

# RYSE: Youth Empowered



*RYSE creates safe spaces grounded in social justice that build youth power for young people to love, learn, educate, heal and transform the lives and communities.*



**RYSE is a:**

- ✓ Home
- ✓ Center
- ✓ 'Beloved Community'
- ✓ Movement
- ✓ *RYSE Commons...coming soon!*

**RYSE provides:**

- Sanctuary and safe space
- Opportunities to connect, heal, learn, and lead
- Programs in Community Health, Youth Leadership, Media, Arts & Culture, Education & Justice
- Trauma response and triage



# Conditions and Context of Our Work

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- Relentless focus on individual behavioral change and glaring avoidance of structural change.
- Dominant PH frames pose BIPOC as problems while actively avoiding white supremacy and pathologies of whiteness.
- BIPOC's compliance does not guarantee safety, livelihood, or even life.
- The science of trauma is catching up to BIPOC's pain and fortitude.
- For BIPOC, resilience is our baseline, not our benchmark.





Truths of our youth...

*"Realizing institutions don't work for you, but against you, is the first step to healing your community."*

*"We know we can't run the city- it's too complex- but our experience and our voices should count, especially because we're the most effected."*

*"Healing looks like education. If people understood their privilege and how their actions can deeply affect someone, I think that it would help a lot of people who are struggling with these issues."*

# RYSE as liberatory public health



## Grounded in...

Ecological Model of Health

SDOH and Health Disparities/Inequities

Conventional social science models of program design and evaluation

Cross-sector collaboration and coordination

Resource cultivation and sustainability

## Growing towards...

Interacting Layers of Liberation and Healing

Structural Conditions of (Dis)ease and Liberation

Radical inquiry: proximate, responsive, adaptive; tender in our relationships, strident in our values

Beloved community; Truth, Reckoning, Reconciliation

Reparations, redistribution of risk and resources

# Interacting Layers of Trauma and Healing

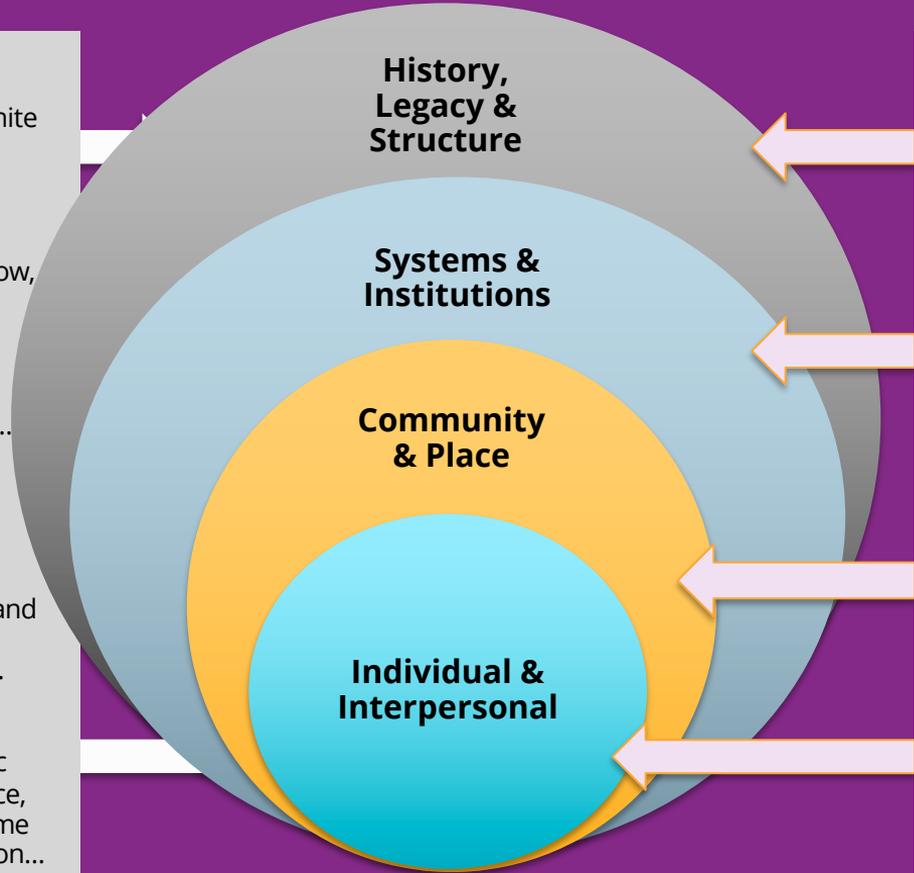
## Dehumanization and Distress

**Nation Building** by Enslavement, Genocide, Colonization, Economic Exploitation, Resource Extraction, White Supremacy, Patriarchy...

**Systemic Subjugation of BIPOC** by Interacting Policies & Systems: (Capitalism): Broken Treaties, Jim Crow, War on Drugs, Mass Incarceration, Criminalization of Poverty & Survival, Anti-Immigrant/Imperialist Policies, Redlining and Gentrification, Climate Violence, Harmful Media Narratives ...

**Atmospheric Distress** that includes Interpersonal, Family, Community Violence & Exposure; Sexual Exploitation/Gender Violence, Displacement, Lack of Safe Passage and Spaces; Lack of Green Spaces, Underinvestment, Oversurveillance...

**Embodiment and Expression of Distress** through Personal Traumatic Experiences; Bullying/Gender Violence, Family Systems Stressors, ACEs, Shame and Blame, Generational Transmission...



## Liberation and Healing

**Collective Liberation** by Truth & Reconciliation, Reparations, Redistribution, Open Borders/No Borders, Multi-racial Solidarity, Gender Justice, Just Transitions...

**Lead with Love and Justice** by Healing-Centered & Restorative Practices, Listening Campaigns, Collective Care, Identity Affirming, Adaptive, Responsive, and Proximate, Land and Power-sharing (Nothing about us without us)...

**Build Beloved Community** by Radical Inquiry, Popular Education and Culture Building, Celebration and Affirmation; Healing Spaces, Land Acknowledgement, Arts & Expression, Base & Power-Building...

**Honor Resilience and Fortitude** by Listening & Validating, Processing/Integrating Personal Traumatic Experiences, Family Healing, Tailored Supports & Opportunities, Loving Connections To Each Other and The Land; Loving, Predictable Structure...

# RYSE's Theory of Liberation

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## Systems Are Transformed

- No policy, investment, practice about young people of color without young people of color.
- Systems, both in policy and praxis, are responsive to the priorities and needs of young people as defined by young people.
- Systems takeover by next generation leaders committed to a platform for liberation in which cultural work and race are central.

## Young People Feel Loved

- Young people have emotional, physical, political safety to acquire tools, skills, and resources they need to understand and change inequities.
- Young people construct their own narrative and those of their communities.
- Young people feel loved.

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***We lead with love and rage, build power, take risks, center creativity & healing, conduct radical inquiry***

# Beloved Community

## engaging members, staff, stakeholders

We acknowledge white supremacy, anti-Blackness, and intersecting forms of oppression

We prioritize relationships

We lead with love and rage

We take risks

We stop to acknowledge grief and loss



# Beloved Community

## engaging members, staff, stakeholders



We practice and invest in collective care

We encourage and invest in self-care

We honor resilience AND resistance

We celebrate and have fun

We keep learning

**RYSE**  
CENTER