



Elevating Youth Voice to Impact Systems Change

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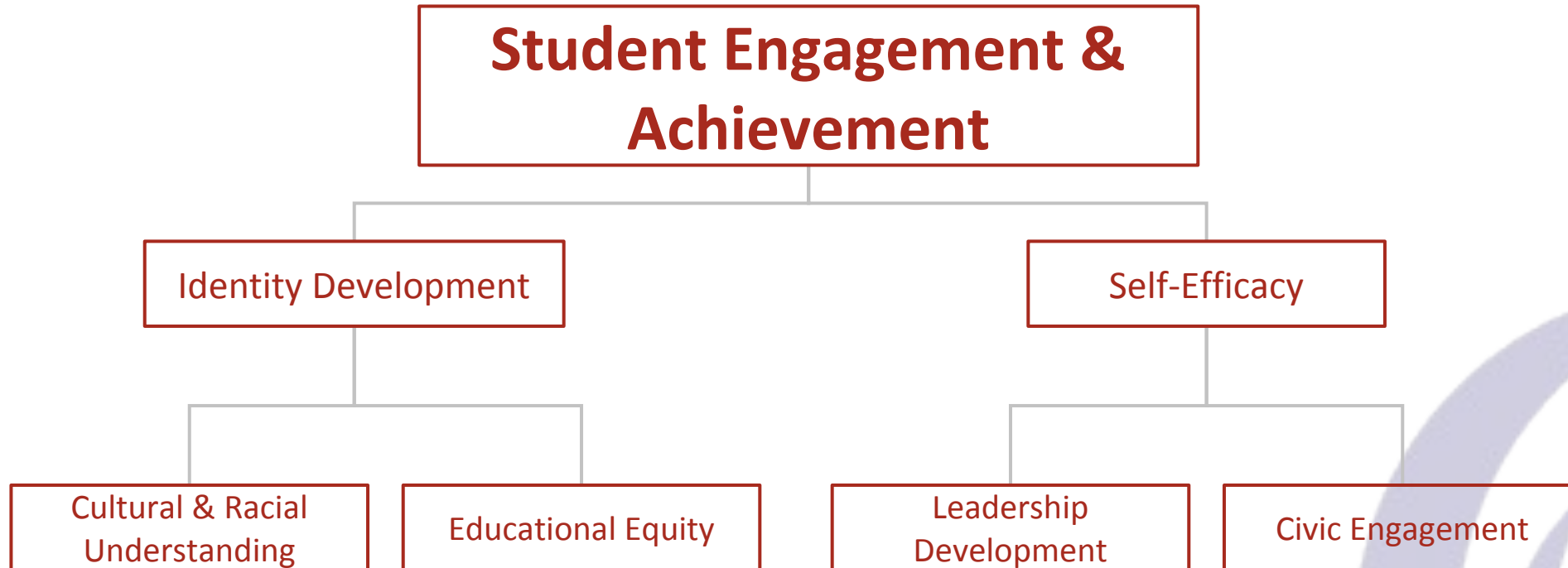


Evolution of Youth Executive Board (YEB)

- Founded in 2007
- Co-created by Heidi Fransen and 5 youth
- 40-45 youth from participating districts



Core Values of YEB



Youth Vision, Youth Voice in Action

- **Author & Illustrator of Children's Books**
 - Taste of Heritage
 - The Sparrow's Message
 - The Journey of Paw Htoo
 - Aponine the Colorless Butterfly
 - Saub Nag (pronounced Shoua Nah)
 - Where I Grow Up
- **Untold Stories From The Secret War & Civil Rights Movement**
 - Social studies curriculum written in alignment with state standards
 - Performing arts DVD accompaniment
- **Truth Telling at Professional Learning Spaces**
 - See details on next slide
- **McGraw-Hill Publishing Partnership**
 - Providing expertise and consulting on curriculum, training & vision
- **Transformative Power of Truth Telling**
 - Multi-media anthology (grant from MN Humanities Center)





Transformative Power of Truth Telling

Ongoing Partnerships:

- McGraw-Hill Education
 - Equity Roundtable
 - Minnesota Association of Administrators of State & Federal Education Programs (MAASFEP) Conference Workshop
 - *I Matter: Equity for ALL in Minnesota*; Crowne Plaza West, Plymouth, MN
- MN Humanities Center
 - Increase Engagement Through Absent Narratives: *Community Solutions Panelists* (occurs quarterly)
 - *Beyond Food--Making Connections and Leaving Mentally & Physically Full*
 - *Food Roots--Connecting Our Stories & Impact of Colonization*

Conference & Workshop Presentations

- Overcoming Racism, FREC (Facilitating Racial Equity Collaborative)
 - *The Transformative Power of Becoming Woke Through the Voices of Youth*
 - *The Inspiring Hope & Transformative Power of Youth*
- National Youth Leadership Conference
 - *The Transformative Power of Becoming Woke Through the Voices of Youth*
- SEED (Seeking Educational Equity & Diversity)
- Twin Cities Social Justice Education Conference
 - *Absent Narratives of The Secret War*
- Higher Education Consortium of Urban Education (HECUA)



YEB & Reimagine Minnesota: Common Goals, Shared Values

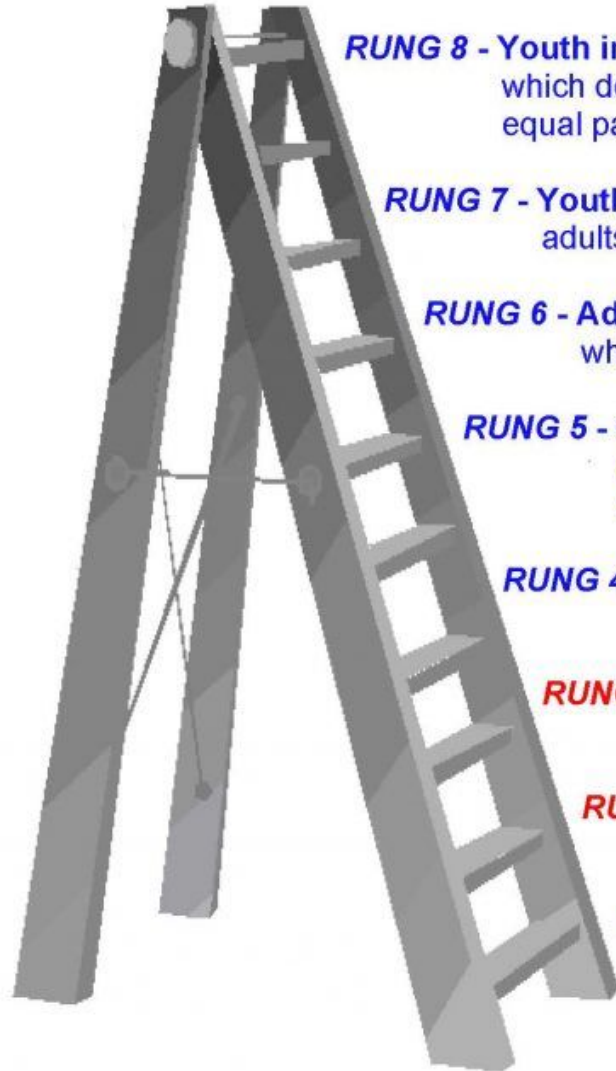


See All - Serve All - Support All

- **Address & eliminate the micro-aggressions:** biases, stereotypes & prejudices
- **Know the history** that brought us to where we are today
- **Speak up** - “What you permit, you promote”
- **Be able to speak about race,** racism, privilege and oppression

What The Research Says

ROGER HART'S LADDER OF PARTICIPATION



RUNG 8 - Youth initiated shared decisions with adults: Youth-led activities, in which decision making is shared between youth and adults working as equal partners.

RUNG 7 - Youth initiated and directed: Youth-led activities with little input from adults.

RUNG 6 - Adult initiated shared decisions with youth: Adult-led activities, in which **decision** making is shared with youth.

RUNG 5 - Consulted and informed: Adult-led activities, in which youth are consulted and informed about how their input will be used and the outcomes of adult decisions.

RUNG 4 - Assigned, but informed: Adult-led activities, in which youth understand purpose, decision-making process, and have a role.

RUNG 3 - Tokenism: Adult-led activities, in which youth may be consulted with minimal opportunities for feedback.

RUNG 2 - Decoration: Adult-led activities, in which youth understand purpose, but have no input in how they are planned.

RUNG 1 - Manipulation: Adult-led activities, in which youth do as directed without understanding of the purpose for the activities.

Recommendations for Authentic and Sustained Youth Empowerment

- **“Nothing about us without us”** - prioritizing the voices of those directly impacted is critical to strong identity development
- **Acknowledge the power differential** and be honest, thoughtful and strategic in creating shared meaning around common values
- **Grow and develop your own cultural and racial understanding;** understand own biases and privilege particularly those that are in alignment with dominant culture





Thank You

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