

Milestones and Momentum: A Year in Review

Your support has driven our work forward this year.
As we approach year-end, let's celebrate our accomplishments together.
Thank you for your invaluable allyship.
Here's to continued success in the coming year.



Always Leading, Rarely Seen - Series Gathering #3

REIMAGINING YOUTH MOVEMENTS BEYOND PATERNAL & COLONIAL GAZE



We opened 2023 with the 3rd gathering of the **“Always Leading, Rarely Seen” REIMAGINING YOUTH MOVEMENTS BEYOND PATERNAL & COLONIAL GAZE**. This series was an opportunity to stake claim to a radical and intersectional vision for children’s rights- one that contends with racism and neo-colonialism as root causes of children’s vulnerability. See key highlights of the event below:

- The third gathering was a landmark event, uniting child and youth activists from diverse movements in a cross-border dialogue.
- This crucial conversation centered on their pivotal roles in challenging colonial and adult-centric norms that historically defined "good youth activists."
- At this gathering, the youth activists challenged entrenched colonial and adultist frameworks that construct narratives of the 'ideal' youth activist.

Seeking **SAFETY**

Learning Brief vol.2, no.1



Over 6 weeks in summer 2022, the Children’s Rights Innovation Fund (CRIF) and the Just Beginnings Collaborative (JBC) posed two questions to seven young activists in Brooklyn, New York. We asked (1) “What does safety mean to you? and (2) “If you could move actual money to people, places and institutions that created safety for children and young people in Brooklyn, where would you put it?”. Here is what we’ve learned:

1. Safety is rooted in place – *It is not generic nor is it global*

There is no generic safety, rather it is anchored in the unique context of communities and their distinct needs.

2. Safety and freedom go hand in hand - *Free to be safe, safe to be free*

Safety cannot merely be about protection – or isolating children and youth from perceived danger.

3. Safety of children and young people relies on the material well-being of their communities - *Safety cannot exist in isolation:* Safety is inextricably linked to the material well-being of communities.

4. Safety must make space for dignity - *Vehicles of harm cannot simultaneously be 'systems of safety'*

An institution's mandate of being a 'provider of safety' cannot be fulfilled while its procedures, policies, culture and ways of being threaten the humanity, dignity, and self respect of its 'beneficiaries', staff, communities, or fellow human beings.

5. Relationships are a Site of Safety - Safety comes in strong communal networks
Positive connections with peers, family, educators, and mentors create support networks that bolster individual resilience and overall well-being.

What's Possible...

when funders follow young people's lead.



CRIF, in collaboration with We Trust You(th), challenged philanthropy to learn and strategize WHILE funding children and youth movements more robustly. In 2024, participating donors will experience participatory and youth-driven grantmaking in real time, plan for institutional and sector-side change, and explore avenues of accountability to children and youth.

OFFERINGS:

LEARN - Experiential Learning - Join one in-person introductory training institute in late 2023 + four virtual learning spaces across 2024 that transform ways of working with and for children and youth.

FUND - Participatory + Youth-driven Grantmaking - Contribute to CRIF's joint fund to move resources directly to child and youth activists through a strategy developed by child and youth activists.

PLAN - Pathway Planning - Through guided exercises, you will plan your organization's pathway to more participatory, youth-centered and decolonized grantmaking strategies.

ACCOUNTABILITY - Youth-led Accountability - A proportion of all funds will go towards building a youth-led accountability system for long term progress.

decolonize! Learning Brief 1



CRIF's decolonize! grantmaking portfolio embodies a groundbreaking approach within the children's rights movement, envisioning a radical overhaul of resource allocation methods to confront enduring legacies of colonialism, anti-Blackness, and adultism experienced by youth activists. Through its inaugural round of grants, decolonize! embarked on a profound exploration, tracing the haunting path of the trans-Atlantic slave trade, with a mission to support youth activists combatting the deep-seated effects of historical injustices across diverse regions.

Key Learnings:

Holistic Support Beyond Finance: The grants extended by decolonize! weren't just financial aids; they symbolized a commitment to amplifying the voices of those directly impacted by colonialism, racism, and systemic barriers.

Empowerment of Youth Activists: The initiative aimed to empower and uplift youth activists who are on the frontlines of dismantling systemic barriers and driving societal change in their respective regions.

Addressing Historical Injustices: CRIF's bold step in reshaping the narrative confronted historical injustices head-on by recognizing the intertwined nature of colonialism, anti-Blackness, and adultism.

Catalyst for Change: The grants served as a catalyst, igniting hope for a future where youth activists spearhead the charge towards a more equitable and just world for everyone.

THANK YOU