



## Youthprise Principles of Youth Participatory Action Research (YPAR)

### Research Informed by Community Interests

When exclusive, research can bring harm to communities, reinforce power imbalances, or wrongfully appropriate the knowledge(s) of marginalized groups. Instead research is based on the needs and interests of community. Young people and their communities establish how they are active experts on their own conditions, experiences, values and culture.

### Project Guided by Youth and Participants

YPAR challenges hierarchical forms of research design; all researchers and participants have equal roles in planning & conducting research and interpreting & evaluating data. Research that starts by identifying the issues about which participants have strong feelings and can relate to from their own experiences will go further in reaching people.

### Knowledge for Systemic Change

YPAR centers the decision-making and critical dialogues of youth most impacted by inequality. YPAR addresses the root causes of problems, works to transform the quality of each person's life, the environment, the community, and the whole society. Research for social change

is not an individualistically driven academic practice, but a dynamic combination of community research and action, catalyzing systemic change.

### Culturally Responsive

YPAR honors relationships and builds trust by establishing mutual reciprocity and respect between researchers and community. Research design is a mutually engaged learning process with culturally appropriate methods influenced by different worldviews, ceremony, deep listening and oral histories.

### Relevant and Applicable Knowledge

By engaging in a research action project that follows the needs and stakes of community members, knowledge gathered

by researchers benefits the community. Data/findings can be shared via various mediums—public art, poetry series, and theatre or any other creative application of findings recommended by those directly involved in the project. By collaborating with community partners, data gathered can inform programs, community development, and policy – shifting public debates and expanding local expertise.

### Reflection and Action

Through ongoing exploration, reflection and action, researchers, organizers, and community members build community when celebrating successes and troubleshooting challenges. Conflict is a natural part of this process and can build relationships that share power.



*Reflection improves strategies for social change and enhances the group's capacity to transform both daily life and institutions.*