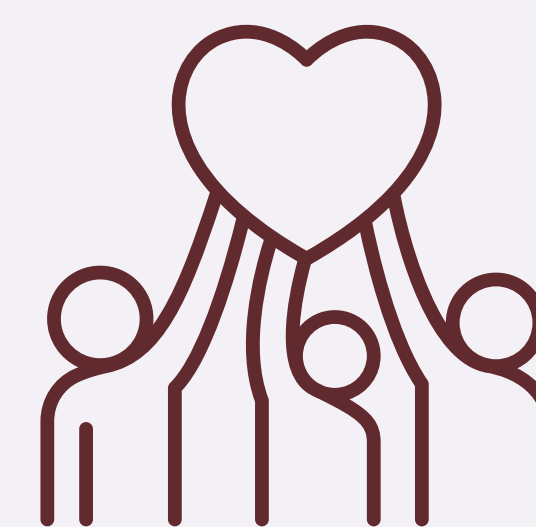


YOUTH ART & SELF-EMPOWERMENT PROJECT

THE PRACTICE OF THEORIES OF TRANSFORMATIVE JUSTICE



In 1995, Act 33 created the Direct File Juvenile (DFJ) process in Pennsylvania. DFJ means children under the age of 18, are directly charged and tried in adult court for certain crimes.



YASP's Participatory Defense Hub is a youth-led response to the incarceration of children as adults. Participatory defense is a community organizing model that **EMPOWERS** individuals and communities to **TRANSFORM** the landscape of power in the court system.

My internship with YASP focused on court advocacy, DFJ data tracking, and the Participatory Defense Hub. Community led alternatives, their structure, challenges, and impact, imagine futures that empower community members to transform their lives, and the lives of others.

My internship with YASP has made me a stakeholder of the Philadelphia community and has allowed me to apply my academic skills to invaluable community work. Pairing theoretical learning with active participation in community organizing has given me critical skills necessary for the work I aim to dedicate my life to.



KIRA ELLIOTT
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