

# Creative Youth Development Outcomes and Indicators Framework

Guided by Creative Youth Development (CYD) practitioners, CYD program alums, and research, this framework expands the common language for the field offering a menu of outcomes and indicators for organizations as they measure the impact of their programs. Understanding how youth feel in a program is essential to creating a supportive and effective environment. By actively listening to their feedback, observing their engagement, and fostering open communication, organizations can gain valuable insights into their experiences. CYD organizations should be able to find aspects of themselves in the indicators that help them identify what is working well and where improvements are needed, ensuring that their programs meet young people's needs and empower them to grow.



## Create

- Creativity & Craft
- Voice and Storytelling

### **Young People Develop Their Cognitive, Creative, and Artistic Skills.**

Young people need places of support, in partnership with adult mentors, where they can design strategies for artistic action and pursue learning through multiple contexts. They develop and showcase their skills in thinking imaginatively about the world around them through high-quality arts practices that build on their cultural legacies. They are able to gain artistic and expressive skills, as well as strengthen their abilities to innovate, think critically, and solve problems.



## Connect

- Self-Discovery and Healing
- Connection, Collaboration, and Mutual Learning

### **Young People Explore and Build a Strong Sense of Self**

**in Relationship to Others.** Young people thrive with opportunities to strengthen their identities and develop meaningful relationships in creative environments. Identity development is a combination of how an individual sees themselves, how they relate to others, and how they integrate into the communities to which they belong. Young people strengthen their personal and social identities as they better understand past and present traumas and stereotypes, explore multiple possible selves, and build hope and desired paths for their futures.



## Catalyze

- Social Justice
- Cultivating Leadership

### **Young People Spark Change in Their Lives and Communities.**

Creative learning experiences engage young people as cultural workers and change-makers at the center of communities, capable of advancing social justice causes. Young people become skilled in using the arts as tools to exert their voice and influence and as a way to connect to issues that matter to them. In so doing, they become leaders in sharing more diverse forms of cultural expression and in better understanding and transforming systems needing change.

---

*The Youth Arts Impact Network is a Peer Learning Community of over 125 CYD organizations in Massachusetts. It works to strengthen the local youth arts community and build capacity of the larger Creative Youth Development (CYD) field, resulting in youth arts organizations better serving young people and maximizing their impact. The Youth Arts Impact Network is led by EdVestors as part of Boston Public Schools Arts Expansion, and is facilitated in partnership with the Massachusetts Cultural Council. Learn more at <https://youthartsimpactnetwork.weebly.com/>*

*The [YAIN CYD Task Force](#) gratefully acknowledges the work of the [National CYD Partnership](#) ([framework](#), [chart](#), and [report](#)), the William & Flora Hewlett Foundation's [Ten Dimensions of Powerful Arts Education](#), the [Learning for Justice's Indicators](#) (LFJI), and the work of the [Boston Youth Arts Evaluation Project](#), all which formed the inspiration and foundation for this Framework.*