“I BELIEVE THAT EDUCATION IS THE CIVIL RIGHTS ISSUE OF OUR GENERATION. AND IF YOU CARE ABOUT PROMOTING OPPORTUNITY AND REDUCING INEQUALITY, THE CLASSROOM IS THE PLACE TO START.”

Secretary Arne Duncan, October 9, 2009
MESSAGE FROM BOARD CHAIR,
DIANE KEARNEY

Dear friends,

We have been on quite a journey! It was a momentous year for our organization as we transitioned from 26 years as The Discovery Center to our new name, RE-Center Race & Equity in Education. This name more clearly expresses our dedication to helping transform K-12 schools into equitable learning environments free from impacts of racism and other forms of oppression. As our work has gradually evolved into a systemic focus, students are at the center—as they always have been.

We have had some changes on our Board this year. Several Board members reached the end of their terms and we are so very grateful for the time and dedication they showed to this organization. We could not be where we are today without them! Our thanks go to: Sarah Barzee, Fernando Betancourt, Ingrid Canady, Ann Fulco, David Hess, Willajeanne McLean, Jackie Moore, Paul Stefanik, Barbara Taylor, and Binh-Co Tran.

We welcome several new Board Members and I look forward to the great work we will do together!

On behalf of the full Board, I thank all of our donors and partners for your continued support.

MESSAGE FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
KATE GERVAIS

Dear friends,

What was elementary and high school like for you? Did you feel seen and heard? Were you supported as if the school system was centered around your success? Your answer might depend on your racial and ethnic identities, religion, class, gender and sexual orientation, where you went to school, and whether your teachers and administrators looked like you.

What would happen if the answers to these questions were positive and not affected by students’ identities? That is the vision of the Equitable Classroom. It is an as-yet-unrealized vision, but one we are building toward at RE-Center Race & Equity in Education.

The Equitable Classroom doesn’t exist in a vacuum – it is created within an Equitable School in an Equitable School District, and that School District is possible within a city or town also striving to be equitable. When equity is the framework it allows everyone to thrive.

RE-Center helps schools, educational nonprofits, educators, students, parents, community members and others committed to education institutionalize and internalize an equity framework. This is status-quo-shattering work, vital to the success of our students.

We are grateful to everyone who has supported this work and shared their experiences with us. Let’s work together to create equitable schools and communities.
Board Members
DURING THE PERIOD JULY 1, 2017 - JUNE 30, 2018

Diane Kearney, Ed.D. (joined 6/08)
Board Chair;
Director of Manchester Adult and Continuing Education, Manchester

Sarah Barzee, Ph.D. (until 6/18)
Vice Board Chair;
Chief Talent Officer, CT State Department of Education, Hartford

Willajeanne F. McLean, Esq. (until 6/18)
Secretary;
Professor of Law, UCONN School of Law, Hartford

Paul Stefanik III (until 6/18)
Treasurer;
President, Gammons Hoaglund Company, Manchester

Michael Bartone, Ph.D. (joined 3/18)
Assistant Professor, Central Connecticut State University, New Britain

Fernando Betancourt (until 6/18)
Executive Director, San Juan Center Inc., Hartford

Ingrid Canady (until 9/17)
Executive Director of SERC - State Education Resource Center, Middletown

Elisa Cardona (joined 12/17)
Director of Social Justice and Inclusion, The Ethel Walker School, Simsbury

Derrick Everett (joined 4/17)
Managing Director of External Affairs, Educators for Excellence, Boston

Wendy Brown Helmkamp (joined 12/17)
Founder, Moon Shadow Consulting, Simsbury

David P. Hess (until 12/17)
Retired Executive Vice President, Aerospace, United Technologies Corporation, Farmington

Michelle D. McKnight (joined 4/17)
Math Intervention Specialist, Manchester Public Schools, Manchester

Jackie Moore (until 12/17)
The Werth Family Foundation, Simsbury

Kathryn Mullin, Esq. (joined 1/18)
Attorney, Robinson & Cole LLP, Hartford

Joelle Murchison (joined 4/17)
Special Advisor, Diversity and External Partnerships, Adjunct Faculty, University of Connecticut, Hartford

Sarfraz (Safa) Nistar (joined 1/18)
Strategy & Operations Executive, Minutemen Media, West Hartford

Rev. Erica Richmond (joined 4/17)
Palliative Care Chaplain, Hartford Hospital, Hartford

Barbara Taylor (until 6/18)
Financial Advisor, Farmington River Financial Group, Farmington

Binh-Co Tran (until 4/18)
Retirement Advanced Associate, AON HEWITT, Norwalk

Kimberly S. Traverso, LPC (joined 4/17)
Education Consultant, CT State Department of Education, Hartford

Erik Wasson (joined 4/17)
Informatics Senior Specialist, Cigna, Inc., Bloomfield

Staff

Kate Busch Gervais
Executive Director

Cesar Aleman
Director of Race & Equity Programs (joined August 2018)

Rachel Aviles
Program Associate (joined March 2018)

Cristher Estrada-Peréz
Program Evaluation Manager

Gretchen Fountain
Development Director

Jason Fredlund
Program Director

Rinne Julie Früster
Administrative and Program Assistant (joined March 2018)

Derek Hall
Program Director

Amaryst Parks
Storytelling and Research, Newman’s Own Foundation Fellow (joined July 2018)

Emilia Skene
Human Resources and Program Director

Ellen Tuzzolo
Program Director (through May 2018)

Consultants/Advisors
We are grateful to have an excellent team of professionals who helped us to create nurturing spaces for discussion and transformation.

Paul C. Gorski, Ph.D, EdChange
Duhita Mahatmya, EdChange
Ellen Tuzzolo
Judith Burr
Eric Phelps, Rainmaker Consulting
Gordon Gottlieb, TDC Group
Manju Rajendran, AORTA Co-op
Trudi Lebron, Scriptflip

Richard Hollant, Lorena Iturrino, Katherine Chordas, Zoe Chatfield, CO:LAB
Joanne Smart, Tisha Reagan, Premier Accounting, blumshapiro
David Hale, blumshapiro
Constanza Segovia, VEO VEO Design
Facilitators

Sistah Anyango
Jim Albert
Rose Albert
Rachel Aviles
Ashley Blount
Amanda Carrington
Kathy Christianson
Joe Condren
Tyrell Cooper
Aqua Drakes
Gabrielle Emmanuel
Mia Emmert
Rinne Julie Früster

Christopher Gonzalez-Reyes
Brien Hall
Alexandria Hicks
Angelica Hilliman
Amanda Jonikaitis
Varun Khattar
Trudi Lebron
Rachel Martin
Tyler Morrison
Chevell Palmer
Daryl Phin
Holden Powell

Johnathan Pruitt
Jamil Ragland
Bulaong Ramiz-Hall
Aesha Rasheed
Steven Roenfeldt
Malana Rogers-Bursen
Constanza Segovia
Ashley Stewart
Quyen Truong
Ellen Tuzzolo
Malik Weston

Discovery Camp Staff

Thank you to the talented and caring Diversity Counselors, Teachers and Nurses who made Discovery Camp possible at Camp Woodstock, Spring 2018:

Jim Albert
Sharonda Andress
Rachel Aviles
Ashley Blount
Tyrell Cooper
Karisa Curran
Denise Donovan
Mia Emmert
Rinne Julie Früster
Christopher Gonzalez-Reyes
Bradley Hall
Brien Hall
Linda Hernandez
Alexandria Hicks
Angelica Hilliman
Amanda Jonikaitis
Jennie Kogan
Christopher LaRoche
Tyler Morrison
Will Mucaj
Holden Powell
Johnathan Pruitt
Augustina Rivera
Lucilene Rodrigues
Steven Roenfeldt
Malik Weston
Danielle Works

Thanks so much for supporting our work! The RE-Center staff is committed, energetic, and working hard. Our vision and mission inspire us every day! Call us, stop in, join us—and be the change our world truly needs.
EISCA | RE-Calibrating our Compass

School districts around the nation are increasingly aware that institutional inequities reproduce and perpetuate disparities in academic achievement, discipline, and access to opportunities for students from marginalized groups. There is an urgency to uncover the causes of this disproportionality to affect change. The Equity-Informed School Climate Assessment (EISCA) provides processes and tools to uncover root causes of inequities and offer solutions from the perspective of those most marginalized.

EISCA was developed by RE·Center in collaboration with EdChange and Manchester Public Schools (MPS). It is an evaluation of the climate of the school district through the lens of racial equity and its intersections. Research shows that equity is essential to creating a school climate that effectively serves students, staff, and families and positively improves all student outcomes. EISCA data collection tools (including focus groups, interviews, and ethnographic observations) examine the educational, emotional, and social experiences of students, staff, and families from marginalized groups. District-wide surveys were administered to students in grades 5 and 6, students in grades 7-12, staff members and MPS families. The information gathered through these methods of engagement painted an expansive and detailed picture of the school climate in MPS. Manchester Public Schools is taking important steps to address inequities within the district, and many opportunities exist for MPS to fully support all students, staff, and families, including those from marginalized groups. When those with the most marginalized identities are served well, the school district creates a healthier learning environment for everyone. Much appreciation to the William Caspar Graustein Memorial Fund for support of EISCA.

Equitable Design for Equitable Assessment

LISTENING TO THE COMMUNITY - COLLECTING THE NARRATIVE

- Exploratory Focus Groups
- Background Interviews
- Existing Document & Data Review

DESIGNING WITH A RACIAL EQUITY LENS

- Facilitator & Evaluator Recruitment
- Affinity-based Focus Groups, Ethnographic Observation Protocols
- Four Surveys of Staff, Parents, Students

EVALUATING FOR INSTITUTIONAL CHANGE

- Disaggregated & Intersectional Data Analysis
- Analyzing & Highlighting the Experiences of Marginalization
“After EISCA, we shifted our lenses to having that student perspective at the forefront... This is going to layer on the data we have, the stories we have to tell. We need to highlight the experiences of students because that’s what’s going to drive change. We’ve been talking about data for years—the achievement gap, attendance data, discipline data. That’s not what changes people, you have to change people in their hearts. And so, these emotional stories that are coming out from the narratives in the focus groups and the individual interviews is what we need to highlight.”

- Manchester Public School Staff Project Lead
EDIfy Transformative Programming in Schools and Organizations

Our EDIfy programs provided more than 1,700 educators, students, parents, and community members in the Greater Hartford area with history, framing, power analysis, identity development, empathetic motivation, and community accountability. This professional and personal development equipped educators to center the voices of school community members who’ve been marginalized in their school systems. In addition to providing content and reflection-based workshops, we provided equity-based evaluation, process facilitation, and support services to organizations that work in schools like Hartford Performs and Hartford Youth Scholars. We also led students through youth leadership and development around issues of race and equity. In all our programming, we prioritized strategic partnerships and strove to run the most effective programming to create change.

“You are not alone, and words matter. At times it feels like you’re the only one seeing or experiencing certain things, but everyone does and you simply telling someone, ‘Hey that ‘joke’ was not funny, it’s homophobic’ could have a positive impact on a closeted person witnessing the interaction.”

-Black student, Simsbury High School
“I don’t want to be disrespectful to any of the other groups that have come, and some of them have been wonderful. But they’ve been just wonderful. They haven’t been groundbreaking and transformational. And I feel like that’s the story of the opportunity here—the work that we can do with RE-Center, inspired by RE-Center, is going to be transformational for the educators as well as the children. And that’s what I’m looking forward to. Nervous about, but excited about at the same time.”

-Educator, Kingswood Oxford

Equity in Education Workshops

This year, we launched Equity in Education workshops, which allowed community access to our material and strategies for racial equity work.

“This personal, professional development process gives people an opportunity to understand themselves, how they fit into systems of power, privilege, and oppression, with the goal of committing to making changes,” explains Jason Fredlund, RE-Center Program Director.

The workshops helped over 150 participants (teachers, administrators, parents, professionals from the non-profit, health care, and higher education sectors) understand their own roles and co-create more equitable learning environments. Participants left with an increased sense of agency, a model for how equitable spaces operate, and a newfound understanding of and commitment to their roles as educators and leaders.

As Jason puts it, we are figuring out “What does it take, what is the recipe to take people through a process of critical examination of themselves and of the systems that they are a part of, so that they can commit to equity and anti-racism? Our approach will never be static because racism and other forms of oppression are also not static.”

OF PARTICIPANTS SURVEYED:

- 95% said that RE-Center created a safe/brave space to have honest conversations about issues related to racial equity.
- 89% practiced critical questioning about race and racism during their session.
- 92% developed common language around issues of racism, power, privilege, and oppression.
- 87% practiced strategies for creating more equitable environments.
**Discovery Camp**

Created through the vision and work of Paul Newman and Joanne Woodward, *Discovery Camp* provided a unique opportunity for 5th and 6th grade students in the Greater Hartford region to learn about equity, diversity, and inclusion. Since the program began in 1992, it has served more than 24,000 students, from more than 30 schools. Students learned leadership skills necessary to recognize and interrupt racism and prejudice while making friends and building relationships. Students attended the program as a class during the school year with their teachers, who also received training in equity and anti-racism.

"Young people from different racial and socio-economic backgrounds coming together in really divisive times is a beautiful thing.”  - Derek Hall, *Camp Director*

Our camp program enabled us to create and evaluate an equitable learning environment. As our flagship program, *Discovery Camp* has given RE·Center an intimate understanding of the importance of young people living and growing in equitable educational environments.

After much deliberation, we’ve determined that camp no longer aligns well with our mission. Our new mission compels us to focus more on helping students and educators build sustainable systemic equity within their schools. This is why we’ve made the decision to discontinue our Residential Camp program.

Students remain our priority! Our many other programs are helping to make systemic change in school environments, and to center student voices. Ultimately, it is our goal to change school systems so that more students can experience the affirming connectedness of camp in their everyday educational lives.

"Bringing young people from all these different environments—especially at this very impressionable age—into a predominantly black and brown educational environment that exists specifically to affirm them and who they are. That is a big deal. Letting them play in the woods, letting them sing songs and dance... All of that is so beautiful and so important to a young person. These are life-long memories these kids are going to remember. I experience it now in a meeting with a 20- or 30-year-old person and I mention The Discovery Center and what we do, and they’re like ‘Oh my gosh, I went to that camp and we did this, we did that, it was great.’ We made those memories.”

Derek Hall, *Discovery Camp Director*

**STUDENT REFLECTIONS:**

I learned that everybody is beautiful and different in every way.

I will put myself in other people’s shoes and don’t judge.

It helped me learn to accept people no matter how different they are. This helped me make new friends that I wouldn’t never had.
FEEDBACK FROM STUDENTS AT CAMP:

- **94%** Made a new friend
- **93%** Learned skills to help them speak up when they see discrimination, prejudice, or other forms of injustice
- **93%** Thought about what a fair and equitable community could look like
- **98%** Agreed that camp taught them to think critically about the world around them
- **91%** Agreed that they know how to identify prejudice, discrimination, racism, and other forms of inequities

“My son has PDD-NOS (spectrum disorder) and struggles with socializing, working with others and taking other’s perspectives. This opportunity was exactly what he needed to become more aware of others, to learn about empathy, perspectives, working together...as well as the lessons around diversity, inclusion and anti-racism. Every child needs this experience, but I am particularly grateful that you are able to work with students to whom these conversations do not come naturally.”

Camp Parent

SCHOOLS THAT PARTICIPATED IN DISCOVERY CAMP IN THE SPRING OF 2018 INCLUDED:

- Environmental Sciences Magnet School at Mary Hooker, Hartford
- Sarah J. Rawson Elementary School, Hartford
- S.A.N.D. School, Hartford
- Noah Webster MicroSociety Magnet School, Hartford
- R.J. Kinsella Magnet School of Performing Arts, Hartford
- Betances STEM Magnet School, Hartford
- Emerson-Williams Elementary School, Wethersfield
- Glastonbury-East Hartford Elementary Magnet School, Glastonbury
- Elisabeth M. Bennet Academy, Manchester
- Keeney Elementary School, Manchester
- Washington Elementary School, Manchester
- Verplanck Elementary School, Manchester
Outreach

Our body of work and reputation as a trusted resource are both growing. RE-Center was selected as an equity in education training provider by the Nellie Mae Educational Foundation and the William Caspar Graustein Memorial Fund. This year, our work was presented at the National Coalition on School Diversity, the Ford Foundation’s K-12 School Integration Convening, the State Education Resource Center’s Dismantling Systemic Racism conference, and the Harvard Graduate School of Education’s Beyond Desegregation: Promising Practices for Diverse and Equitable Schools conference. We presented an ‘Equity Beyond Diversity’ workshop at The Hartford as part of their Employee Resource Group’s Diversity and Inclusion Leadership Summit. In addition, RE-Center staff members facilitated community discussions and forums.

“Wow. You guys did an amazing job - your workshop was one of the best I have been to. You were able to organize so much of what I have learned about DEI [Diversity, Equity and Inclusion] into the 5 mind shifts - while also creating a vision for what DEI achieved looks like. You have moved my personal development forward as well as my practice. Thank you! I intend to pay it forward.”

Aaron Listhaus
Chief National Programs Officer
Hebrew Public: Charter Schools for Global Citizens

TOP: Jason Fredlund and Derek Hall at NEA’s Conference on Racial and Economic Justice. OPPOSITE PAGE, TOP: Derek Hall at the National Coalition on School Diversity’s Annual Conference at Teacher’s College, Columbia University. OPPOSITE PAGE, BOTTOM: Participants at Stand Against Racism Day, sponsored by RE-Center, YWCA, The Alliance, and Everyday Democracy.
ADULTS / EDUCATORS

Betances STEM School – Race and Equity at BSTEM – Staff Professional Development
Equity in Education Workshops – Intro to Equity [6 two-hour workshops] – General Enrollment
Equity in Education Workshops – Equity in Practice [3 full-day workshops] – General Enrollment
Equity in Education Workshops – Equity Intensive [3 two-day workshops] – General Enrollment
Farmington High School – Co-Creating Equity Shifts: Institutionalizing Equity – 4-part Staff Professional Development
Great Path Academy – Co-Creating Equity Shifts: Institutionalizing Equity – Staff Professional Development
Harriet Beecher Stowe Center – Race/Racism, Oppression, Social Justice & Equity – Staff Professional Development
Hartford Public Schools – Equity Index – Assessment & Consultation: 4 schools
The Hartford – Equity: Beyond Diversity – Presentation and workshop
Kingswood-Oxford School – Race and Equity at KO – Staff Professional Development
Newman’s Own Foundation – Your Stories [In]Equity – Fellows multi-day workshop
Public Allies – Facilitation for Social Justice – Training session for 2nd year Allies
Story and Soil Café – Racial Equity at Story & Soil – Staff Professional Development
Teach for America – Power, Privilege and Oppression - Foundational Frameworks – Staff Professional Development
Wadsworth Atheneum – Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Day – Facilitated Conversation
Wadsworth Atheneum – Arts and Empathy Program – Staff Professional Development

STUDENTS

CAS Connecticut Association of Schools – Student Leadership Conferences
CREC – Building Transformational Community and Ally-ship – Youth Empowerment Summit for Open Choice students
Farmington West Woods Upper Elementary School
Courageous Cats: Recognizing & Celebrating our Differences – Student Workshop
Farmington Irving A. Robbins Middle School
Equity Leadership – Student Workshop
Great Path Academy
Co-Creating Equity – Student Workshops
Simsbury High School
Kindness to Consciousness – Student Workshops

We believe that changed people change systems.
EISCA (Equity-Informed School Climate Assessment)

STAFF, PARENTS/FAMILIES, STUDENTS

- Faculty Presentations at Manchester Public Schools (MPS)
- Interviews with MPS Administrators, Certified and Non-Certified Staff
- Multi-day Ethnographic Site Visits in MPS
- Affinity-Based Focus Groups of MPS Staff, Students, and Families

SURVEYS OF THE MPS COMMUNITY:

- 3,100 STUDENT SURVEYS
- 2,700 FAMILY SURVEYS
- 1,100 SCHOOL STAFF SURVEYS

Discovery Camp

GRADES 5 & 6

- Back to School Events
- Parent Information Nights
- School Open Houses
- 2 Weeks of Intensive Staff Training

STUDENTS ATTENDED OUR SOCIAL JUSTICE RESIDENTIAL CAMP IN AN 8-WEEK SEASON!
CELEBRATIONS!

Cheers to 25 Years

It was an inspiring evening on September 28, 2017 as we celebrated the 25th “Birthday” of our founding in 1992, when Paul Newman conceived of the program to help children of various races, cultures, and backgrounds learn to understand and respect each other. The event brought together many dedicated people who have guided and aided our work for racial equity through the years. Guests participated in an interactive timeline illustrating our history, enjoyed the music of Val Ramos and Tere Luna, and closed with a candlelight ceremony that is done with our camp students. Sponsors included Newman’s Own Foundation, The Gammons Hoaglund Company, Insurance Providers Group, Binh-Co Tran, Premier Accounting, and Newman’s Own Inc. Thank you to all for helping us mark this important milestone.

Board Chair Diane Kearney shared, “The Discovery Center, in its evolution, has become the organization that can show districts that race does matter, that we can and must talk about it. We, thanks to all of you, are on that road. Let’s make the next 25 years a journey to a place of equity for all students—a place we’ve never been.”

New Name Launch

On June 7, 2018 we celebrated an important moment in our history. We had a memorable event at Real Art Ways, where we kicked off our new name and brand identity with 120 partners, all committed to equitable education! Our new name, RE-Center Race & Equity in Education, expresses our dedication to helping transform K-12 schools into equitable learning environments free from impacts of racism. Our organization is evolving, and always keeping students in the center of everything we do.
Focus on Financial Health:
RE·Center audited financial results for the July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018 fiscal year:

RE·CENTER REVENUE FY 2017-18

RE·CENTER EXPENSES FY 2017-18
RE·Center is very grateful to the following people and organizations for contributions made between July 1, 2017 and June 30, 2018. You all make positive change possible!

A special thank you to Newman’s Own Foundation for continued support of program development, organizational capacity-building, our fabulous Newman’s Own Foundation Fellow, and more.

**FOUNDATIONS**

- Aetna Foundation
- Ahearn Family Foundation
- Aon Foundation
- The Barnes Foundation, Inc.
- Elizabeth Carse Foundation, Bank of America
- Cigna Foundation
- Fund for Greater Hartford
- William Caspar Graustein Memorial Fund
- Guthrie Family Charitable Fund
- Hartford Foundation for Public Giving
- Maximillian E. & Marion O. Hoffman Foundation, Inc.
- Newman’s Own Foundation
- The Reynolds Charitable Foundation Fund at Jewish Community Foundation of Greater Hartford
- SBM Charitable Foundation

**INDIVIDUALS and ORGANIZATIONS**

- Anonymous (17)
- Chris and Michelle Agnew
- Younus Ahmed
- Bret and Tobey Anderson
- Khalilah Arrington
- Robert Ater
- Roland Axelson
- Doris Bachand
- Noah Baerman and Kate Ten Eyck
- Sarah Barzee
- Evelyn Benoit and Tom Goodrum
- Fernando Betancourt
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- Bob Haggett and Susan Pietrogallo
- Derek Hall
- Wendy Harwin
- Roszena Haskins
- John and Susan Heard
- Wendy Brown
- Helmkamp
- Linda Hernandez
- Karen Hinds, Workplace Success Group
- Sandra Hoffmeier
- Katherine Holzman
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- Shana Hurley, Leadership for Educational Equity
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- Varun Khattar
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- Linda Knierim
- Holly Krueger
- Jackie Lee
- Anika Singh Lemar
- Jenna Levitt
- The Levitt family
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Jeanne Wu-Mok
Craig and Katie Zevn
Judy and John Zinn
Darlene Zoller

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Diana Echevarria, Newman’s Own Foundation
Sakshi Singhania
Nelson S. DaCunha, Senior Counsel, UTC
Anita Stone, Esq., Pratt & Whitney
Christine Peaslee, Esq., Pratt & Whitney
Priya Morganstern, Pro Bono Partnership

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Holden Powell
RE·Center Race & Equity in Education is committed to building an equitable and just world where everyone has what they need to grow and thrive. We work in partnership with youth, families, schools, and communities to facilitate nurturing spaces where people can understand and challenge systemic racism and oppression. In all of our programs, we practice critical questioning, cultivate connection, and inspire action.