Focus on Youth: Awakening Youth Voice and Engagement in Community Heritage through the Implementation of a Youth Participatory Empowerment Model

Date: Monday, March 23, 2020
Time: 12:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m.
Place: Technology and Learning Center, Conference Room 1

Abstract
Citizen engagement in community and public life is vital to a healthy democracy. Young people have a unique place in community citizenry; they are often not yet able to vote or serve in powerful roles, but they have much at stake for the future. Youth can be powerful allies to a participatory culture. The purpose of this qualitative, action research study was to arm youth and youth mentors with a Youth Participatory Empowerment Model (YPEM) to identify and address a community heritage or social justice need. This study used interviews and observations with individuals and focus groups to observe and record the process of empowerment of youth with YPEM based on attributes defined in the Social Change Model of Leadership Development (Astin, 1996, HERI, 1996). The researcher coded emerging themes to determine what interventions were most effective and whether youth or youth mentors experienced a perceptual change about youth voice, youth engagement, or youth empowerment through the implementation of YPEM.

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