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Guide to Social Change Led By and With Young People

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By Adam Fletcher and Joseph Vavrus

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Common*Action*
Connecting Young People & Adults Together for Democracy

CommonAction, a national nonprofit organization, provides training and support for the Guide to Social Change Led By and With Young People. For more information, send email to info@commonaction.org or calling 360-753-2686.

SUGGESTED CITATION

ABOUT US
The Freechild Project connects young people to create social change, particularly those who have historically been denied the right to participation. Freechild is a program of CommonAction, a national nonprofit organization working to create powerful, positive, and sustainable connections between young people and adults by providing consultation, programs, curriculum, publications, training, and technical assistance.

AUTHORS
Adam Fletcher is the Executive Director of CommonAction. In 17 years as a school and community-based educator, Adam has created programs, written publications, and pioneered numerous approaches to engaging young people in learning through social change. Adam worked with a network of youth workers across the nation to found Freechild in 2001; in 2003 he developed SoundOut in partnership with the HumanLinks Foundation. Internationally renowned cultural critic Henry Giroux recently wrote that, "Adam's work is especially relevant in getting young people to participate in the realms of politics and critical education."

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Introduction

One of the great liabilities of history is that all too many people fail to remain awake through great periods of social change... Today, our very survival depends on our ability to stay awake, to adjust to new ideas, to remain vigilant and to face the challenge of change. - Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

THE FREECHILD PROJECT HAS BEEN DOING THIS FOR A WHILE. In the five years since we began, The Freechild Project has identified three powerful trends in social change led by and with young people:

1. **Social change led by young people is not all about young people.** Instead, children and youth are working for their communities, their families, their cities, and their world. Action that is focused on youth issues often addresses young people as a whole, not isolating other youth because of race, gender, religion, or sexual orientation.

2. **More action has led to more sophistication, creating more sustainable outcomes.** Youth-led social change is not new; the tools and strategies being developed stand on the shoulders of giants from more than a century ago. However, the increasing sophistication and intentionality have heightened the effectiveness of youths' approaches and deepened the impacts they are having throughout communities.

3. **A broad youth movement exists today.** Media is not talking about it, researchers are generally not aware of it, and even young people do not know they belong to it. However, this decentralization in social movements today is part of a trend called "The Multitudes," in which localized action without focal-point leaders is subtly, powerfully changing the world.

About this Guide This publication is for anyone who wants to learn how we have come to those conclusions. It is written to summarize the broad range of action going on today in communities around the world. However, it's limited: this is a snapshot in time from the perspective of an organization that works outside of the mainstream; because of that, this Guide provides a limited view. However, presented here is a vision for how society is, and what it can become: a responsive, engaging, empowering democracy for *all* people. That is what social change led by and with young people today looks like, and that is what this Guide is all about.

About Social Change Society is constantly changing, and any attempt to summarize this activity with a single sentence or short document will inevitably fall short of its goal. In the case of The Freechild Project, the phrase "social change" is intended to include progressively-oriented activities intended to build democracy. By design this automatically excludes a lot of "social change." What is included here are many

different approaches to social change: the terms grassroots organizing, service learning, community activism, and youth empowerment are all used to describe the social change described herein. This isn't a whole directory of every activity young people are engaging in; instead, it's a brief guide, and a challenge for the reader to find their issue, action, and perspective on their own.

About "By and With" Typical classroom-based and adult-led community "youth engagement" activities are done *to* or *for* young people, meaning that adults conceive of these activities, design them, institute them, and evaluate them afterwards. There are many problems to this approach, the main one being that oftentimes they actually serve to *dis*engage the very young people they are intended to engage. Freechild advocates actively engaging young people as *partners* with adults by intentionally working with them in every part of the project creation, implementation, and assessment cycle. However, Freechild does not singularly insist that young people lead activities for themselves, either. There are a number of scenarios where this approach is important and meaningful, particularly for the young people involved. However, more often than not the approach of having young people create, lead, and evaluate activities for themselves or other young people is a deceiving gesture, as well. Many "forward thinking" adults dismiss the validity of young peoples' need for guidance by simplistically calling for youth-led action. This effectively robs young people of connections to adult wisdom, experience, or reflections. Such action often segregates youth action which allows it to be further marginalized and delegitimized. The instance of this Guide, "by and with" is intended to include all of these concerns.

About Young People Society is split by countless divisions, framed around gender, race, economic status, and many other factors. From the perspective of many young people The Freechild Project has worked with, one of the major divisions is age. Freechild addresses this perspective by categorizing all young people together, recognizing the collective ability of children and youth to foster, create, sustain, and reinvigorate social change. In the United States, anyone under the voting age (18) is systematically denied their ability to contribute to the political functioning of their communities and nation. Therefore, Freechild specifically advocates their participation via social change.

What's next? This publication is split into three major sections:
* ❖ **Cycle** provides a lens readers can use to view action through
* ❖ **Issues** addressed by social change led by and with young people
* ❖ **Actions** led by and with young people to create social change
* ❖ **Tools** developed by Freechild to develop, expand, and challenge the field

As you skim over this publication or read it in depth, make notes about your interests and read the examples included for inspiration. Then take action using the resources at hand. *The Guide to Social Change Led By and With Young People* is a starting point - its up to you to take the next steps.

Cycle of Youth Engagement

The *Cycle of Youth Engagement* is a tool that documents the *trends* Freechild has identified in successful youth engagement. It can be used to plan, evaluate, or challenge any activity that seeks to engage young people in social change.

Cycle of
Youth
Engagement

Listen

Validate

Reflect

Authorize

Act
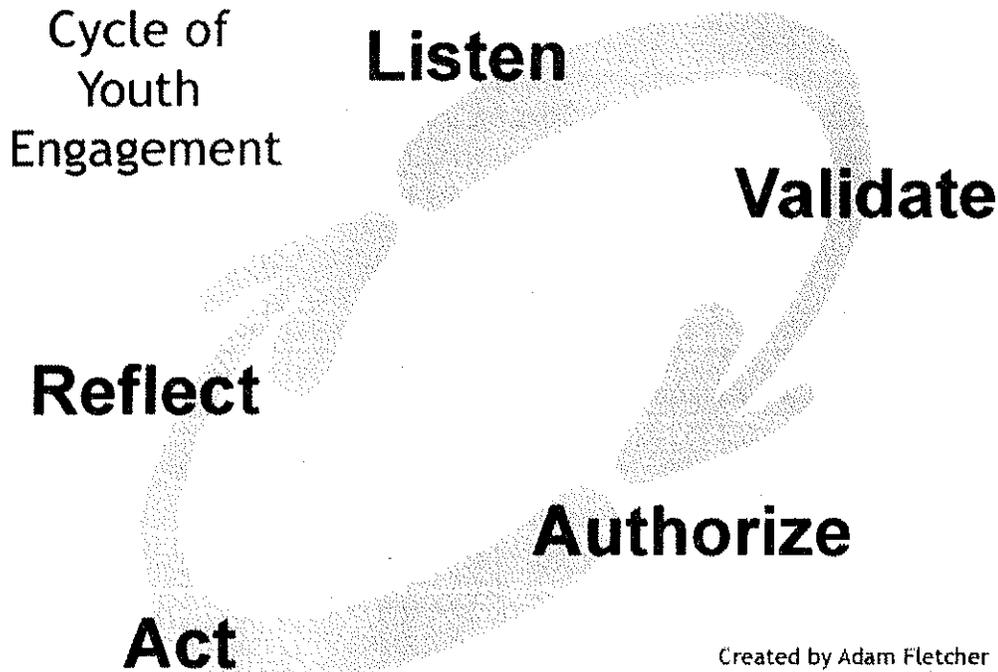
Created by Adam Fletcher
for CommonAction © 2006.

Step 1: Listen to Young People Successfully engaging young people in social change inherently requires listening to children and youth. Personal assumptions, organizational barriers, and cultural expectations are often barriers to listening to young people. One-to-one conversations, group discussions, youth action research, youth-created media, or artistic expression can be successful avenues.

The greatest lessons in life, if we would but stoop and humble ourselves, we would learn not from grown-up learned men, but from the so-called ignorant children. -Mahatma Gandhi

Step 2: Validate Young People When children and youth speak, it is not enough to just nod your head. However, validating young people does not mean automatically agreeing with what is said, either. It is important to offer young people sincere comments, criticism, and feedback. Disagreeing with children and youth lets young people to know that you actually heard what was said, thought about it, and that you have your own knowledge or opinion which you think is important to share with them,

and which you feel they are entitled to because their shared their perspectives. Young people must know that democracy is not about autonomous authority, and that a chorus of people, including young people but not exclusive to young people, is responsible for what happens throughout our communities.

I don't believe in charity. I believe in solidarity. Charity is vertical, so it's humiliating. It goes from the top to the bottom. Solidarity is horizontal. It respects the other and learns from the other. I have a lot to learn from other people. - Eduardo Galeano

Step 3: Authorize Young People Young people are repeatedly condemned, denied, or abandoned everyday because of the identities they possess. Democracy inherently requires *ability*, which comes in the form of experience and knowledge. Authorizing young people means going beyond historical expectations for children and youth by actively providing the training, creating the positions, and allowing the space they need in order to affect change.

The freedom and human capacities of individuals must be developed to their maximum but individual powers must be linked to democracy... social betterment must be the necessary consequence of individual flourishing. -Henry Giroux

Step 4: Mobilize Young People Transitioning from passive participants to active change agents and leaders requires young people actually taking action to create change. Mobilizing children and youth with authority allows them to affect cultural, systemic, and personal transformation in their own lives and the lives of others. It also encourages adults to actively acknowledge young people as partners throughout society.

Our youth are not failing the system; the system is failing our youth. Ironically, the very youth who are being treated the worst are the young people who are going to lead us out of this nightmare. - Rachel Jackson

Step 5: Reflection about Young People Social change led by and with young people is not and cannot be a vacuous event that affects only young people or the immediate situation. Children, youth, and adults should take responsibility for learning from social change by engaging in conscious critical reflection that examines assumptions, reactions, outcomes, and change. Young people and adults can also work together to identify how to sustain and expand the Cycle of Youth Engagement by applying what is learned through reflection to the first step of the Cycle.

The leaders [should not] treat the oppressed as mere activists to be denied the opportunity of reflection and allowed merely the illusion of acting, whereas in fact they would continue to be manipulated - and in this case by the presumed foes of the manipulation. - Paulo Freire

Issues

These are the issues young people are addressing through their actions focused on social change. This is not an exhaustive list; rather, a scan of the most progressive interests being served by children and youth today. Within each area The Freechild Project has identified numerous examples, programs, organizations, websites, and publications that can help you learn more. You can find those resources at the link listed next to the issue heading.

Adultism *www.freechild.org/adultism.htm*
> Adultism is defined as the oppression of all young people that happens from the day they are born simply because of their young age. Adultism plays a role in racial, gender, and economic oppression, and young people are responding by promoting actions both on the community and individual level that work against age-based discrimination.

Adult Allies *www.freechild.org/allies_of_youth.htm*
> Rather than working in isolation of the individuals and communities whose perceptions and actions they seek to transform, young people are engaged with adults who support and advocate with them everyday.

Agriculture *www.freechild.org/food.htm*
> Young people are taking action to promote sustainable consumption and healthier foods focusing on issues of social and environmental justice in agriculture. Through a variety of roles young people are promoting community development and unity based around shared social responsibility and agriculture.

Arts *www.freechild.org/Arts.htm*
> Young people around the world are working towards social change through artistic expression. Activities engage young people in a variety of areas, including promoting social activism through writing, dance, theatre, and film.

Censorship *www.freechild.org/SNAYR/definingYR.htm*
> Working against controlled access to the Internet, forced editing of youth-created publications, and for youth voice throughout the media and public sector, young activists are striving to create a culture that embraces first amendment rights.

Children's Rights *www.freechild.org/SNAYR/childrensrights.htm*
> Food, shelter, education, and safety are among some of the areas where young people are advocating for children's rights. A variety of action and resources are available to young people fighting against child labor, children's servitude, genital mutilation, and corporal punishment.

Community Planning *www.freechild.org/SIYI/communityplanning.htm*
> Young people are increasingly involved in the complex process of community planning. Current youth involvement in community development provides strategies for young people to increase their role, as well as providing financial and physical resources for developing sustainable, socially equitable communities.

Community Service *www.freechild.org/nationalservice.htm*
> A growing collection of local, state, and national action engages young people in community service. This movement has grown rapidly as funding, resources, and opportunities are established in communities across the nation. Many children and youth also earn credit in schools from participating in these activities.

Criminalization *www.freechild.org/waronyoungpeople.htm*
> An aggressive social, political, and cultural agenda seeks to portray young people -particularly youth of color and low-income youth - as violent "superpredators" beyond society's reproach. A growing number of youth-led and partnered actions are struggling against these perceptions by waging educational and protest campaigns.

Curfews *www.freechild.org/SNAYR/definingYR.htm*
> Laws that punish young people for being outside during certain hours are an egregious example of age-based discrimination. Websites have compiled extensive information that refutes many of the beliefs about the efficacy of curfews as crime prevention tools. Databases and timelines of past and present curfew court cases along with other resources are also available.

Education *www.soundout.org*
> Young people are involved as evaluators, planners, teachers, researchers, decision-makers, and advocates within schools, and as community organizers activists outside of schools, focused on school improvement in communities across the country.

Environment *www.freechild.org/enviro.htm*
> Around the world, young people are both affected by environmental degradation and active leaders in the fight for conservation and restoration. Action led by young people, students, and allies of youth work provide education and resources to work towards environmental justice.

Ephebiphobia *www.freechild.org/SNAYR/Ephebiphobia.htm*
> Young people are often the target of irrational fear which is often used to justify exclusionary attitudes and policies that limit their social and civil rights. This ephebiphobia, or fear of youth, is generally caused by negative stereotypes towards youth that are propagated and perpetuated by existing

prejudices and mainstream media. To counter this fear, young people and their allies are engaged in research and writing in a campaign of education and activism that contradicts the myths that lead to ephebiphobia.

Feminism *www.freechild.org/wopo.htm*
> A new generation of young activists are making their voices and actions felt throughout their communities. Action includes critically examining popular media images of girls, designing community action and education campaigns, and engaging peers in action throughout communities and across the nation.

Foster Care *www.freechild.org/fstryth.htm*
> Young people in foster care are often disconnected from the processes and institutions that determine where, how, and with whom they will live. Action is happening locally and nationally to empower youths in foster care through education and advocacy opportunities. Groups and websites provide foster youth with information about their rights and provide spaces for them to share and further examine their experience.

Globalization *www.freechild.org/globalization.htm*
> The worldwide exchange of ideas, culture, and knowledge has provided an exciting, interactive opportunity for collaboration and empowerment. However, the extension of crass consumerism and militarization has deep effects on indigenous communities, the environment, and social structures. Young people are struggling with these contradictions and taking action to create meaningful exchanges.

Homelessness *www.freechild.org/Homeless&hopeful.htm*
> Homeless young people are working together to improve their life situations through collective activism and education. Young people are providing resources for homeless young people to express themselves politically and artistically as well as empower them to work towards improving themselves and their peers. This action breaks down misconceptions about being homeless, promotes further community integration and communication, and advocates systemic and social solutions to homelessness.

Homeschooling *www.freechild.org/homeschooling.htm*
> For young people, homeschooling is formalized education that is experienced outside of the school usually taught by parents or communities. Information is available through organizations and websites about local and national regulations along with resources for planning homeschool curriculum. There are also a variety of written pieces that argue for homeschooling as a valid alternative to traditional institutionalized education.

Intergenerational Partnerships *www.freechild.org/intrgnrtnl-chng.htm*

As both young people and senior citizens often victims of both ageism and social marginalization, alliances across generation lines are both valuable and realizable for both demographics. A variety of action advocates intergenerational partnerships by providing methodologies for integrating across age lines, supplying volunteer and social opportunities for interactions between youth and seniors, and countering ageist biases that often prevent cross-age partnerships.

International Cooperation *www.freechild.org/internationalyouth.htm*
The United Nations and a variety of youth-serving organizations called the "Big 7" are working to engage young people as central actors in the effort to promote global cooperation and unity.

Job Discrimination *www.freechild.org/ythecon.htm*
Young people who are employed often pay taxes without the possibility of voting until they're 18, are not allowed to open an independent bank account with the income they earn, and are expected to work more erratic, less popular hours for less pay than equally or less-then equally experienced/skilled adults.

Juvenile Injustice and Incarceration *www.freechild.org/juvenile_injustice.htm*
Young people are working to reform the laws, attitudes, and socio-economic structures that send their peers into punishment-oriented prisons. Action working with incarcerated youth and other young people is rethinking the nature of a prison system which disproportionately represents people of color and of low incomes. Education and community development are actions provided as alternative to imprisonment and the consistent demonization of youth.

Leadership *www.freechild.org/youth_leadership.htm*
While often seen as a traditional youth service activity, youth leadership programs and organizations are increasingly focusing on engaging nontraditional youth leaders as social change agents. Skill-based, issue-oriented, and youth-centered action engages young people in leading their peers and their communities for social, cultural, economic, and environmental justice.

Liberation *www.freechild.org/SNAYR/liberation.htm*
Youth liberation seeks to free young people from the oppressive bondage of age, whether in the home, at the school, or throughout the community. All of this action seeks the elimination of adultism and age-based discrimination. The ideas behind youth liberation are taking hold in many communities around the world today.

Nonviolence and Peace *www.freechild.org/peace.htm*
 While being some of the main victims of violent conflict, young people have
 also been historically active in opposing war. Action promotes active pacifism,
 anti-militarization, nuclear disarmament, and anti-landmine campaigns. Others
 focus on preventing young people from joining the military by working against
 recruiting in schools, promoting athletics, and using campaigns of persuasion
 against enlistment.

Poverty *www.freechild.org/poverty.htm*
 Socio-economic and political structures today provide innumerable
 opportunities for young people to be "left behind." Health care, education,
 affordable housing, clothing and food are still a bare necessity for a growing
 number of children and youth today. More young people are taking action to
 create change in their own communities, identifying sustainable and practical
 changes for individuals, families, and institutions.

Racism *www.freechild.org/racism.htm*
 As an undeniably important portion of the victims of both systematic and
 explicit racism, young people are working to fight against attitudes and laws
 that promote the superiority of one race over another. Action led by youth and
 with adults works to promote tolerance and diversity while fighting directly
 against racial discrimination.

Rural Communities *www.freechild.org/rural.htm*
 In small towns and rural areas across the country, young people are the last
 hope for a way of life that has been corporatized and alienated to the point of
 nonexistence. Today children and youth are learning about history and
 designing new approaches to saving their communities from disappearing.

Sex Education *www.freechild.org/reproductiverights.htm*
 While issues such as pregnancy, contraception, abortion, sexually transmitted
 diseases, abstinence, and sexual orientation are of paramount importance to
 young people, traditional education often distorts or simply censors
 information related to these tropics. However, there are websites and
 publications that answer questions and give information about sexual health
 related issues independent of school and parents. There are also advocacy
 groups that promote policies allow young people to have more comprehensive
 sexual education as well as more legal control over their own bodies.

Sexual Orientation *www.freechild.org/gblttqq.htm*
 Gay, bisexual, lesbian, transsexual, transgendered, queer, and questioning
 (GBLTTQQ) young people are fighting for their own rights and those of their
 friends, families, and communities. Local and national action provides
 GBLTTQQ youth with resources and information, safe spaces for artistic and
 personal expression, as well as emotional support. Advocacy for progressive

policies and cultural transformation seeks to make schools, homes, and civil society more equitable for GBLTTQQ young people.

Social Justice *www.freechild.org/SJforALL.htm*
Young people are engaged in every movement for social justice around the world, as activists, leaders, members, partners, and in other roles. Progressive action represents a variety of communities and perspective, each conjoined through a commitment for social, economic, cultural, and environmental justice.

Suffrage *www.freechild.org/SNAYR/suffrage.htm*
In the United States and around the world, young people are systemically denied the right to civic participation in the democratic process through voting. Action works directly to lower the voting age locally and nationally.

Technology *www.freechild.org/tech.htm*
The ongoing demonization of technology has deep roots in the history of popular culture, starting with the advent of serial novels for teens in the 1930s and extending to the MySpace hysteria of 2006. Young people are working with adults to raise awareness and advocate for empowerment in technology.

Unschooling and Self-Education *www.freechild.org/unschooling.htm*
The formal nature of institutional education often teaches young people to "go to school" instead of including them in the educational process and helping them think critically. Unschooling allows students to direct their own learning process instead of relying on textbooks and teachers to structure education. Young people and their allies have created a variety of activities, groups, websites, and publications that work to promote self-education by providing a theoretical basis for the practice, engaging in direct advocacy, and supplying general resources for those that want to "unschool."

Urban Communities *www.freechild.org/in-the-city.htm*
Young people in urban communities are often the victims or spectators of gentrification, segregation, urban neglect, and systemic racism. In communities such youth are working to combat these social ills by improving education and social services through economic and political reform that improves. This social change comes from children and youth leading action through media, education, and direct social action.

Youth-Adult Partnerships *www.freechild.org/yapartnerships.htm*
The unequal relationships that characterize interactions between young people and adults are countered through intentional action designed to promote equity and justice. Youth-adult partnerships are advocated through a variety of action designed to raise awareness, build skills, design experiences, and examine outcomes affecting children, youth, and adults together.

Youth Rights *www.freechild.org/SNAYR/index.htm*
>There is a growing movement that engages young people in local communities, statewide campaigns, and national efforts to change public sentiment and political policies unfairly targeting people because of their young age.

Youth-Serving Organizations *www.freechild.org/nationalorgs.htm*
>Young people in the US are working to transform the very organizations designed to serve them. The "Big 7" youth organizations, including Scouts, 4-H, and the YMCA have a variety of campaigns designed to engage young people are central actors.

Actions

These are the actions that young people are engaged within as they work to address the issues mentioned previously. Similar to that list, this is not meant to be an exhaustive catalogue; rather, this is a scan of the most progressive actions young people are using to positively change the world today. Within each area The Freechild Project has identified numerous examples, programs, organizations, websites, and publications that can help you learn more. You can find those resources at the link listed next to the issue heading.

Activism *www.freechild.org/youth_activism_2.htm*
> Young people have been involved in activism for hundreds of years, organizing their peers and communities for progressive social change in a variety of areas around the world. Action led by young people advocates for increased political and social consciousness by providing tools for civil disobedience, activist solidarity, artistic and political expression, and conscious education.

Activist Learning *www.freechild.org/AL/index.htm*
> A strategy for creating knowledge that is characterized by taking action to realize just relationships that transform unequal power structures in the personal, social, political, environmental, spiritual, and economic lives of young people. Children and youth are engaged in AL around the world, as leaders, learners, and advocates throughout their communities.

City and County Government *www.freechild.org/SIYI/localgov.htm*
> Youth involvement in municipal governments is a way in which young people are able to have their voices heard in the creation of public policy. Children and youth are involved in civic engagement action with youth councils, forums, panels, and positions that advise local governments on a variety of issues.

Cooperative Learning *www.freechild.org/gamesguide.htm*
> Youth programs, schools, and community groups are engaging children and youth in a variety of activities designed to promote cooperation, interaction, understanding, and teamwork. Young people are facilitating these activities with their peers, as well.

Foundations and Grantmaking *www.freechild.org/SIYI/funders.htm*
> Youth involvement in foundations and grantmaking gives young people the power to control the distribution of philanthropy and giving, providing the opportunity to directly affect progressive social change. Organizations in various regions offer grants to be used by young people to promote social conscientiousness and general charity. Grant awarding boards and foundations are driven by young people and are actively promoting financial empowerment for children and youth to work towards bettering their communities.

Hip Hop *www.freechild.org/hiphop.htm*
> The culture of hip hop, including music, dance, art, and clothing, is a natural to tool for young people to use for social change. Action led by youth uses hip hop as a method of personal social transformation, a tool to teach and mobilize the masses, and as a cultural tradition which lends itself to promoting social justice and activism.

International Youth Action *www.freechild.org/international.htm*
> Young people around the world are making positive social change a constant, validating reality in many countries. These young peoples' leadership and vision are driving government, economic, education, religious, and societal changes globally.

Libraries *www.freechild.org/SIYI/libraries.htm*
> Youth involvement in libraries often provides librarians with insight and guidance missing from their work. Though libraries have often been havens for children and youth, not until recently has a consorted effort gone into directly targeting this demographic and working to make the library suit their needs. A variety of youth advocacy and library organizations are working to ensure that libraries remain relevant to young people by working with them to make the library a place where they can continue to realize intellectual growth.

Media *www.freechild.org/youthmedia.htm*
> Youth involvement in media includes critical analysis and media-making. A variety of publishers, festivals, and contests provide opportunities for young people to express themselves through articles, stories, and film. Local and national organizations provide resources for youth to analyze and report on issues that matter to them while also providing a space for them to improve upon their media skills. There are also a variety of resources on and off the internet that allow youth to work independently of those organizations to further their own knowledge of media tools such as web-publishing, communication law, television and radio broadcasting, and film technique.

Non-Profit Agencies *www.freechild.org/SIYI/localnonprofits.htm*
> Youth involvement in nonprofit organizations happens throughout the service cycle. Children's hospitals, charities, and community organizations have established advisory councils for young people. Several groups engage youth as researchers, program evaluators, or board members. While their roles vary, youth in these capacities work to make these nonprofits responsive and accountable to the needs of young people in their communities.

Parents *www.freechild.org/parents.htm*
> Youth and adult-led action works towards developing and promoting alternate models of parenting that avoid oppressive and destructive relationships between parents and children. Parents learn about adultism, how and why to

respect the rights and knowledge held by their children, what parenting methods respect and empower young people, and ways for parents to promote social and political consciousness and activism in young people.

Participatory Action Research *www.freechild.org/PAR.htm*
Young people are active participants in research, theoretical development, and analysis of issues and realities that are relevant to them. This could include work towards community and individual development, environmental issues, questions of race and class, or issues dealing with social and economic justice. Action provides training in relevant methodologies and research skills to promote active youth engagement on these and other issues.

Politics *www.freechild.org/politics.htm*
Young people around the world are becoming increasingly active in the political process. In the United States they are often attached to "youth" wings of both mainstream and marginalized political parties while also represented by young people-specific parties. Other action educates and mobilizes the young voter demographic to more fully engage them in the political process.

Service Learning *www.freechild.org/servicelearning.htm*
Combining traditional learning with service objectives allows individuals to better both themselves and their communities. Currently, young people are leading the way in designing, implementing, and advocating service learning for themselves and their peers. Action empowers students to work on social issues that are pressing to them and their communities while their learning is acknowledged as a valuable educational and transformational tool.

State Government *www.freechild.org/SIYI/stategov.htm*
Youth involvement in state government drives policy, practice, and funding streams across the nation. Ecology, education, social services, and other state government agencies are engaging young people as planners, decision-makers, and evaluators of the programs that serve them and their communities.

Youth Movement *www.freechild.org/youth_movements.htm*
A variety of global youth movements are coalescing to create a worldwide youth movement, built around information technology, political and social action, and other platforms. At the same time, other groups are working to unite young people with common causes.

Youth Voice *www.freechild.org/intermediaries.htm*
The unique perspectives and actions of young people are increasingly seen as integral throughout society, as the engagement of children and youth becomes more central to local communities. Action includes research, training, and advocacy in local, state, and national arenas.

Tools

Focus Areas
Issues - *www.freechild.org/issues.htm*
Actions - *www.freechild.org/actions.htm*
Resources - *www.freechild.org/specialresources.htm*
Youth Movement Mapping Project - *www.freechild.org/movementmap.htm*
Survey on North American Youth Rights - *www.freechild.org/SNAYR/*
Survey on International Youth Involvement - *www.freechild.org/SIYI/*
Youth Media Info Center - *www.freechild.org/youthmedia.htm*
Washington Youth Voice Directory - *www.freechild.org/WYVD/*
Activist Learning Online - *www.yp3.org*
SoundOut - *www.soundout.org*

Action Resources
Recommended Reading - *www.freechild.org/ReadingList/*
Action Resource Center - *www.freechild.org/ARC/*
Educator Resource Center - *www.freechild.org/education.htm*
Youth Empowerment Program - *www.freechild.org/Firestarter/*
Adult Resource Center - *www.freechild.org/adults.htm*
Free Library - *www.freechild.org/library.htm*
Book Reviews - *www.freechild.org/ReadingList/reviews.htm*

Philosophy and Theory
Measure of Social Change - *www.freechild.org/measure.htm*
Theory of Change - *www.freechild.org/theory.htm*
Ladder of Volunteer Participation - *www.freechild.org/volunteerism2.htm*
Research Resources - *www.freechild.org/research.htm*

Random
Blog - *www.youngerworld.org*
Quotes Collection - *www.freechild.org/quotations.htm*
Slogan Collection - *www.freechild.org/slogans.htm*
Publications - *www.freechild.org/publications.htm*
Funding Opportunities - *www.freechild.org/funds4progress.htm*
Store - *www.cafepress.com/freechild*
MySpace Profile - *http://myspace.com/freechildproject*
Social Bookmark Collection - *http://del.icio.us/freechildproject*
Online Action Map - *http://www.frappr.com/freechildproject*
Newsletter - *http://lists.riseup.net/www/info/freechild*