



Community **Futures**,
Community **Lore**

01



Stepping Stone 1

*in the CFCL's Youth-Led
Participatory Action Research Series*

Stepping Stones

1

GET READY FOR OUR PROJECT

Learn more about Youth-led Participatory Action Research and the values behind it

Assess our community & organization's readiness to do a YPAR project

2

GET TO KNOW OUR PROJECT & TEAM

Build our team identity & relationships

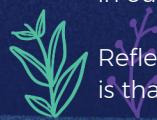
Team norms: decide how we will work together

Become familiar with our project & youth-led participatory action research (YPAR)

3

CHOOSING A FOCUS: WHAT DO WE WANT TO CHANGE?

Learn about past and present issues in our community



Reflect on what it is that we care about

Decide the focus for our project

4

DEVELOP OUR RESEARCH PLAN

Develop our research question(s)

Choose final product & research method(s)

Create our research tool(s)



Stepping Stone 1

Get Ready for Our Project

So you are thinking about doing a Youth-led Participatory Action Research (YPAR) project in your community or organization. Are you ready? In this first stepping stone, you will learn more about Community Futures Community Lore's approach to YPAR, assess your community and organization's readiness to do a project, plan and prepare for your project, and recruit your team. Ready? Set? Go!

1

Get oriented to the fundamentals of CFCL's approach to Youth-led Participatory Action Research

- » (1.1) CFCL Core Values (tapping into our motivation and inspiration for this work)
- » (1.2) What is YPAR? (becoming more familiar with youth-led participatory action research)
- » (1.3) The 9 Stepping Stones (learning about our approach to YPAR)
- » (1.4) How to Use the Stepping Stone Guides (using and adapting this resource to fit your needs)

2

Are you ready? Assess readiness to organize and implement a YPAR project in your community

- » (Activity 1.5) Spectrum of Youth Leadership and Participation (recognizing degrees of youth engagement)
- » (Activity 1.6) Ready or Not? (assessing organizational and community readiness)
- » (Activity 1.7) For Our Town (adapting to local context, conditions and goals)
- » (Activity 1.8) Our North Star (creating your vision for youth voice and intergenerational partnership)
- » (1.9) In It Together (understanding how adults can stop adultism)

3

Are you set? Reflect on advice from others who have implemented YPAR projects before

- » (1.10) Snapshots (exploring stories from other YPAR projects)
- » (1.11) If We Only Knew... (gaining advice from other YPAR projects)

Stepping Stone 1

Get Ready for Our Project (cont.)

4

Get oriented to the fundamentals of CFCL's approach to Youth-led Participatory Action Research

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5

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Stepping Stone Tips

- » This stepping stone lays the foundation for your entire project and should not be overlooked or underemphasized!
- » Creating a clear structure and process—goals, timeline, framework and communication—are vital in this stepping stone.
- » Although little training has begun, organizational staff (youth and adults) will need to work closely together to prepare for project success!
- » Everyone involved needs to have a clear understanding of the YPAR process before a project is initiated, including youth participants, adult allies and partners.
- » It is important to have transparent discussions and set expectations as

early as possible regarding any significant project parameters that might impact roles, responsibilities, decision-making processes, or the project's timeline, objectives or issue areas.

- » Resource needs will vary according to the scope and goals of each particular project, but almost all projects require: adult and youth time; meeting space; basic materials and equipment; project-specific materials and equipment; and training and technical assistance.

Time Commitment: 3 – 5 sessions.





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02



Stepping Stone 2

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Stepping Stones

