



Learning from Latinx Youth as Patients and Researchers at Aquí Para Tí

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Background

Youth Participatory Action Research (YPAR) is a method of research that empowers youth with the opportunity to investigate issues in their community that they find important. YPAR is an especially powerful tool for engaging underrepresented and minoritized young people to take the lead in a discovery based process of inquiry, reflection, and problem solving.

Aquí Para Tí (APT) is a clinic-based development program that provides support to Latinx youth and their families. APT's Youth Advisory Board (YAB) is a cohort of Latinx young people tasked with providing vital input to improve clinical practices that are deemed effective and culturally relevant by this team of youth. This year, two medical students served as mentors to the YAB and facilitated a YPAR project with the goal of their final product informing healthcare providers on how to best provide health services to Latinx youth.

CRITICAL ANALYSIS

gaining knowledge about systems that create inequality *through curriculum and field trips*



Science Museum's *RACE: are we so different?* exhibit teaches youth about racial inequities in health



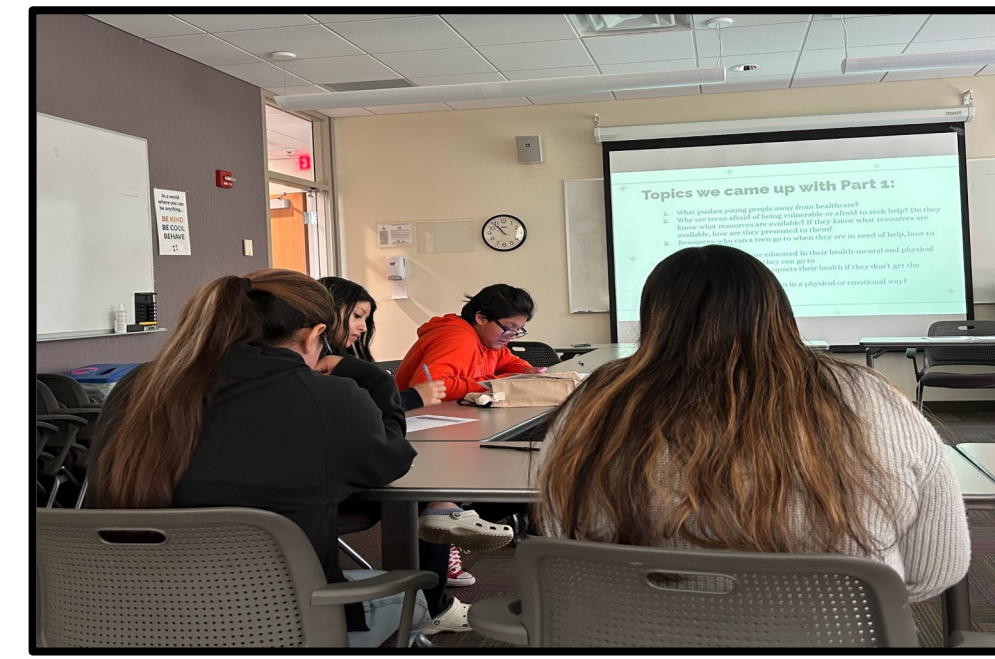
Tour of local photojournalist Wing Young Huie's studio informs youth on photo analysis



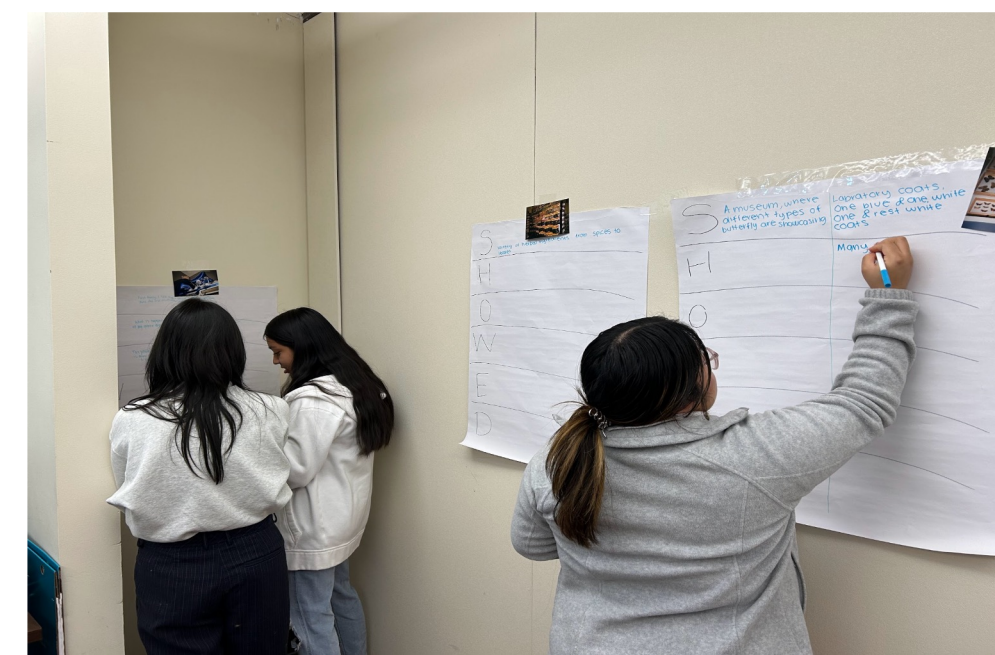
Latinx Youth with Stethoscopes: youth participate in clinical simulations and attend panel with Latinx healthcare workers

CRITICAL REFLECTION

contextualizing health equity issues by *developing a research project*



YAB leaders develop the research question **"How does the Latinx identity impact youth's access to health?"**



Youth use the photovoice method: capturing photos when the research question is relevant in their daily lives; later they analyze them together

CRITICAL ACTION

taking action against oppressive structures by *advocating for change*



YAB leaders share their findings with healthcare workers, family, friends, community members, and other stakeholders at gallery presentation

AGENCY

developing a sense of one's power and capability

YPAR experience empowered youth to be changemakers

"[This experience] guided youth to become more confident in their voice and advocate for themselves...it makes me want to become a leader and do the same thing and have the same influence that you guys have...I see you guys and think 'oh I could do that too' and I feel more confident... it's definitely helped me to want to have the same impact to others."

Sharing research opened doors for parents to recognize youth's agency

"That day [of the gallery] she [participant's mom] took in mind that I know what I can do and I know who I am... she posted a Facebook story and a lot of people were like 'are you gonna be a healthcare provider?' ...this made me realize I want to go into a medical career, because there's not a lot of Latinos [in medicine] so [participating] is a big opportunity."

Reflections and Insights on Field Trips

- Field trips were frequently cited by participants as the most memorable part of the empowerment curriculum
- Local field trips were key in providing youth with context on health equity and photography narratives, which prepared them to develop their YPAR project, ultimately contributing to their sense of confidence and ability to make change

Youth Recommendations

