

YOUTH-LED PARTICIPATORY RESEARCH PROJECTS AT SCHOOL IN THE SQUARE

COMING OF AGE IN TIMES OF PROTEST AND PANDEMIC

- FOR THE PAST FIVE YEARS, S2 HAS FUNDED A MULTI-GENERATIONAL, SCHOOL-BASED INQUIRY.
- IN 2019 TWELVE LATINX 8TH GRADERS FROM S2 WERE TRAINED AS YOUTH RESEARCHERS, CONDUCTING HUNDREDS OF ORAL HISTORIES WITH FELLOW S2 ALUMNI.
- OVER THE PAST FIVE YEARS, THESE NOW COLLEGE FRESHMAN HAVE BECOME EXPERTS ON YOUTH EXPERIENCES IN TIMES OF PANDEMIC, DIGITAL LEARNING AND WIDESPREAD PROTEST.
- THEY HAVE PUBLISHED TWO BOOK CHAPTERS AND AN ACADEMIC ARTICLE ON THIS PROJECT AND THEIR FINDINGS.
- ADDITIONALLY, THESE S2 ALUMNI HAVE PRESENTED AT MAJOR INTERNATIONAL AND U.S. CONFERENCES.
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S2 SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING MIDDLE SCHOOL PROJECT

- SINCE 2021, SCHOOL IN THE SQUARE MIDDLE SCHOOL HAS TAKEN SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL LEARNING AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO BUILD, THROUGH YOUTH-LED INQUIRY, A CULTURE OF VULNERABILITY AND COURAGE; WHERE INDIVIDUAL CONCERNS CAN BE SPOKEN, AND THEN RECOGNIZED AS COLLECTIVE ISSUES.
- CURRENT S2 MIDDLE SCHOOLERS DEVELOPED COMMUNICATION, ANALYTIC, LEADERSHIP, AND INQUIRY SKILLS TO ENLIGHTEN TEACHERS, ELDERS AND A LARGER ACADEMIC COMMUNITY THAT CRITICAL CARE DEVELOPS WHEN YOUTH ARE ABLE TO CONFIDENTIALLY SPEAK ALOUD THEIR ANXIETIES AND CONCERNS.
- THESE CURRENT 8TH GRADERS HAVE PRESENTED AT ACADEMIC CONFERENCES AND HAVE A FORTHCOMING ARTICLE COMING OUT IN THE MIDDLE SCHOOL JOURNAL.
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PROPOSED PLANS FOR S2 HIGH SCHOOL

- S2 IS EMBEDDING YOUTH PARTICIPATORY ACTION RESEARCH INTO THE STRUCTURE OF ITS NEW HIGH SCHOOL.
- STARTING IN NINTH GRADE, EVERY S2 HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT WILL BE TRAINED AS AN ORAL HISTORIAN EQUIPPED TO TAKE OWNERSHIP OF THEIR OWN STORY BY CURATING THEIR EXPERIENCES AND THOSE OF THEIR RESPECTIVE COMMUNITIES.
- FURTHER, THESE YOUTH RESEARCHERS WILL HELP DEVELOP AN ARCHIVE THAT WILL HOUSE THE TESTIMONIES OF S2 STUDENTS AND STAFF, AS WELL AS TESTIMONIES FROM ELDERS IN THE COMMUNITIES S2 SERVES.
- MYRIAD OPPORTUNITIES FOR PUBLIC FACING SCHOLARSHIP WILL BE AVAILABLE TO STUDENTS INCLUDING AUTHORIZING PUBLICATIONS, PRESENTING AT CONFERENCES, AND PERFORMING THIS WORK TO NYC LEADERS.
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