

# RYSE Center



2018 National Health Equity Research Webcast

# Youth Empowered



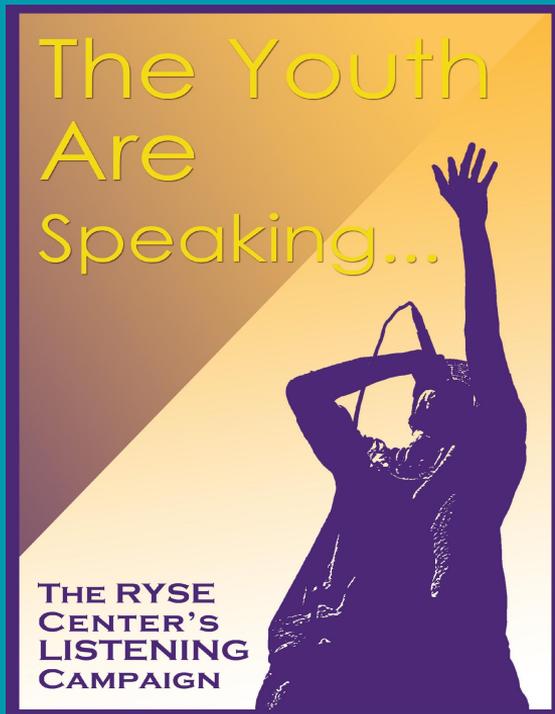
# Conditions and Context

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- Relentless focus on behavioral violence and glaring avoidance of structural violence.
- Dominant narratives of young people of color pose us as problems.
- Compliance does not guarantee safety, livelihood, or even life.
- Resistance and fear by systems and stakeholders to change status quo for young people.
- The science of trauma is catching up to our pain and fortitude.



# Radical Inquiry: connection, proximity, empathy



"The most lasting and appropriate **transmission of knowledge** is **IN community [place]** through lived experiences." —Dr. Alexis Pauline Gumbs

Desire-based research does not deny the experience of trauma, tragedy, and pain, but positions the knowing derived from such experiences as wise." - Dr. Eve Tuck, 2016

"... community is the context, and tenderness is the methodology." – Father Greg Boyle, 2007

# Key Tenets of Radical Inquiry

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1. RI is grounded in relationship and healing. The process is more important than the results, and the results are collectively deemed and held.
2. RI employs multi-modal platforms of expression and sharing.
3. RI is focused on transforming systems. The problem is structural, not behavioral.
4. RI actively challenges and disrupts dehumanizing frameworks of social science research.
5. RI enables and inspires transformative praxis that centers the priorities, needs, and interests of YPOC.
6. RI requires more rigor and resources than conventional research and praxis.

# What we learned when we listened:

## *Young people live in atmospheric trauma*



### Trauma is...

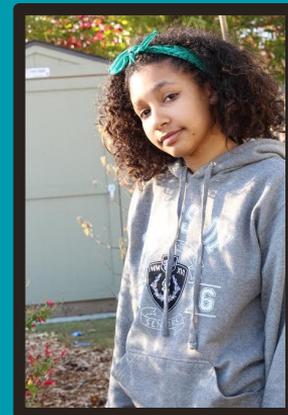
**“My experience with violence is very brutal...I grew up with violence as if it were my sibling.”**

### Impact and coping

**“Young people deal with a lot of stress, responsibility, isolation, and lost love ones. Makes young people feel cautious, guilty, alone, angry, and sad.”**

### Youth Want and Need

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



# Healing

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“Realizing institutions don’t work for you, but against you, is the first step to healing your community.”

“Healing looks like education. If people understood their privilege and how their actions can deeply affect someone, I think that it would help a lot of people who are struggling with these issues.”



# Interacting Layers of Trauma and Healing

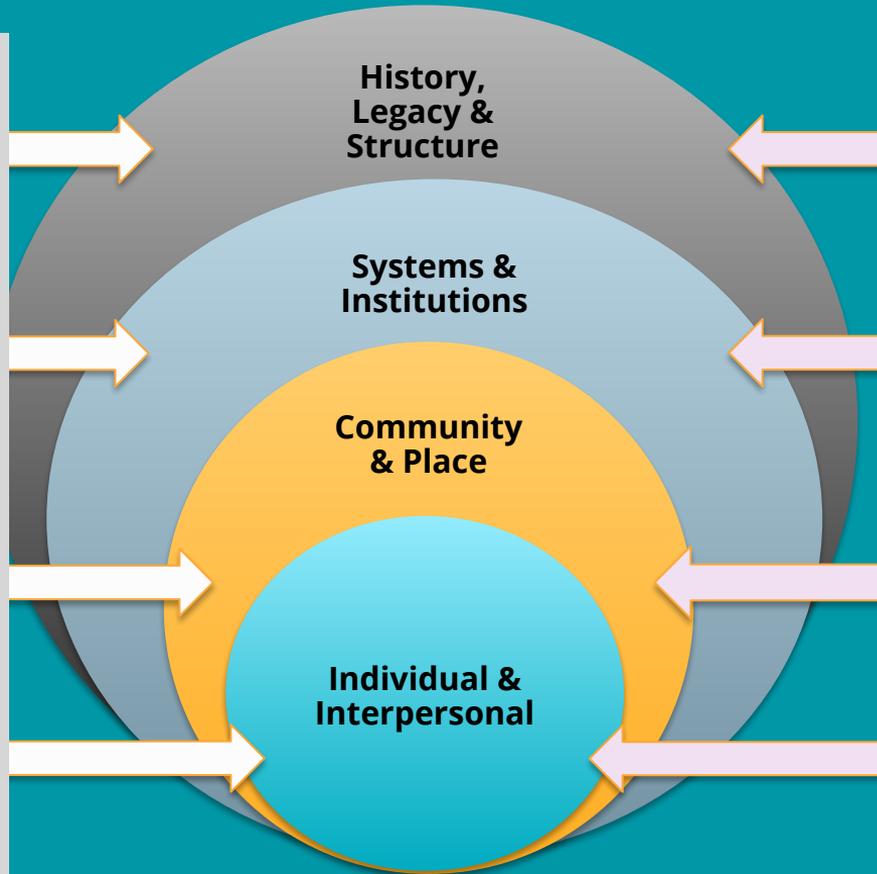
## Dehumanization and Distress

**Nation Building** by Enslavement, Genocide, Colonization, Economic Exploitation, Displacement, Cultural Hegemony, White Supremacy

**Systemic Subjugation of POC** by Interacting Policies & Systems: War on Drugs, Mass Incarceration, Segregation (de jure and de facto), Anti-Immigrant Policies, Climate Violence, Media Assaults, Displacement & Redlining

**Atmospheric Distress** that includes Interpersonal, Family, Community Violence & Exposure; Sexual Exploitation, Lack of Safe Passage & Safe Spaces, Underinvestment, Oversurveillance

**Embodiment and Expression of Distress** through Personal Traumatic Experiences; Bullying, Family Systems Stressors, ACEs, Shame and Blame, Generational Transmission



## Liberation and Healing

**Collective Liberation** by Truth & Reconciliation, Reparations, Redistribution, Open Borders/No Borders, Multi-racial Solidarity, (Re)imagined Social Compact

**Lead with Love and Justice** by Healing-Centered & Restorative Practices, Listening Campaigns, Collective Care, Adaptive, Responsive, and Proximate, Power-sharing (Nothing about us without us)

**Build Beloved Community** by Radical Inquiry, Popular Education and Culture Building, Celebration and Affirmation; Healing Spaces, Arts & Expression, Base & Power-Building

**Honor Resilience and Fortitude** by Listening & Validating, Processing/Integrating Personal Traumatic Experiences, Family Healing, Tailored Supports & Opportunities, Loving Connections & Structure

# RYSE's Theory of Liberation

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## Systems Are Transformed

- No policy, investment, practice about young people of color without young people of color.
- Systems, both in policy and praxis, are responsive to the priorities and needs of young people as defined by young people.
- Systems takeover by next generation leaders committed to a platform for liberation in which cultural work and race are central.

## Young People Feel Loved

- Young people have emotional, physical, political safety to acquire tools, skills, and resources they need to understand and change inequities.
- Young people construct their own narrative and those of their communities.
- Young people feel loved.

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*We lead with love and rage, build power, take risks, center creativity & healing, conduct radical inquiry*

