

A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

This past year was a year of learning, growing, and lighting the fire that fuels our work. The Board and Staff dedicated much time to understanding our place in our community, and reflecting on how we can better serve youth hungry for justice and change. We are extremely proud of where our team is, armed with a clear mission and vision for our future.

Looking at what's happening in the States and the approaching 150th anniversary of Canada's ongoing colonization, we know there is so much work to do. We will do this work by building and deepening our relationships, learning and reflecting, and fighting for justice for all. It is a journey we cannot wait to take with you.

Sharnelle and Danica

Check Your Head Board Co-chairs



I feel we have one common thing: interested in social justice issues and looking forward for a better future of the society.

- Youth Facilitator



84 WORKSHOPS & TRAININGS FACILITATED

2,333 YOUTH ENGAGED IN WORKSHOPS

25,000+ PEOPLE REACHED ONLINE

35 ACTIVE YOUTH VOLUNTEERS

2,500 VOLUNTEER HOURS



70,000 YOUTH ENGAGED SINCE 1999



2,400 WORKSHOPS FACILITATED SINCE 1999



17 YEARS OLD



5,000+ SOCIAL MEDIA FOLLOWERS



CHECK



YOUR



HEAD



Educate
Activate
Empower

2016

A YEAR IN REVIEW



PROGRAMS & PROJECTS

GLOBAL CITIZEN EDUCATION PROGRAM

Our core educational program continues to be the biggest focus of our work. It includes two main components: workshop delivery and volunteer engagement. Workshops are offered to youth in school and community settings, and cover a wide range of social, economic and environmental justice topics. They are co-facilitated by our staff and peer youth facilitators, whom we train and support throughout the year. We also deliver custom workshops and skills-based training that supports youth leadership.

INCLUSION & ANTI-RACISM PROJECT

This project was launched in summer 2016 with 12 youth participants joining to learn knowledge and skills in facilitation, goal-setting, action planning and addressing issues of discrimination in their schools and communities. Youth learnt from community members on diverse issues ranging from migrant justice, intergenerational-relationship building, art for social justice, human rights violations in Canada, place-based history, and local grassroots struggles. Youth developed action projects that contribute to their communities and bring peer-led education to local schools.

GREENEST CITY YOUTH LEADERS

We worked with Environmental Youth Alliance and Growing Chefs to provide youth education and engagement around environmental sustainability with a social and economic justice lens in schools around Vancouver. This project contributed to the implementation of the City of Vancouver Greenest City 2020 Action Plan.

EVENTS

LETS TALK ABOUT WORK

We held a dialogue with non-unionized young workers on barriers they experience in the workplace such as working conditions, access to benefits, discrimination, and other issues and solutions. Supported by the BC Federation of Labour, this event was one of consultations held to inform the development of a Workers' Centre in BC.

NATIONAL CANADA FILM DAY

We participated in this national initiative by organizing a film screening of Rhymes For Young Ghouls, an acclaimed drama and the feature film debut of Canadian writer-director Jeff Barnaby. With 30 youth in attendance, we watched and discussed this film about a young Indigenous girl's resiliency in the face of the Indian residential school system in her Mi'gmaq community.

FOOD SOVEREIGNTY & FOOD JUSTICE 101

We partnered with the Greater Vancouver Food Bank as a part of their educational pilot to develop and deliver a full day training to their staff, volunteers and community organizers around food security, sovereignty and justice.

FINANCES

SEPTEMBER 1, 2015 - AUGUST 31, 2016

Total Revenues: \$164, 075

Total Expenses: \$169,904



I would recommend this program to my peers and friends. It was a great introduction to anti-oppression, activism and organizing in the community, and popular education facilitation. It is a great way to meet like-minded individuals and engage in meaningful learning.

- Inclusion and Anti-Racism Project Youth Participant



PROGRAMMING PARTNERS

BC Federation of Labour
BC Health Coalition
Broadway Youth Resource Centre
Byrne Creek Secondary
Collingwood Neighbourhood House
Environmental Youth Alliance
Greater Vancouver Food Bank
Growing Chefs
Hua Foundation
Leave Out Violence (LOVE BC)
Peak House – Pacific Youth and Family Resources Society
PeerNetBC
Robert Lee YMCA
Roundhouse Radio
Theatre for the Living
UBC Centre for Community Engaged Learning
UBC English Language Institute

SUPPORTERS

BC Government and Service Employees' Union
BC Health Coalition
BC Teachers' Federation
Coast Capital Savings Credit Union
CUPE BC
Friends of Check (monthly donors)
Health Sciences Association of BC
Hospital Employees' Union
Individual donors
Lush Fresh Handmade Cosmetics
The Hamber Foundation
The Province of British Columbia
Vancouver Foundation
Vancouver Social Justice League

VOLUNTEERS

Afifa Hashimi
Angelo King
Anjee Parmar
Ari Havusha
Emily Aspinwall
Emily Bridge
Emily Gorham
Emma Warner Chee
Helena Kim
Jackie Peat
Jel Kocmaruk
Jessie Isomura
Julieanna Foss
Justin Rawlings
Justine Burlo
Katie Fajber
Kira Pidzamecky
Laura Bicknell
Lovely Ranges
Mhicaella Jane Lopez
Michele Walter
Miranda Bahng
Monika Saran
Mutia Juristika
Ne Khazee
Neha Nemade
Omar Chu
Roger Wang
Rowena Sahota

VOLUNTEERS

Sabeena Nowara
Sarah Buddhason
Sayeh Yousefi
Stephania Domingo
Tania Thomas
Tina Madani Kia
Vesna Stoicovici
Zumana Chowdhury

BOARD MEMBERS

Sharnelle Jenkins-Thompson (Co-Chair)
Danica Black (Co-Chair)
Megan Ryland (Secretary)
Allison Jones (Treasurer)
Danielle VanderEnde
Elise Barber
Megan Branson
Mauree Matsusaka
Tasha Henderson
Lena Shillington

STAFF MEMBERS

Anastasia Gaisenk (Executive Director)
Aleks Besan (Education Program Coordinator)
Erica Isomura (Inclusion Project Coordinator)
Milad Moradi Monfared (Fundraising & Office Administrator)
Marianne Bros (Bookkeeper)