CREATIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT LEARNING SERIES:
A project of the CYD National Partnership

WORKING WITH YOUTH
SPEAKERS

Ashley Hare  Paula Ortega  Aurora Toshiko King  Samuel Fairley II
Develop and deepen opportunities for young people to create a more just and equitable society. *(one of five recommendations)*

Collaborate with youth to integrate their voices and leadership into the core structures and practices of creative youth development programs and the broader sector.

Champion creative youth development programs as spaces in which young people develop positive self-identities, recognize liberating and oppressive forces, and activate these programs’ potential for impact.
Challenges to Youth Centered Leadership
ADULTISM TO SHARED LEADERSHIP

- Addressing how power flows between youth and adults
- Ending Adultism (the systematic mistreatment and disrespect of young people—John Bell)
- Placement vs Shared leadership

Ladder of Youth Participation
- Youth-initiated, shared decisions with adults
- Youth-initiated and directed
- Adult-initiated, shared decisions with youth
- Consulted and informed
- Assigned but informed
- Tokenism
- Decoration
- Manipulation

EXPANDING THE RIGHTS OF YOUNG PEOPLE

PRAXIS Youth Organizing Conference
(Tucson, Arizona)
REMOVING DEFICITS & DEFINING ASSETS

Shifting knowledge production from adult-centered, knowledge-gathering (How much experience do you have? Let me teach you more to prepare you) to youth-centered, knowledge sharing (What type of experience do you hold? Let’s combine ours and work together now).
Affirmation of one’s identity has powerful and beneficial outcomes on the development of a young person’s self-identity and sense of belonging. By contrast, young people who spend time “passing” to fit dominate race, gender, and sexual orientation cultures suffer from isolation, invisibilization, and marginalization (Boyd-Franklin, 1990; Camino 1992).
SHARING GOVERNANCE AND LEADERSHIP

“There is no student who learns and teacher who educates, but a shared power relationship where both who are taught also teach” Paulo Freire
THANK YOU

PLEASE SHARE YOUR QUESTIONS

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