

About the Project

Engaging Girls, Changing Communities: Examining Girls' Processes of Civic Engagement and Leadership (EGCC). EGCC investigates how young women and girls engage in leadership and civic activities in new urban environments.

Armed with questions crafted to unearth a unique perspective on the lives of girls in the Y generation, our interviewers have been addressing issues that specifically identify enhancers and barriers to community participation girls face in their everyday lives.

EGCC strives to respond to concerns that girls' potential for civic engagement and leadership positions will remain untapped if new ways of nurturing girls' leadership are not pursued. EGCC promotes the development of girls and future leaders and invites girls to re-define leadership in their own terms. Read more about EGCC at the Jean Augustine website:

»<http://edu.apps01.yorku.ca/jeanaugustinechair/projects-research/egcc>



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1. Knowledge Mobilization activity in March and Summer 2013

Funding

SSHRC www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca

Jean Augustine Chair

<http://edu.apps01.yorku.ca/jeanaugustinechair/>

Community Partners

Multicultural Council of Windsor and Essex County <http://www.themcc.com/>

Skills for Change <http://www.skillsforchange.org/>

Thorncliffe Neighbourhood Office

»<http://www.thorncliffe.org/>

Working Women Community Centre

»<http://www.workingwomencc.org/>

Winter 2013 Activities Toronto

Knowledge Mobilization Activity

On December 17th, 2012, in collaboration with Working Women Community Centre, EGCC hosted a community forum on the theme of how parents as role models can change the future of girls. This is one of the 8 themes that emerged from the interviews conducted with girls over 8 months during 2012. For more information on this forum go to <http://engaginggirlschangingcommunities.blogspot.ca/>

Orientation of Youth Initiative Project (YIP)

In December 2012 the Youth Projects Initiative (YPI) Orientation took place at the Toronto Reference Library. This event allowed the YIP participants to meet the EGCC team, introduce each other and discuss how to proceed with the projects.

What's Coming

YIP participants will meet once a month to share the developments on their community projects.

AND

More Knowledge Mobilization activities are planned for March, April and May of 2013 where we will host community forums to discuss emerging themes from the peer led interviews.

A YIP based symposium is scheduled for July 2013.



Winter 2013 Activities Windsor

Rotary presentation/CBC

In December 2012 EGCC had the wonderful opportunity to present their project to the Rotary Club of Windsor and Essex county, attended by over 100 local business and influential community members. Valuable community connections with members who were interested in the project were forged. The event was also aired on the CBC news.

Windsor leadership presentation

In January 2013, EGCC presented to Leadership Windsor/Essex, a program for engaged citizens from different sectors of the city who are interested in taking on leadership roles in their fields and in the community. EGCC talked about participatory action research and its focus on letting the participants drive the research, and its advantages to tackling the issues that truly matter to the population being studied, in this case young women. We shared our results with them and made important connections with representatives from other community organizations who were interested in getting involved.

What's Coming

In January 2013, EGCC Windsor put out a second call for proposals. The winner of this funding was announced on Feb 20, 2013. We are looking forward to engaging more members of the community in our project. Progress for both projects will be shared at the FRG conference at the University of Windsor on March 21, 2013 and that the WLAG conference in Pacific Grove, California, on June 9, 2013. We also look forward to another symposium this summer with the York University team!

Summer & Fall 2012 Toronto

Youth Symposium

The Youth Symposium on girls' leadership took place at York University on July 14th 2012. The EGCC successfully brought together girls and young women with a network of researchers, public school professionals and youth-serving community organizations. Youth interviewers from both projects sites (Toronto and Windsor) presented their experiences and findings with the audience. Lastly, team building and brainstorming activities took place to strengthen networks of collaboration, discuss next steps and tap into the unique insight provided by youth from the communities for use in the development of the Youth Projects Initiative (YIP). A total of 37 attendees attend this great event. <http://yfile.news.yorku.ca/2012/07/11/girls-leadership-project-symposium-at-york-saturday/>

The Canadian Society for the Study of Education (CSSE) Conference

The CSSE Conference took place on September 9-12, 2012 at Niagara Falls, Ontario. Professor Yvette Daniel, Ali Malcom (EGCC Project Coordinator) and Nailah Peters (EGCC Data Coordinator) presented on "The pedagogy of the urban in the new urban environment of Toronto".

This session featured 3 papers which explore the meanings and complexities of the new urban environment as they are expressed through personal identities, challenges to mainstream tropes and processes of community-making. Key constructs examined are urban performativity, reclaiming of the power of naming, and the notion of difficult return.

Data Collection and Analysis

During the summer of 2012, youth interviewers conducted a total of 45 in depth interviews about how girls experience civic participation and leadership within their communities, everyday lives, and society as a whole. Data analysis is ongoing.

Youth Projects Initiative (YIP)

In the Fall of 2012, EGCC invited girls between the ages of 16 to 24 to re-define leadership in their own terms by providing them the space and resources to create and execute their own youth-led initiative or community project. Each selected project was funded up to \$1000 for a group and \$500 for one individual and would span over a 6-month period. By October 15th, EGCCToronto had received 14 proposals. The following 9 proposals have been funded:

Camp Wallflower

Project Participant: Vanessa Evangelista

Project Summary: Camp Wallflower entails a two-day camp at a community centre in Toronto for young girls age 11 to 13. Different guest speakers will present on different topics which will help girls discover their interests and what they would like to pursue in the future. The objective of this project is to empower young girls, help them gain confidence and motivate them to take on leadership roles.

Zone-in Bazaar

Project Participants: Maheen Fatima, Mumbasshira Nawar, Khadija Muzumil

Project Summary: Zone-in Bazaar is a one day, in-doors community event. The goal is to empower girls to educate and engage the community by addressing the issue of zoning bylaw. The event will have speeches by residents, politician, architect and conclude with ethnic dance performances of local cultures to celebrate the diversity and initiatives.

Lead Into Your Future

Project Participant: Noella Gordon

Project Summary: Lead into your Future will begin the process needed to involve young women in government. This project's mission is to inspire young women to know and become passionate about their government and the world they live in by interactive and informative sessions, field trips, blogging and journal writing.

Pandora's Wit

Project Participants: Rashmi Logasriskandaraj, Amaka Ekenkwo, Estefania Alfonsa, Sesly Nyamke, Jessica Assang, Maidina Ozbek

Project Summary: Pandora's Wit consists of a group of young female writers who come together twice a month to celebrate the fine art of writing while creating a forum where women are able to develop their ideas around certain issues and delve into their deeper thoughts.

Empower Young Mothers

Project Participant: Toyosi Molinari

Project Summary: Empower Young Mother's main purpose is to support young mothers and provide pragmatic solutions to address some of the many barriers they face, while ultimately motivating them to pursue higher education. Various seminars will be held with community leaders, local mothers and health educators who have expertise in addressing teen pregnancy.

MID Girls-Up and Above

Project Participant: Sedef Rezvani

Project Summary: MID Girls-Up and Above will provide a support group for young girls with special needs. This support group will foster a safe space where girls can meet other girls who are experiencing similar concerns and engage in a wide range of activities such as movie nights, game nights, hiking and celebrating cultural events.

Black Women in Motion

Project Participants: Monica Samuel, Anora Graham, Kaiesha Walker, Shantay McDonald, Nana Owusu, Brianna Frase, Gerda Owusu

Project Summary: Black Women in Motion (BWIM) seeks to increase civic engagement and inspire positive change by giving young women the tools and support to achieve their personal and professional goals. The program strives to positively shape the lives of young women by providing

programming and mentoring, to help develop character, leadership and self-confidence.

Together We Are Able

Project Participant: Sojourner San Vincente

Project Summary: Together We Are Able seeks to find meaningful ways of engaging students with special needs with the larger student population. It aims to join the abilities of both groups. To work on a collaborative initiative that comes out of a shared experience, and to change the current thinking of how persons with special needs are seen.

Youth Leadership Training for Girls

Project Participant: Working Women Community Centre

Project Summary: Consisting of a 6 week long training, the project provides girls between 16 to 24 years of age with the opportunity to explore issues and concepts relevant to their community participation and volunteerism. Training will focus in the use of workshop and explorative learning, participants will strengthen and develop their understanding around various issues.

Youth Led Pilot Project

A YIP Pilot Project, called "Light A Spark: Body, Mind, Soul-The Strength of a Girl", piloted a youth-driven and youth-empowered model that enhanced the knowledge and awareness of healthy eating and physical activity of girls living in the city of Toronto. The "Light A Spark: Body, Mind, Soul-The Strength of a Girl", took place on November 24th, 2012, during which a series of workshops on healthy living and physical activity was delivered. This pilot project was led by 5 of the EGCC youth interviewers.

Summer & Fall 2012 Windsor

Youth Symposium

On July 13 and 14, 2012 the Windsor research team went to Toronto. On the 13th we had a fun day around the city where we saw the dinosaur exhibit at the ROM and met the York youth team for a friendly dinner. The next day we attended the EGCC symposium at York University. It was the first opportunity our girls had to both find out about what the York team is working on, as well as present our own findings. The symposium finished up with a brainstorming exercise for a real community project.



ACT Youth conference

One of our members, Seher Ali, represented at ACT for Youth in November, where she got to share our findings with a larger audience of youth and community organizations. Seher focused on the role of culture and conceptualization of leadership,

focusing specifically on the barriers that immigrant girls experience to getting involved in their community and political action. She also talked about the influence of media on girls' self-image.

Youth Projects Initiative (YIP)

In September 2012, EGCC Windsor released its first call for proposals for a youth-led pilot project. The call was restricted to those who attended a proposal writing workshop. Six youth attended the workshop, where they learned how to write a grant proposal, and got to work with one another on developing their proposals. Together We Flourish, the funding winner, was announced in November!

Youth Led Pilot Project "Together we flourish"



Led by Lina Chaker, a youth activist who has been trying to convince communities in Windsor to compost, and backed by our wonderful group of youth participants, Together We Flourish will start a community garden that focuses on promoting local composting, adult-youth networking, and outdoor art projects. To date, Together We Flourish has secured a gardening plot, and is currently planning a community open house and is working on a sponsorship package in order to secure equipment donations from local businesses.