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Licón and Stephen T. Russell*

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Project Connect Zine

Sarah Gonzales

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Tyler Clementi, age 18
Samantha Johnson, age 13
Aiyisha Hassan, age 19
Harrison Brown, age 15
Seth Welsh, age 13
Raymond Chase, age 19
Brandon Elizares, age 16
Phillip Parker, age 14
Zach Harrington, age 19
Jamey Rodemeyer, age 14
Jack Reese, age 17

Nothing is more inviting now than shiny steel shaking as it sets against my temple.

I don't understand why I was born a fuck-up
Why it had to be me that no one would love
Why the only thing that shined in my life,
Was a hand gun.

So.
Boom.
That's it.

Project Connect Zine

Youth Activists from:

Chicago • Detroit • San Francisco • Tucson

shared knowledge + their work around...

YOUTH • RIGHTS • SEXUALITY

with each other in Fall 2012 / Spring 2013. They collectively created this ZINE to:

- show solidarity.
- inspire long term activism.
- build community.

¡Muchas Gracias a todos!

- Alliance Youth Committee, Chicago, IL
Illinois Safe Schools Alliance
Project Safe Spaces
University of Illinois at Chicago
- Detroit Hispanic Development Corporation, Detroit MI
Alternatives for Girls
Ruth Ellis Center
Detroit Youth Passages
Florida International University
University of Michigan
- ELAYO, Youth Advisory Group, San Francisco CA
Empower Latino Youth
California Latinas for Reproductive Justice
Health Equity Institute
San Francisco State University
- Tucson Youth Poetry Slam, Tucson AZ
Crossroads Collaborative
University of Arizona
Spoken Futures, INC

Sarah Gonzales
TruthSarita, LLC

Stacey Sullivan
Illinois Safe Schools

Stacey Horn
University of Illinois at Chicago

FORD FOUNDATION

MISSION STATEMENT

We educate youth about the issues that affect them so that they can become leaders, take action, and make long term change!

Some things the YC does:
 - Plan leadership opportunities that queer youth can participate in
 - Provide training to youth's own youth
 - 2 Summits for GLBAs in the Chicago area
 - Give out the business of at DragSquad
 - The Night of Noise - drag dance party after the Day of Silence
 - Projects like:

- Special Policies Protecting Trans Youth in Chicago Public Schools
- Schooling Abouts on the IMPACTABLE DE YOUTH LEADERSHIP ADDRESSING ABOUT PERFORMING
- (Re)claiming Survival Justice FRAMEWORKS in LGBTQ+ ACTIVISM

CHANGE
Power
STRENGTH
Unity
Revolution

DARE
Family
Honour
Love
Freedom
Detroit Youth Passages
• Detroit Hispanic Development Corp
• Alternative for Girls
• Ruth Ellis

change
people
things
values
See
better
organisation
behaviour
way
important
changes
make
work
thinking
may
management
knowledge
use
change
Teamwork
Together

Acceptance is
the key to
change

Change will not come if we wait for some other person or
some other time. We are the ones we've been waiting for.
We are the change that we seek.

make
Positive
Choices

Collaborate
Express yourself

Love who you are
not what people want
you to be.

Alternatives For Girls
Loving and kind organizations that not only wants to help you change
but is the Change.

ELAYO

We Are:

Diverse

We are individuals coming together as a community to change perspectives, create assets, & support each other towards success. We search for a positive outcome within each other while

looking towards strength in our communities in order to change & break stereotypes. The different pathways & diversity we bring forth, allow us to open & expand our minds.

WHAT WE
~WRITE~
ABOUT

US/Mexico Border
Stay Informed

AZ
THIS MODERN WORLD
Youth
Movement
"Shouldn't be in America!"

SPEAK

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Sent first ever Tucson team to Brave New Voices, 2012—an international youth poetry festival
- Representatives at School Board meetings
- Several poets have been published or are working on publications
- TYPs has expanded outside Tucson to neighboring cities who participate in slams and youth organized work-shops

SHARED STRUGGLE

SHARED HISTORY

To widen access to literary arts and community engagement for young people across Southern Arizona. Through education, reverence and love. We use poetry as a tool to honor yesterday and live today!

TUCSON YOUTH POETRY SLAM

a program of
spoken futures, inc.
with support:

TYPs uses slam poetry to advocate social justices, unknown stories and YOUTH EMPOWERMENT through performance and writing.

TYPs
Holds WRITING WORKSHOPS, BUILDS YOUTH ORGANIZERS AND HOST MONTHLY YOUTH POETRY SLAMS AT

Bentley's
HOUSE OF COUNTRY ARTS

www.TucsonYouthPoetrySlam.org
@tucsonyouthslam • facebook.com/groups/tucsonyouthslam

ARTSPEAK
POETRY CENTER
Celebrating 25 years

CASA LIBRE
art & culture

crossroads collaborative
youth • community • culture • change

TruthSarita LLC
POETRY SLAM

YOUNG VOICES OF SOUTHERN AZ

POWER

TYPS: Founded in 2010 by Logan Phillips and Maya Asher.

Competitive poetry reading of original work. Set up in 3 minute performances in three rounds, utilizing a mic or strictly diaphragm.

Aside from monthly competitive slams, poets also perform in community events

Like the LGBTQ Anti-Bullying Event and the TUSD School Board meeting

ARIZONA

YOUTH

J. Sarah Gonzales believes the intersection of art and activism is a critical place for community survival. After years of working for Universities and non-profits doing community work and youth organizing on racial justice in Arizona, she founded her own national social justice consulting company, TruthSarita, LLC which supports building collective power to dismantle inequity. Sarah also serves as Codirector of Spoken Futures, Inc. developing programs including Tucson Youth Poetry Slam and Liberation Lyrics, which create spaces for youth to process and address issues such as the school to prison pipeline, LG-BTQ rights and migrant justice through spoken word poetry. In addition to facilitation, training and youth organizing work, Sarah is an extensive haiku writer, fierce dance floor occupier and a trickster performance artist whose recent work landed her in 6th place in the Arizona US Presidential Primaries in 2012. She can be reached at sarah@truthsarita.com.