Mission

Through our Theory of Liberation, RYSE Center creates safe spaces grounded in social justice for young people to love, learn, educate, heal, and transform lives and communities.

Read more about our Theory of Liberation.

History

RYSE was born out of a youth organizing movement initiated in 2000 in response to a string of homicides near Richmond High School. Students organized more than 1,500 youth and adult community members to address the lack of safety at school and in the community. Young people, local officials, and stakeholders partnered to comprehensively assess youth-identified priorities and solutions.

On October 18, 2008, RYSE officially opened its doors. Since then, RYSE has served over 5,000 youth members and reached 10,000 more through outreach, workshops, and community events in Richmond and West Contra Costa County. RYSE helps youth step into their power so they can lead, dream, and love.

Rysing from Center to Commons

Building a legacy of love and liberation. RYSE exists because youth of color called on adults to listen, invest, and rethink young people’s place in the city. Over a decade later, our youth are rysing. Their art enlivens the streets and their ideas shape local policies, leading toward a Richmond and West Contra Costa where their stories can thrive. Each year, over 700 RYSE members imagine new paths for social change that benefit all of our communities.

Rysing from Center to Commons. RYSE is deepening roots and raising up a new structure to better hold and amplify youth voice - RYSE Commons. Renovating our existing center into a 45,000 square foot campus will expand youth program and partnership space by over 300%. With more space, we can expand our age range to engage youth ages 11-24. Envision a dynamic campus for young people, grown from RYSE's healing-centered and creativity-led foundation. A hub for personal development, play, expression, incubating ideas, performance, art, launching businesses, exploring tech, and connecting with universities and partners.

Stay updated or send a donation.

Facebook: @rysecenter Twitter + Instagram: @ryseyouthcenter Website: rysecenter.org
RYSE Programming At-A-Glance

**Education + Justice**

Strengthening young people’s ability to successfully navigate education and juvenile justice systems, empowering them to be advocates for change and agents in their own liberation.

- Study Up! Tutoring
- College Access
- Resume + Cover Letter Workshops
- Open Education + Career Hours
- Partnerships with WCC School District
- Case Management
- Streets to Success Diversion + Intervention
- Field Trips + College Tours
- SAT + CAHSEE Prep
- Workshops at Juvenile Hall

**Youth Leadership + Advocacy**

Ensuring young people serve as key stakeholders and decision-makers on issues and policies impacting their individual and collective well-being.

- Leadership Team Training + Retreats
- Richmond Youth Organizing Team (RYOT)
- Youth Organizing Conferences + Institutes
- RYOT-led workshops and events
- Youth-led Candidates Forum
- Team Academic + Career Planning
- Peer-to-peer voter registration
- Integrated Voter Engagement

**Media, Arts + Culture**

Elevating youth voices by providing access to loving and talented teaching artists, media equipment, and professional development training in the areas of music, video production, visual and performing arts.

- Graphic Design + Screen Printing
- Beat Production + Recording Sessions
- Urban Arts
- Spoken Word Poetry Workshops
- Photography Class
- Artist Career Development
- Video Production Workshops
- Multimedia Theory Productions
- Spoken Word in the Schools
- Community Events + Performances

**Community Health**

Providing young people with direct services, education, and advocacy to support individual and community health, and working towards policies and systems that are empathetic to their needs.

- Individual Counseling
- Young Men’s Group + Sister Circle
- Alphabet Group (LGBTQQ+)
- Anger Management Classes
- Tasty Tuesday Cooking Classes
- Fresh Friday Garden Class
- Crisis Intervention + Trauma Response
- Local Hospital Partnerships for Intervention
- School-based support groups
- Trauma + Healing Trainings for Providers
- Community-centered Response to COVID

98% of members feel safer at RYSE than anywhere else  
93% feel better connected to their community  
100% feel that staff at RYSE really care about them  
91% have a better understanding of their emotions and feelings  
94% have tried new things at RYSE

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