

Youth Activism Resource Guide

Can you call out inequities in your community?

Throughout our past and present, Black and Latinx people have been subjected to many inequities. These inequities have created injustices that negatively impact the health and life outcomes of Black and Latinx communities. As you take a look into the various inequities that affect your community, use this guide as a learning resource to better identify these occurrences while taking action to address issues and make a change.

DEFINITION [Merriam Webster dictionary style]

In-equity:

When outcomes (the way things turn out; a consequence) are predictable based on someone's identities.

Flint Water Crisis ENVIRONMENTAL INJUSTICE

In 2014, a predominantly underserved and underinvested community experienced high levels of lead poisoning due to contaminated water sources. This was caused by the City of Flint, Michigan's failure to properly treat the municipal water after changing its water source.

U.S. Education Achievement Gap

**SCHOOL-TO-PRISON PIPELINE/
SCHOOL-TO-CONFINEMENT PIPELINE**

Black, Latinx and students who have disabilities are expelled and suspended more than those who are white and do live with a disability. In 2019, a report published by The St. Louis American reported that St. Louis leads the nation in school suspensions for Black students. The unjust use of school disciplinary actions, such as suspensions and expulsions, have been linked to dropping out of school and being pipelined to the criminal in-justice system.

Food Justice FOOD APARTHIED

Many underserved Black and Latinx communities are severely impacted by both hunger and poor food access, more so than white communities. This is due to the structural roots of racism and classism that prevents Black and Latinx communities from having ownership or say in their food system. This leads to corporations placing disproportionately unhealthy food options in our community that affects our health outcomes.

To move closer to freedom and a more just future, young people like yourselves are organizing, raising awareness and creating interventions to address these inequities. Check out the examples* below showing how youth are creating change in their communities and how you can become a Redesigner for Justice™ in your community.



Jamie Margolin, 18

ENVIRONMENTAL CATALYST

Jamie Margolin is the co-founder of the international youth climate justice movement Zero Hour that led the official “Youth Climate Marches” in Washington, DC and 25+ cities around the world during the summer of 2018. Margolin helps lead Zero Hour in organizing marches, rallies, educational campaigns, strikes, summits, tours, and lobby days, including the “2019 Youth Climate Summit” in Miami Florida and the “Youth Climate Lobby Days” on Capitol Hill both in 2018 and in 2019.

Source: [Climate One](#)

Sara Mora, 22

COMMUNITY VISIONARY

In 2017, after the federal government announced its intent to discontinue the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, Sara Mora [publicly revealed](#) that she was undocumented and a DACA recipient, launching her work in activism. Sara is using the power of digital storytelling to advocate for workers unions, non-profits, community organizations, and immigration reform initiatives. Source: [DoSomething.org](#)



Zyahna Bryant, 17

FREEDOM FIGHTER

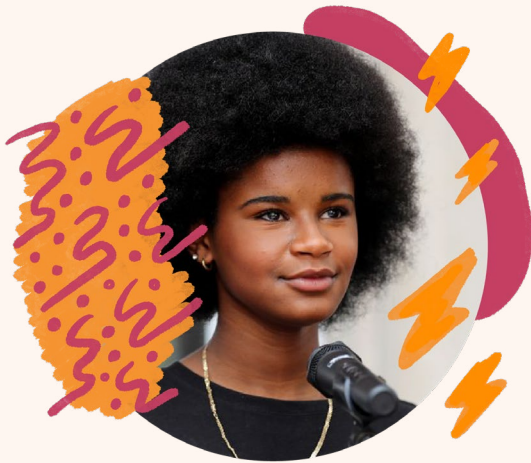
Zyahna Bryant founded the Black Student Union at her high school and is a member of the Charlottesville Youth Council. At the age of 12, she organized her first demonstration, a rally for Justice for Trayvon Martin and other unarmed Black lives lost to police violence.

Source: [ZyahnaBryant.com](#)



*These young leaders are not former Creative Reaction Lab participants but are highlighted for the purpose of inspiration, and their ages stated in this document are when they started their respective initiatives.

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Marly Dias, 14

LITERARY VANGUARD

Marley Dias is the precocious and purpose-driven 14-year-old founder of #1000BlackGirlBooks and author of “Marley Dias Gets It Done: And So Can You!,” Marley launched the #1000BlackGirlBooks drive in November of 2015, leveraging the power of social media to reach a larger audience. The goal was to collect 1,000 books featuring Black female protagonists by February 2016. Marley has collected over 13,000 books to-date.

Source: Marlydias.com

Sidney Keys, 11

LITERARY TRAILBLAZER

Sidney Keys III has always loved to read. But at his school library, the 11-year-old noticed a void of books about kids like himself...Sidney started [Books n Bros](#), a national book club for 8- to 12-year-olds who get together and read – about stuff they *really* want to read about. “I started it so we could read about African-American literature and raise awareness of that.” Source: [CNN](#)



Faith Florez, 19

TECH GENIUS

As a third generation Mexican-American and descendant of farmworkers, Faith Florez [heard stories passed down from her grandfather](#) about working in the fields and the toll it took on their family’s health. Moved by this connection, Faith conceptualized an app called [Calor](#), which helps farmworkers combat heat stress. She continues to pilot the app and fundraise for its development, and she advocates for more tech solutions to challenges that affect the Latinx community through her [Latina Legacy Foundation](#). Source: [DoSomething.org](#)



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What will you do?

Visit www.creativereactionlab.com/programs and apply for support to launch your community projects.