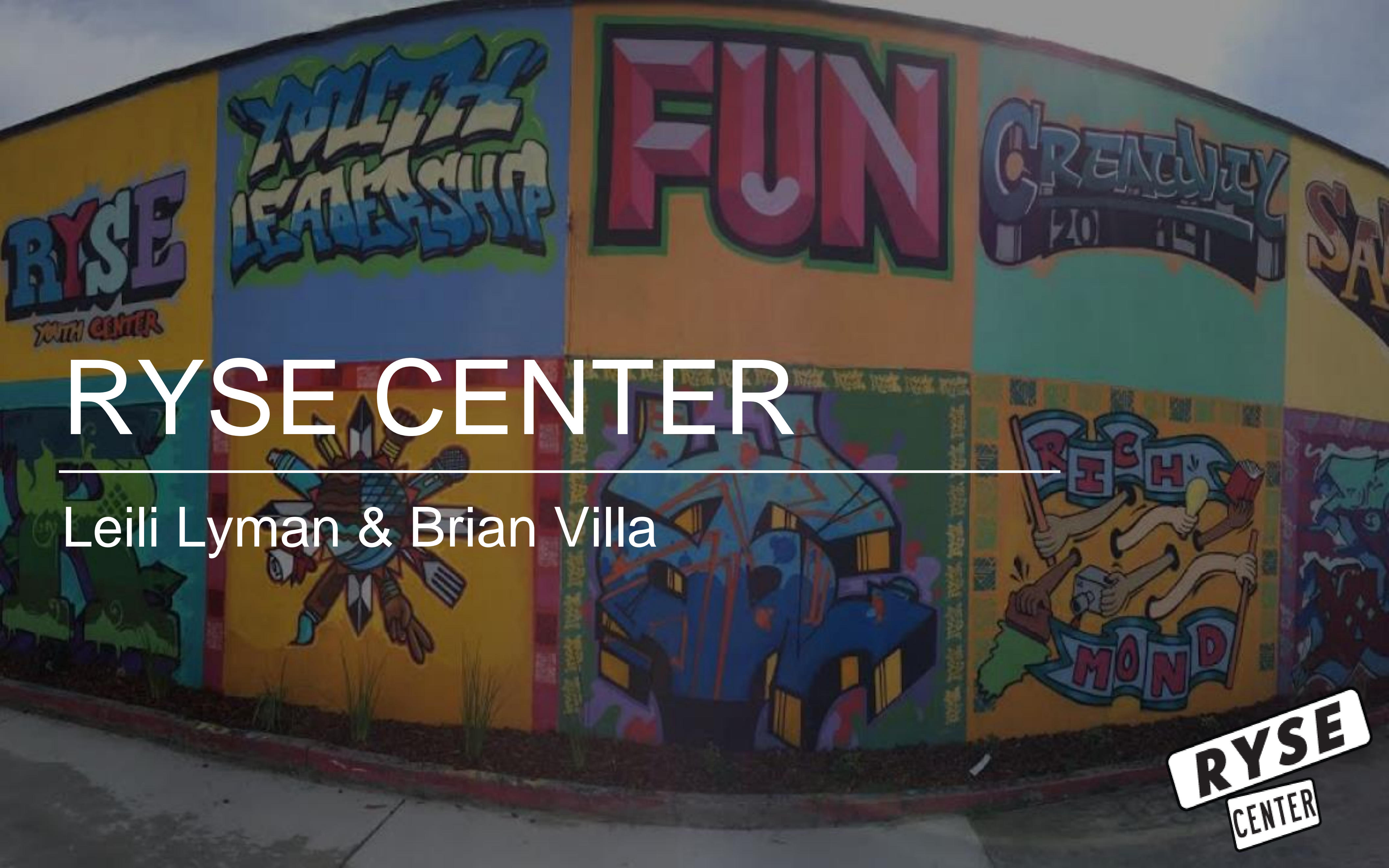


FOR MORE INFORMATION

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO KNOW MORE ABOUT MCCREARY OR THE YRA,  
OR IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN JOINING THE YRA, VISIT [WWW.MCS.BC.CA](http://WWW.MCS.BC.CA).  
YOU CAN CONTACT US AT [MCCREARY@MCS.BC.CA](mailto:MCCREARY@MCS.BC.CA) OR 604-291-1996.







# RYSE CENTER

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Leili Lyman & Brian Villa

**RYSE**  
CENTER



# Brief History of RYSE

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*RYSE creates safe spaces grounded in social justice that build youth power for young people to love, learn, educate, heal and transform their lives and communities.*

- Born from youth organizing
- Created to address and promote health equity
- Integrative Model: All right doors
- Systems change focus; values driven
- Theory of Liberation



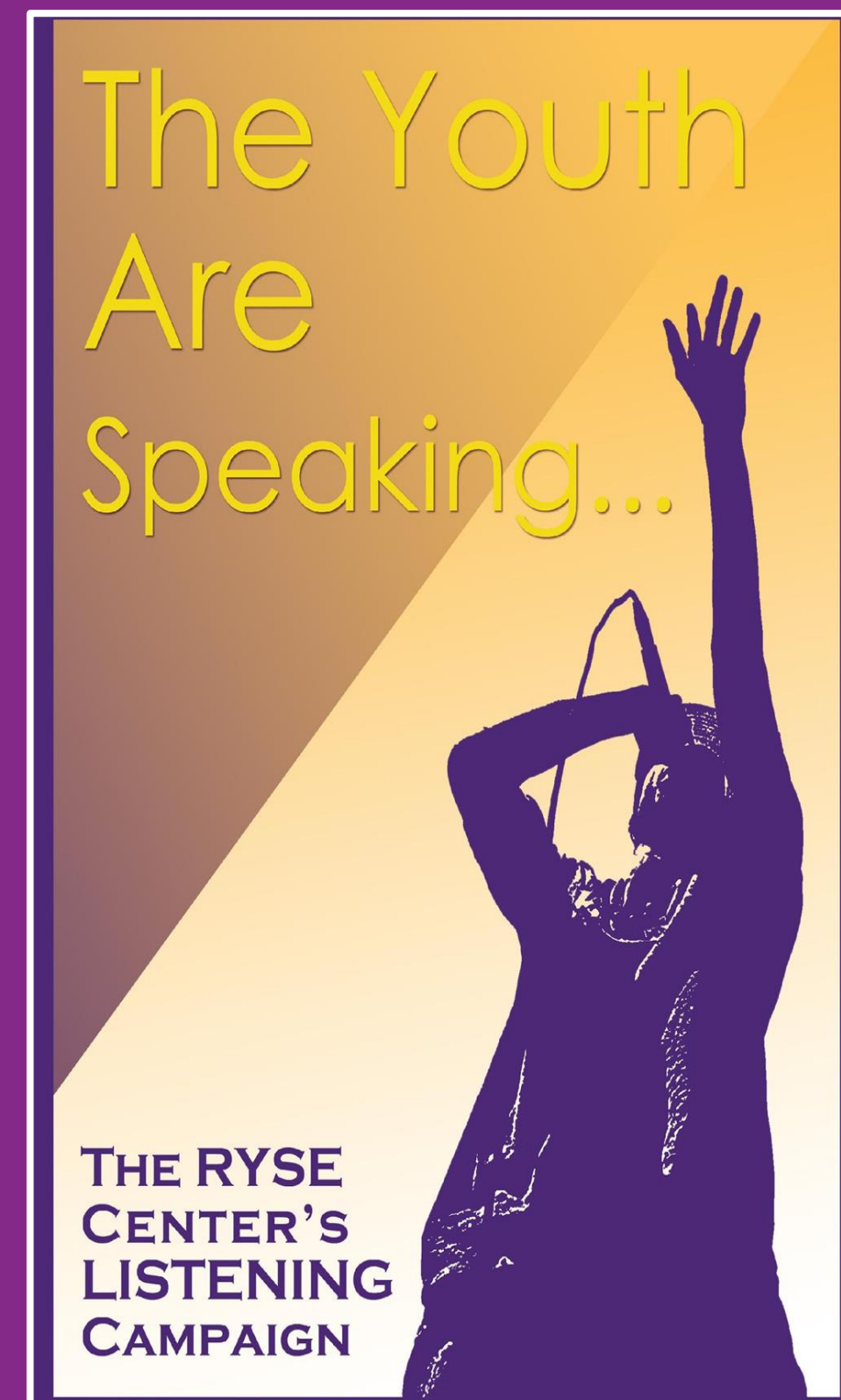


# RYSE & Radical Inquiry

*“Our goal is to create a beloved community and this will require a qualitative change in our souls as well as a quantitative change in our lives.” - Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr*

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- Listening Campaign
- Youth Participatory Action Research (YPAR)
  - Gender and sexual-based violence
  - LGBTQ safety and visibility
  - School to prison pipeline
  - Mental Health and Coping
- Listening to Heal
- Creating Beloved Community



# YPAR on Mental Health & Coping

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- Background on Public Health Internship
- Topic, Issue, Purpose, Research Question
- Mixed methods
  - Quantitative: Surveys
  - Qualitative: Focus group & Interviews
- Key Findings:
  - Youth find that weed is more accessible than talking to an adult
  - Youth feel that talking to adults can be potentially harmful
- Conclusion
- Action Plan: Chat Lounge





# Why Youth Voices Matter

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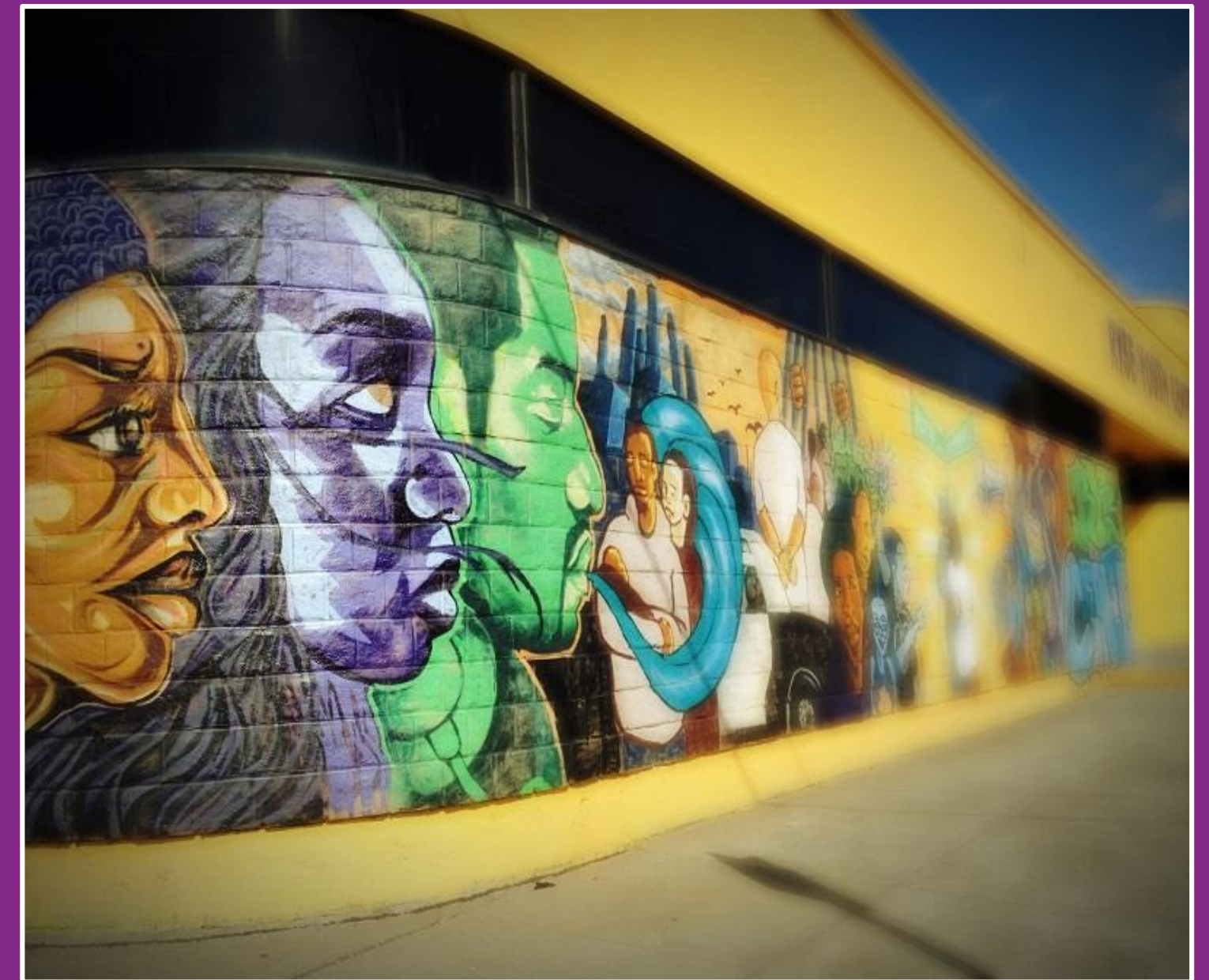
*“We know we can’t run the city, it’s too complex, but our experiences and voices should count, especially because we’re the ones most affected.”- RYSE Youth*

- RYSE & Listening Campaign
  - Youth Driven
  - Context, Time, Place
  - Youth Leadership & Agency
- Youth narratives and lived expertise
- Platform to speak up
- Youth Leadership Pipeline



# Takeaways

- Brian:
  - Relationships are key
  - The YPAR process involves a variety of skills
  - Assess short-term and long-term goals
- Leili:
  - Changed perspective on community
  - Supported academic & career goals
  - Received new opportunities





# Tips/Strategies/Advice

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- Youth must feel connected to research
- Preparation using various methods
- Holistic support and mentorship of adult allies
- Create a timeline
- Cycles of inquiry
- Cohort model, flexible
- Stay connected and follow up





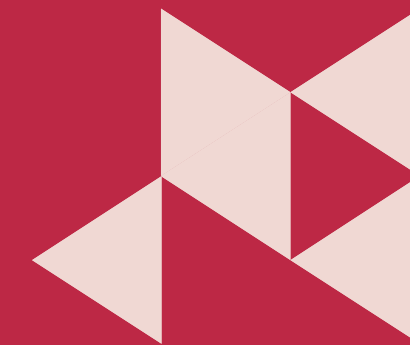
# ***Youth Democracy Lab***

## **Small-scale Evaluation**



***Youth Democracy Lab  
(YDL)***



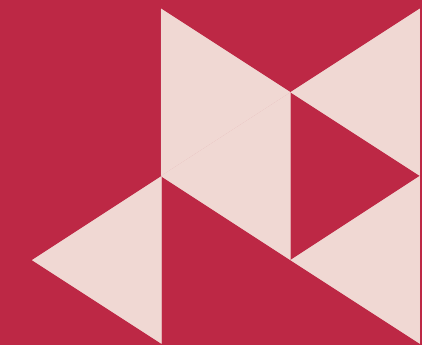


## Small-scale Evaluation



***Young voices unite!***





## **Small-scale Evaluation**



***What to keep in mind?***





# *Youth Democracy Lab*

## Small-scale Evaluation



***Have FUN!***





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# Q&A





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## Thank you!

Thank you for participating in this event organized by  
YouthPower Learning.

The recording will be made available to all registrants.



@YPLearning



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[www.YouthPower.org](http://www.YouthPower.org)