

YOUTH EQUITY STEWARDSHIP



WITH WADE ANTONIO COLWELL & BENJIE HOWARD



**GROWING AN INSPIRED, INCLUSIVE, SOULFUL,
AND BRAVE LEARNING COMMUNITY TOGETHER**

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Youth Equity Stewardship (YES!) is a series of up to five gatherings designed to prepare middle and high school youth along with adult advocates from across a district to be powerful change agents in building inclusive, inspired school climates. The content combines live musical performance, structured dialogue, creative expression activities, and experiential learning. The arts-based curriculum is designed to build deeper relationships and connections across the spectrum of identities including (but not limited to) culture, race, gender identity, ability, age, belief, economics, learning preferences and academic history. All participants engage with the YES! guidebook for processing their ideas and insights as they move through phases of the YES! series curriculum. The process concludes with a culminating “Listen Up” community presentation of youth voices, and is followed by a strategic planning session with teachers to transfer the learning from the series into existing school improvement efforts.

OUTCOMES

Shift in the tone and depth of youth and adult conversations

Via cross-cultural relationships, awareness, empathy, empowerment and sense of positive influence.

Improvement in the climate of inclusion for students

Via skills to take action to build inspired, inclusive, and brave spaces that are soulful, and brave spaces for dialogue.

Broad implementation of Equity Stewardship

Via student-led professional development & peer-to-peer cross-grade training, equity stewardship embraced as school culture.

Youth contribution to larger systemic equity work

Via critical thinking, inclusive lens and inter-generational partnerships to reduce barriers to equity and reduce educational disparities.

PHASES

- Personal Culture / Personal Journey
- Social Dominance to Social Justice
- Creative Expression / Creative Resistance
- Community Awareness / Community Action
- Stewardship in Motion / Listen Up!

LISTEN UP!

After completion of the sessions, YES! participants join Wade and Benjie in a culminating performance on stage to share their experiences, stories and creative expression with their peers, teachers, administrators, parents and community members. Listen Up! is a multi-media collaboration combining youth voice, adult testimony, spoken word, movement, visual art gallery, video, and the original hip hop & folk music used in the five sessions from Wade & Benjie’s album Borderless. The experience is an opportunity for the broader community to witness and learn from the participants, and for the participants to share their passion and their plans for taking real action in their school community. Listen Up! also serves as a starting point for other teachers and administrators to join as advocates with the powerful youth equity stewards in multi-generational collaboration for the purpose of supporting positive change in their schools.

