

Pittsburgh is our home, too: Refugee arts and education for well-being

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Motivation

- Immigrants and refugees bring a wealth of skills and knowledges to a new place. They also face challenges in new places, such as receiving a quality education. This research aims to partner with refugee youth and families to better understand how education can serve to meet their needs and interests.

Project Description

- This is a Youth Participatory Action Research Project, meaning young people serve as co-researchers in the investigation to do the following:
 1. Design and select research questions
 2. Carry out research and analyze data
 3. Generate recommendations
 4. Present findings

Context

- ARYSE is an organization that has worked with refugees outside of school for eight years.
- This project builds on the work ARYSE is already doing by engaging with their Youth Steering Committee (15 students)
- This kind of research partnership with refugee youth can provide different insights into the kinds of educational experiences that would help meet their needs and interests, particularly in terms of arts education



How can arts and education contribute to the well being of immigrant and refugee youth and families in Pittsburgh?



Project Deliverables

Within a year, we aim to have:

1. Research questions designed by the Youth Steering Committee, and cross-verified by the refugee families as well as ARYSE staff. (Months 0-3)
2. Completed research based on the questions linked to education, particularly arts education. (Months 4-8)
3. Recommendations to share with schools as well as other organizations in Pittsburgh that serve immigrants and refugees. (Months 9-11)

After this year, a second project we will carry out focuses on researching what opportunities are available to refugee youth after they graduate high school

Potential Impact

- There are many that question the purpose and utility of our current education system.
- Many refugees have challenging experiences in schools
- This research can contribute to the ways educators – both in and out of schools – can think about the kinds of services that would meet the needs and interests of refugees.
- This study can also shed light on the availability of arts education in schools and whether this is consistent with what students and families desire as part of their educational experiences.