



Strategies for Youth and Neighborhood Centered (SYNC) Safety

Learning Lab 1





Healing and intergenerational organizing



LySaundra Campbell

LySaundra Campbell is a multidisciplinary storyteller, musician, and founder of Social Soundtrack, a brand dedicated to community, storytelling, and healing across the African Diaspora through creative and performing arts. Before launching, she has over 15 years of experience with racial and gender justice organizations leading communications, narrative strategy, and domestic and sexual violence prevention training.

Areas of expertise

- Narrative & Communications Strategy
- Storytelling & Creative Arts,
- African Diaspora Faith, Spirituality, Somatics, and Healing



**“You've got to
make your own
worlds. You've
got to write
yourself in.”**

– Octavia Butler



“My name is James. I wish I could tell my story with a sense of history as much as industry...I can tell you that I am a man who is cognizant of his world, a man who has a family, who loves a family, who has been torn from his family, a man who can read and write, a man **who will not let his story be self-related, but self-written.”**

(James by Percival Everett)

Journaling Prompt: "Setting the Record Straight"

Write about what's true for you and your community.

Questions to guide you:

Who are you right now?

What traditions does your family/community have?

Where are you? What scents, colors, fabrics, or sounds currently surround you?

What are your concerns, fears, hopes, and dreams for the future?

Who is with you in the future?

Bonus: Use this prompt to write a letter to your future self to read by the end of SYNC 2.0.

SYNC 2.0 Learning Lab 1



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Relationships as Medicine

- ❖ **Benefits of intergenerational and intersectional relationships**
- ❖ **Impact of Disruptions on All Our Relations**
- ❖ **Becoming mindful of approaches and strategies that perpetuate separation and disconnection**
- ❖ **Strengthening connection to bring medicine to youth, elders, families and communities**



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**Intergenerational
approaches/strategies
for community
violence prevention**



A lot of people ask, “What adult had an impact on your life as a young person?” I want to flip that and ask:

“Who is a young person that has had an impact on your life as an adult?”



Roles in Comprehensive Public Safety Planning

Comprehensive Public Safety Planning is designed to support city teams of three key stakeholders – The City Lead – A Young Leader – A Community Partner with support from the Mayor and local elected officials.

City Lead: An individual designated by a mayor and/or city manager to lead violence reduction efforts and serve as the point of contact between Cities United and the locality.

Community Partners: Co-owning and drafting the plan along with City Leads. Community Partners are the stakeholders that are convened to help identify key goals, strategies and implementation in the plan. They also are accountability partners to elected officials and city leads to implement and sustain the plan.

Young Leaders: Co-owning and drafting the plan along with city leads and community partners, with emphasis on youth voice and youth inclusion.



Principle 1

Young people should be conceptualized in relationship to specific economic, political and social conditions.

Principle 2

The youth development process should be conceptualized as a collective response to the social marginalization of young people.

Principle 3

Young people are agents of change, not simple subjects to change.

Principle 4

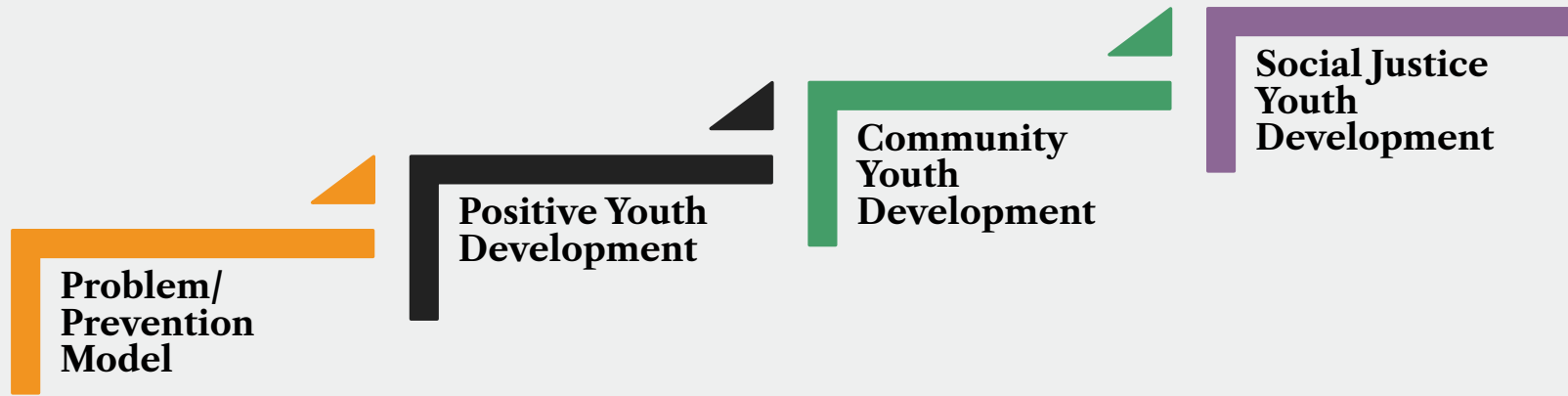
Young people have basic rights.

Critical Consciousness

Collective Action

Social Change

Ginwright and Cammarota (2006) outlined four basic principles related to Social Justice Youth Development



Social Justice Youth Development (SJYD)

Whereas PYD is widely held in the field of youth development and transforms the way the field views problem/prevention, Ginwright & Cammarota (2002) state:

“it continues to dismiss social, economic, and political influences that can homogenize and simplify individual identities and fails to examine the complex social, economic, and political forces that bear on the lives of urban and other marginalized youth populations.”

SJYD: shifts the focus from **individual** to the **social and community forces** that impact youth and individual behavior.

Examples: DREAM Act; Black Youth Project 100 (BYP100)

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Intergenerational Voice

01

Assess current policy, procedures, and programming inclusive of all generations.

02

Communications: Utilizing all forms of communication for accessibility

03

Listening sessions and townhalls with populations for community building cross-generation.

04

Staff and Board comprised of members from different generations for programmatic direction and feedback

STRATEGIES THAT WORK

BUFFALO. DENVER. KNOXVILLE.



engage youth directly

Engaging youth directly means violence prevention efforts are youth informed, incorporating their voice, insights and perceptions.

This strategy calls for embracing youths' "nothing for us, without us" mantra and maintaining the idea "safety starts with me" across all practice areas. But also to ensure that the plan remains community led, youth informed and city supported.



DESIRED OUTCOME
Youth actively participate in community development and design their own successful futures.

DENVER

TACTICS & OPPORTUNITIES

Expand youth engagement centers - Fully realize the vision for creating a network of youth engagement centers where youth are fully supported with safe spaces, supportive services and unconditional belonging.

Collaborate with youth on program design - Develop youth led, youth designed programming and curriculum where youth can provide input on what safety means to them. Allow youth to be part of the decision-making process and where engagements are proactive and positive.

Encourage leadership opportunities - Continue providing opportunities for youth to engage in the five practice areas with programs such as the Denver Department of Safety Youth Services Leadership Program inclusive of the Youth Advisory Council.

Center youth for input and action - Continue hosting the annual Youth Summit and Youth Survey to gain valuable perspectives from youth and gather input on how to address youth violence.

Deliver wrap around services - Integrate additional services into all five practice areas, for example, Denver Public Schools Secondary Schools pilot where mental health services, substance use intervention, and therapeutic supports are offered in an after-school setting.

Provide positive alternatives - Ensure youth have safe spaces and activities to keep them engaged, particularly during peak times for potential violence, for example the Parks & Recreation program High Mtns to open rec centers for basketball and other activities in the evenings.

Invest in arts, music and cultural programming - Convene an array of programming partners to engage youth in artistic expression and culturally relevant activities to encourage creativity as a violence prevention effort.

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"Youth violence prevention work is about connection more than anything else. Youth need to feel included and connected. We need to change the narrative that these are 'bad' kids - kids have many challenges. Our job is to help them navigate those challenges."

- Ken Williams, Executive Director
San Valley Youth Center



2023 DENVER YOUTH VIOLENCE PREVENTION PLAN | PART III: MEASURES

BUFFALO, NY

Breaking Barriers

An initiative of the Greater Buffalo Racial Equity Roundtable's Boys & Men of Color

Aimed at accelerating positive outcomes for boys and young men of color across the cradle-to-career continuum.

DENVER, CO

Youth Violence Prevention Action Table

A large, multi-sector coalition called the Youth Violence Prevention Action Table (YVPAT)

The YVPAT began in 2019, when the City and County of Denver implemented a public health approach to youth violence.

KNOXVILLE, TN

CHANGE Center

A center-city space where teens and young adults are valued, safe, and their hope is nurtured.

A strategically-located partnership facility that makes recreation, leadership development, and job opportunities available.

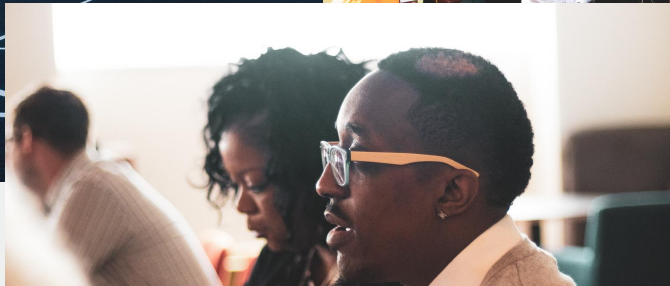
ADDITIONAL STRATEGIES

How can you tap in in your city?

- Summer youth employment programs
- Town halls
- Commissions
- Work Groups
- Committees



Successful Youth-Adult Partnerships



Keys to keep in mind when engaging young people in successful **Youth-Adult Partnerships**:

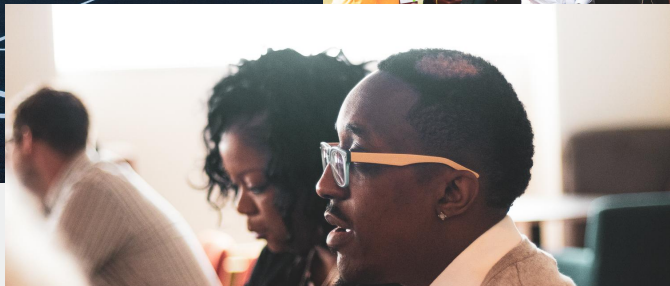
Accessibility

- Compensate young people for their time
- Consider what barriers prevent young people from getting to the “table”
- Go to where young people are when you can

Value Add

- Consider what value you can add to the life and experience of young people when they participate in your engagement





Keys to keep in mind when engaging young people in successful **Youth-Adult Partnerships**:

Early + Often

- Bring young people into your process as early as possible
- Engage more than just two young people, create opportunities to engage a diverse group throughout your planning process

Invest in the Ideas of Young People

- There is not a shortage of solutions from young people, just a shortage of investment in young people. When they offer their wisdom, hear them.



What resources do you currently have available to support young leader engagement?

What challenges do you face in engaging young leaders in your community?

What additional support or resources do you need to effectively engage young leaders?

