

RESOURCE

What is YPAR?





SCHOOL of EDUCATION and HUMAN DEVELOPMENT YOUTH-NEX

## Youth Participatory Action Research (YPAR)

is an empowering research <u>approach</u> that positions young people as active contributors in social change.

## Youth

### YPAR...

- centers youth and their positive development at every stage of the research process
- recognizes, empowers, and integrates youth's unique knowledge to address community issues and generate equitable solutions

# PARTICIPATORY

### YPAR...

- redefines who has the expertise to produce and use knowledge
- values the input and perspectives of all involved through collaborative working teams
- leads to relevant and impactful outcomes

# ACTION

### YPAR...

- expands the goal of the research beyond solely gathering information
- creates space for youth to actively advocate for positive change in their lives and communities
- uses research findings to initiate or support action through practical solutions and strategies

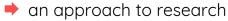
## RESEARCH

#### YPAR...

- is an adaptive and flexible approach to research
- expands research practices to collaborate meaningfully with youth
- increases the rigor of research findings
- generates more effective solutions for issues that directly impact youth
- differs from traditional, top-down research approaches







- research that is done with participants
- hierarchy flattening and empowering
- context-specific and flexible
- achieved through a reflective cycle
- variable in participation levels
- intent on sharing power between researcher/researched

\*time intensive + often unpredictable

### YPAR is not...

- a specific method
- research that is done to participants
- a tool to maintain researcher vs. researched dynamic
- attempts to remove data from its context
- achieved through a sequence of linear steps
- rigid in roles and process
- an assumption that the researcher holds expert knowledge





