

THE YOUTHROC RESEARCH TEAM

YoUthROC is a community and University-connected youth research team that supports the growth of Youth Participatory Action Research (YPAR) and is committed to youth, kinship, and racial justice in education. The team centers Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) youth and other marginalized communities. YoUthROC is an affiliate program to the University of Minnesota's Robert J. Jones Urban Research and Outreach-Engagement Center (UROC) in North Minneapolis and the Department of Curriculum and Instruction.



THE TEAM AIMS TO:

- Provide support and training for anti-racist, justice-oriented youth research;
- Conduct YPAR projects that center and showcase the power of BIPOC youth through accessible and culturally relevant research methods;
- Model kinship, nourish connections, and sustain reciprocal community partnerships; and
- Reclaim Northside spaces and return them to spaces that serve the community's BIPOC youth.

Our emerging goal is to support youth-centered, socially-conscious, participatory research.

THE FOUNDING OF YOUTHROC

CEHD faculty member Abby Rombalski brought together young people from north Minneapolis, including from local partner Appetite for Change, to envision how UROC might become a more youth-friendly space. Through conversations and kinship, YoUthROC was born (Feb. 22, 2019 is our name day), with the intent to be a sustainable team rather than a short, grant funded experience. Co-founders include Shaunassey Johnson, Amina Smaller, Savannah McCullough, and Abby Rombalski.



Contact Information

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CENTERING BIPOC YOUTH

YoUthROC's 2019 project initially asked, "What does it take to develop accessible and sustainable spaces for youth?" Based on interactive and reciprocal research, the team's findings reaffirmed the need to center BIPOC youth in community and school spaces.

These recommendations have become YoUthROC's YPAR framework and curricular guide to create space to center--rather than marginalize--BIPOC youth.

**WE ASKED OVER 200 MOSTLY BIPOC YOUTH AND 40 ADULTS:
WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO DEVELOP ACCESSIBLE, SUSTAINABLE YOUTH
SPACE? HOW DO WE CENTER BIPOC YOUTH?**

SURVEYS | FINSTA RESEARCH | FOCUS GROUPS | POLL EVERYWHERE



YoUthROC Research Findings

- Working with a shared purpose connects youth to each other and to the community, which cultivates kinship and social action.
- Nourishing youth assets and agency redefines both space and relationships. Young people are knowledgeable and powerful. They want more access to ethnic studies and to learning about themselves and others so that they can thrive and to feel whole.
- Issues that youth deal with need to be addressed, including but not limited to: racialization; comfort and access; youth disenfranchisement and adult control; violence and safety; funding, resources, and sustainability.

YOUTHROC RESEARCH RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CENTERING BIPOC YOUTH IN SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITIES

CREATE KINSHIP AND SHARED PURPOSE

Intentionally cultivate kinship, connectedness, and shared purpose in partnership with Black, Indigenous and People of Color youth and other marginalized youth.



How will you support kinship-building time? How will you find your shared purpose?

NOURISH YOUTH ASSETS AND AGENCY

Nourish and sustain youth assets, knowledge, and power (which includes activating agency).



How are young people part of authentic decision-making processes?

ADDRESS ISSUES AND TAKE ACTION

Reflect on issues collectively and take action within communities, organizations, and systems of power. Youth must be considered stakeholders, not as problems but as problem-solvers.



What internal and external issues have yet to be discussed? How does power play a role? What changes need to be made to problem-solve together?