FIELDWORK WITH THE YOUTH ART AND SELF-EMPOWERMENT PROJECT

Kelaiah Thomas '25 and Orion Klassen '25

YASP and the Hub Fellowship Project

Mission: YASP is dedicated to helping youth and families navigate the criminal justice system and end the incarceration of youth through community building and support.

Overview of Praxis

During our time at YASP, we worked with staff and the Hub Fellowship fellows. We learned about the criminal justice system by working with youths who have been directly impacted by the carceral system.

Hub Fellowship

- Workshops to improve life skills
- 6-12 month paid fellowship
- All fellows have been impacted by the carceral system
- Promotes healing and resiliency

Participatory Defense Hub

- Consistent meeting times
- Building community
- Aiding youth and families navigating the court system
- Providing support
- Active participation
- Structured system

Course Materials

The Cycle of Socialization - Bobbie Harro

- The cycle of socialization impacts all aspects of life.
- YASP helps us break away from the cycle and promotes healing

Racism in the United States - Miller and Garren, Chapter 10

- Different organizations can be discriminatory, non-discriminatory, and antiracist
- YASP is an antiracist organization

Personal Learning

Kelaiah Thomas

- Adapted to the feeling of being uncomfortable
- Be prepared to change your expectations.
- Being honest and transparent is an important part of building relationships

Orion Klassen

- Let go of what you think you know
- What's said here stays here, what's learned here leaves here.
- Flexibility, adaptability, and open-mindedness are essential for doing work like this.

Course: Advancing Racial Justice
Faculty Advisor: Darlyne Bailey
Field Supervisor: Gabby Jackson
Field Site: Youth Art and Self-Empowerment Project
Field Website: yasproject.com