

**YOUNG
LEADERS**



***Strong* CITY**

Dallas' Only Social Justice and Equity Summit for Teens



- Young Leaders, Strong City (YLSC) started in 2014
- Space for Dallas metro high school students to learn about social justice and equity issues
- Consists of an annual summit where students explore systemic inequities through different workshops
- Programming is changed each year for relevancy

A Brief History



- In 2014 Dallas hosted Facing Race, the country's largest conference on racial justice
- Sara Mokuria, Associate Director of Leadership Initiatives at IUPR, organized a conference host committee
- Recognition of a gap in youth programming in conference
- IUPR and several collaborators started YLSC
- Well received, so it was made into an annual summit.
- We recruit Dallas-area students from public, private, charter and magnet high schools
- Facilitated by local leaders in different areas of the community
- In 2014, 71 high school students attended, 29 students attended in 2015, and 38 students attended in 2016

A Brief History



- In 2014 Dallas hosted Facing Race, the country's largest conference on racial justice
- Sara Mokuria, Associate Director of Leadership Initiatives at IUPR, organized a conference host committee
- Recognition of a gap in youth programming in conference
- IUPR and several collaborators started YLSC
- Well received, so it was made into an annual summit.
- We recruit Dallas-area students from public, private, charter and magnet high schools
- Facilitated by local leaders in different areas of the community
- In 2014, 71 high school students attended, 29 students attended in 2015, and 38 students attended in 2016

Guiding Principles



Collective Value

- Everyone has intrinsic value, and power
- Everyone has the ability to learn, teach, and lead
- We encourage people to engage with their whole selves
- In the words of Ella Baker we believe, “Give light, and people will find the way.”

Restorative Justice

- We spend more time building than attacking
- By creating a nurturing environment that we promote restoration, not depletion

Diversity

- We value the insights, relationships and understandings that are developed when divergent paths cross
- We seek to create an environment that cultivates diversity across multiple dimensions of identity
- We acknowledge, respect and celebrate our difference(s) and commonalities.

Learning with Intent

- We are committed to practicing justice, liberation, and peace in our engagements
- We are committed to share what we learn with our families, communities, and the world.

Going to the hard place

- We recognize the importance of struggle in promoting transformation
- Instead of avoiding difficult conversations, we face them head on with love and care
- We provide space to address the issues young people are witnessing and experiencing

Guiding Principles



Collective Value

- Everyone has intrinsic value, and power
- Everyone has the ability to learn, teach, and lead
- We encourage people to engage with their whole selves
- In the words of Ella Baker we believe, “Give light, and people will find the way.”

Restorative Justice

- We spend more time building than attacking
- By creating a nurturing environment that we promote restoration, not depletion

Diversity

- We value the insights, relationships and understandings that are developed when divergent paths cross
- We seek to create an environment that cultivates diversity across multiple dimensions of identity
- We acknowledge, respect and celebrate our difference(s) and commonalities

Learning with Intent

- We are committed to practicing justice, liberation, and peace in our engagements
- We are committed to share what we learn with our families, communities, and the world

Going to the hard place

- We recognize the importance of struggle in promoting transformation
- Instead of avoiding difficult conversations, we face them head on with love and care
- We provide space to address the issues young people are witnessing and experiencing

What We Are Building

Goal

Our goal is to support advocacy and action on complex social justice issues by building a network of young people who are equipped with skills to understand and dismantle systemic inequities in their schools and communities



Objectives

- Provide access to engaging workshops, panels, and plenaries
- Create space for collaboration and sharing knowledge, building pride, and develop deeper awareness of local history
- Skill building and leadership development
- Engage in constructive conversations that are grounded in strategies to build a better future





Recruitment



Saturday, November 5th 2016

8:30 am - 4:00 pm

Latino Cultural Center - 2600 Live Oak St, Dallas, TX 75204

The Young Leaders, Strong City racial justice youth summit is a collaboration of Dallas activists, educators, artists and community leaders who are driven to create a space for young leaders to engage and learn how to fight for racial justice within their communities. YLSC strives to bring a diverse array of students from across the Dallas area to become leaders within their own communities who are fully aware and prepared to build a society defined by racial equity and justice.

REGISTER NOW:

ylscdallas.org

Questions? Please contact us: ylscdallas@gmail.com

Share this email with friends and encourage them to attend. Connect for

more updates via Facebook: [@youngleadersstrongcity](https://www.facebook.com/youngleadersstrongcity)

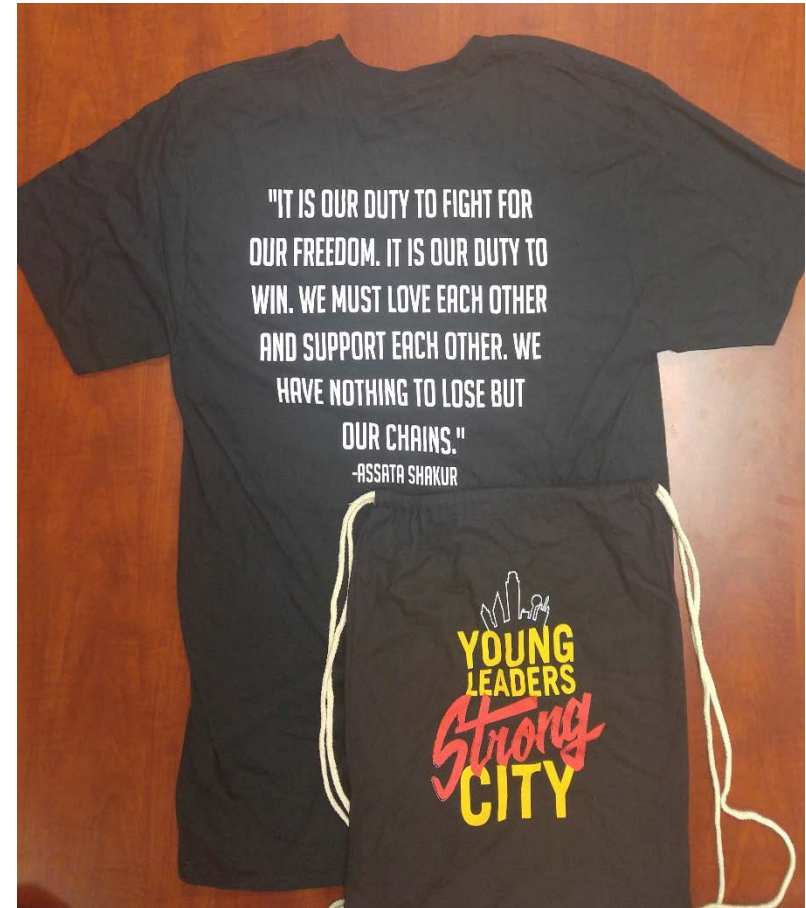
- Contact guidance counselors in public private and charter high schools in Dallas
- Collaborators reach out to educators and others within network
- Distribute promotional materials within schools
- Boost posts on Facebook
- No fee to register or attend
- Stakeholders may also register to volunteer

Swag

2014-2015



2016



A Day of YLSC

Agenda

8:30 am - 8:50 am
Breakfast and Sign-In

8:50 am - 9:10 am
Welcome and Intro with Planning Team

9:20 am-10:20 am
Plenary: Dallas in Context

10:30 am- 11:30 am
Breakout Session 1

- From Flint to North Dakota to South Oak Cliff: The Fight for Environmental Justice
- What's happening to my neighborhood?: Gentrification and the New Dallas
- Strange Fruit: The Impact of Colorism on Masculinity & Beauty Standards
- Making History: Movements that are Changing America (Double Block)

11:40 am - 12:40 am
Working Lunch

12:50 pm - 1:50 pm
Breakout Session 2

- Queerly Speaking
- Know Your Rights
- Sports and Activism
- Making History: Movements that are Changing America (Double Block)

2:00 pm - 3:00 pm
Breakout Session 3

- Movement Research
- Poetry
- Theater of the Oppressed
- Self-Care
- Think Like an Activist: Research, Hell-Raising, Organizing

3:05 pm - 4:00 pm
Closing Plenary

Lessons and Challenges



- Steep attendance drop: 71 in 2014 to 38 in 2016
- Scheduled during and SAT Saturday two years in a row
- Large gap between the number of students who registered and the number of students who attend
- Certain workshops are poorly attended
- Staff turnover among collaborating agencies slows down momentum
- Striking a balance between centralized delegation from IUPR and allowing collaborating agencies certain control
- Continuity and communication with previous attendees inconsistent
- Funding!!!



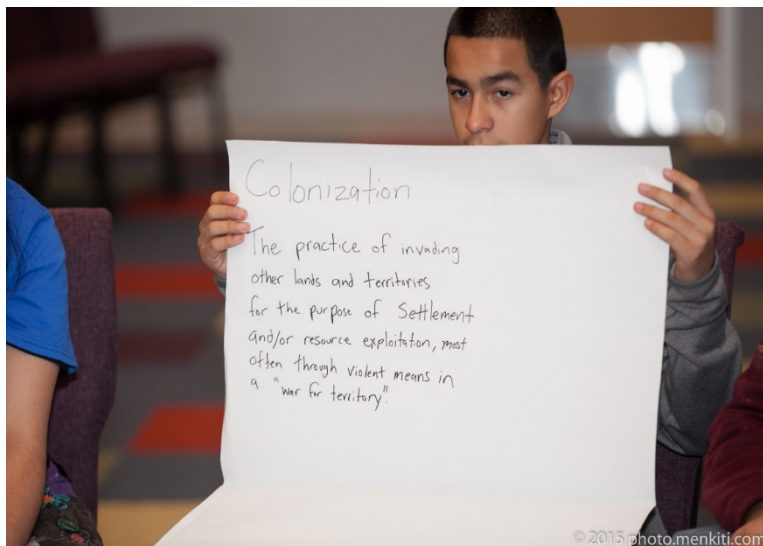
Lessons and Challenges



- Steep attendance drop: 71 in 2014, 29 in 2015, 38 in 2016
- Scheduled during and SAT Saturday two years in a row
- Large gap between the number of students who register and the number of students who attend
- Certain workshops are poorly attended
- Staff turnover among collaborating agencies slows down momentum
- Striking a balance between centralized delegation from IUPR and allowing collaborating agencies certain control
- Continuity and communication with previous attendees inconsistent
- Funding!!!



The 2017 Summit



Four tracks

- Art, Media & Culture
- A Better World is Possible: Organizing, Activism & Resistance
- Think Globally, Act Locally
- Each One, Teach One: Skill Sharing

Each YLSC experience is unique

- Students curate their own experience by choosing workshops that align with their interests
- Range of topics: the school to prison pipeline, indigenous images in sports, gentrification. mainstream beauty images, etc
- The facilitators are professionals who employ a variety of methods to engage students in the content



Looking to the Future



- Long-term goals are to expand programming to include monthly meet-ups for students
- The Summer of 2018 YLSC will also be offering a book club to former participants because they have expressed a desire to stay continuously engaged



Thank You for Listening

