CONTRIBUTORS

RIFAA ALI
McMaster University

Rifaa has recently graduated high school and is now at McMaster University. She was involved in youth participatory action research from 2015 to 2017 and is currently studying Health Sciences. As hobbies, Rifaa enjoys reading, jogging, drawing and geocaching.

STEPHEN ATTONG

Born and raised in Trinidad & Tobago, Stephen is a freelance photographer/filmmaker/visual artist currently living and working in Toronto. He studied history, sociology, and European Union studies at University of Toronto. He always aims for his work to be unapologetically human.

VICTOR BALBUENA
St. George Youth Center

Victor is a senior in high school. Last year he joined the St. George Youth Center leadership group and this year he is the Vice President. Victor also participated in the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Training last year, learning valuable disaster preparedness skills. Last year he co-founded the Luchadores Club at his high school to provide more leadership opportunities for Latino teens. LUCHA stands for Latinos Unidos Capacitando Hermanos Adelante. In his free time, he likes to draw, which satisfies his perfectionist nature. He likes to eat mangos.

F. ANGELO CAMUFINGO
University of Potsdam

F. Angelo Camufingo is an Afro-German M.Ed. student at the Universität Potsdam. Born on April 30, 1992, he resides in Berlin. Next to studying, he works as a research and administrative assistant at the Africa Academy/Black Adult Education Center and a student assistant at the political institute at the FU Berlin. He recently finished his bachelor’s thesis on the role of individualism and collectivism in Afroturum and resulting alternative prospects for Black subjectivities.

LEIF V. FITZSIMMONS
FREY

Leif V. Fitzsimmons Frey lives in Toronto with his parents and three younger siblings. He enjoys building things, writing books, skiing, swimming, and playing way too much Dungeons and Dragons.

GELISSA LEVEILLE
Southern Adventist University

Gelissa Leveille is in her last semester at Southern Adventist University where she studies film production. Being Florida-raised, she loves the summer heat, reading books in lazy rivers, and incessant tweeting.
Catherine is in high school, and has been involved in spoken word for four years, mainly as a slam poet. She likes writing all sorts of literature including poetry, and reading too. She has been published in an online magazine: Alexandra Quarterly.

Erin has been a part of the Youth Participatory Action Research project since 2016. After graduating from high school in 2018, she is currently studying biomedical engineering at the University of Southern California. In her spare time, Erin can be found reading, catching up with friends and being a culinary aficionado.

Briseida is 15 years old and a junior in high school. Last year she was Co-President of the St. George Youth Center leadership group and this year she is the Events Chair. This is her third year as a member of her school’s choir and she volunteers at Santa Barbara Cottage Hospital for four hours every week. She is thankful for the SGYC because it gives a safe environment to spend her afternoons.

Jasmine McBeath is a doctoral student at UC Santa Barbara, studying education with an emphasis in Learning, Culture, and Technology. For the past four years, she has led a makerspace program at the St. George Youth Center integrating science, technology, and art into social action projects. She likes to read, write, rock climb, and eat avocados whenever she can.

Odalis Pacheco Mendez is a junior in high school and she is 16 years old. Last year she was Co-President of the St. George Youth Center. Out of school, she plays club water polo, and has for three years. During school, she is part of the swim team. She volunteers at the Santa Barbara Cottage Hospital during the summers. Her favorite color is pink and she loves glitter. Her favorite dish is Mexican tacos with a cup of horchata.

Hassnaa Mohammed is currently a PhD student at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in the School of Human Ecology studying Interior Architecture. Her research interest is in human behavior in Islamic sacred spaces. She is driven by her passion for community work and creating safe spaces that promote emotional and spiritual wellbeing for individuals of all backgrounds. Hassnaa received Dual BS in Interior Design and Communications Media from Indiana University of Pennsylvania, as well as her MA of Public Affairs with a focus on international development and Muslim women.
HECTOR PLEYTEZ
Vista Charter Middle School

Pleytez is a 13 year old kid that lives in Los Angeles. His mother is Guatemalan and his father is Salvadorian and he has grown up, with his family, in Hollywood, Los Angeles. As he continues his educational career, he plans on focusing his adult life on philosophy, poetry, becoming an activist, etc.

NATALIA RIOS
St. George Youth Center

Natalia is a junior in high school. She has lived in Isla Vista for 12 years. She was part of the leadership group’s outreach team and this year is Outreach Chair. She also volunteers for the Community Emergency Response Team training (CERT) and is a trained facilitator. This year she started her high school’s CERT club and is currently the President. Natalia has been a member of SGYC for the past 6 years and has volunteered for various community events such as the annual Santa Night and Haunted House.

FRANCESCA SEN
St. George Youth Center

Francesca Sen started working with the youth two years ago when she was an undergraduate at UC Santa Barbara. It’s her fifth year at the St. George Youth Center, and she is now the Program Coordinator. In her spare time, she likes to look at the clouds and eat food of all kinds, but her favorite is cheese.

SHANGI VIJENTHIRA
McMaster University

Shangi is one of the founding youth editors at in:cite in Toronto and a past student in youth participatory action research from 2015 to 2017. She is just starting her first year at McMaster University, studying health sciences. In her spare time, Shangi likes to read, hike, work on learning Tamil and French, and knit.

BRANDON VILLALVA
St. George Youth Center

Brandon is a senior in high school and the President of the St. George Youth Center leadership group. Brandon participated in the Community Response Team Training (CERT) last summer and this was also when he joined the youth center and has been an active member since. He assisted with various important community events over this past year.

P. IFE WILLIAMS
University of Wisconsin-Madison, BYP100

Pascale Ife Williams is a Black (mixed-race) afro-rockin’ mother, educator, and art activist from Chicago. She is also currently a doctoral student at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in the School of Human Ecology Civil Society and Community Research program. Her work extends far beyond academia and includes multiple roles in community and arts-based settings. Ife is a member of the Black Youth Project 100 (BYP100), a member-based activist organization that organizes through a Black Queer Feminist lens. She actively develops and supports the work of Healing Justice as a core member of BYP100’s national Healing & Safety Council.