



Mission

Through our **Theory of Liberation**, RYSE Center creates safe spaces grounded in social justice for young people to love, learn, educate, heal, and transform lives and communities.

Read more about our Theory of Liberation: rysecenter.org/our-approach

History

RYSE was born out of a **youth organizing movement** initiated in 2000 in response to a string of homicides near Richmond High School. Students organized more than 1,500 youth and adult community members to address the lack of safety at school and in the community. Young people, local officials, and stakeholders partnered to comprehensively assess youth-identified priorities and solutions.

On **October 18, 2008**, RYSE officially opened its doors. Since then, RYSE has **served nearly 4,000 youth members** and **reached 10,000 more** through outreach, workshops, and community events in Richmond and West Contra Costa County. RYSE helps youth step into their power so they can lead, dream, and love.

Values

- Safety
- Youth Leadership
- Justice + Equity
- Partnership
- Creativity
- Fun

Departments

- Education + Justice
- Youth Leadership + Advocacy
- Media, Arts + Culture
- Community Health

2018 Member Survey

- **97%** feel safer at RYSE than anywhere else.
- **91%** believe they can make a positive difference in their school and community.
- **92%** interact more with people of different races or culture at RYSE.
- **90%** have a better understanding of themselves, their emotions and feelings, and their community.
- **86%** feel truly loved at RYSE.
- **98%** feel like RYSE staff cares about them.

RYSE Programming At-A-Glance

Education + Justice

Strengthening young people's ability to successfully navigate education and juvenile justice systems, empowering them to be advocates for change and agents in their own liberation.

- Study Up! Tutoring
- College Access
- Resume + Cover Letter Workshops
- Open Education + Career Hours
- Partnerships with WCCU School District
- Case Management
- Streets to Success Diversion + Intervention
- Field Trips + College Tours
- SAT + CAHSEE Prep
- Workshops at Juvenile Hall

Youth Leadership + Advocacy

Ensuring young people serve as key stakeholders and decision-makers on issues and policies impacting their individual and collective well-being.

- Leadership Team Training + Retreats
- Richmond Youth Organizing Team (RYOT)
- Youth Organizing Conferences + Institutes
- RYOT-led workshops and events
- Youth-led Candidates Forum
- Team Academic + Career Planning
- Peer-to-peer voter registration
- Integrated Voter Engagement

Media, Arts + Culture

Elevating youth voices by providing access to loving and talented teaching artists, media equipment, and professional development training in the areas of music, video production, visual and performing arts.

- Graphic Design + Screenprinting
- Beat Production + Recording Sessions
- Urban Arts
- Spoken Word Poetry Workshops
- Photography Class
- Artist Career Development
- Video Production Workshops
- Multimedia Theory Productions
- Spoken Word in the Schools
- Community Events + Performances

Community Health

Providing young people with direct services, education, and advocacy to support individual and community health, and working towards policies and systems that are empathetic to their needs.

- Individual Counseling
- Young Men's Group + Sister Circle
- Alphabet Group (LGBTQQ)
- Anger Management Classes
- Tasty Tuesday Cooking Classes
- Fresh Friday Garden Class
- Crisis Intervention + Trauma Response
- Local Hospital Partnerships for Intervention
- Food Policy Council
- School-based support groups
- Trauma + Healing Trainings for Providers