

VOICES FOR JUVENILE JUSTICE CONFERENCE 2023

2ND ANNUAL CONFERENCE
OCTOBER 13, 2023 | 8:00AM-5:30PM
PASSPORT ACADEMY
WWW.V4JJ.ORG



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

8:00AM-9:30AM

WELCOME

ART WORKSHOP

WITH ANTONIO HOWARD OR TAKARA CANTY

SHORT FILM

(JUVENILE JUSTICE IN CONTEXT)

Painting with Purpose is a team-building exercise. Participants are provided art supplies and a canvas to paint and discuss evolving feelings about their expectations, progress, and satisfaction with their painting. The discussions are prompted by interruptions in the painting activity when participants are asked to switch canvases among one another at multiple stages throughout the workshop. While creating opportunities to draw parallels between the painting activity and life, the objective is to inspire discussion about how our individual actions affect the rest of us and the importance of not only painting with purpose but also living with purpose.

9:45AM-11:15AM

ROUNDTABLE 1

DECERTIFICATION IN ALLEGHENY COUNTY AND SHUMAN CLOSING

TANISHA LONG, WALTER HARRIS, KATIE PHETO

There are currently 24 juveniles in the adult Allegheny County Jail, which is designed to house adult populations. Because Shuman Juvenile Detention Center has been closed for two years now due to multiple violations, and because of the routine and unjust charging of juveniles as adults, decertification hearings have become a focus of Abolition Law Center, Participatory Defense Hubs and Restorative Justice Initiatives across the Country. This roundtable will invite participants to advance solutions for our youth in Allegheny County.

ROUNDTABLE 2

DE-ESCALATION AND NON-VIOLENT CONFLICT RESOLUTION

ALFONSO SLOAN, TERRY MINOR SPENCER, KHALIL DARDEN, YOUTH FROM AD99, SARAH KUEHN

In 2023, the Center for Disease Control reported that gun violence is the primary cause of death for America's children and youth, and homicide rates in Pittsburgh have been on a steady rise since 2020. According to the recent police data, 60% of offenders involved in homicides this year are between 15 and 24 years old. and more than 50% of victims are within that same age group. It's easy to feel helpless, but youth have an incredible capacity to diminish violence and the trauma it causes. This roundtable will provide tools and techniques for de-escalation and action steps to help youth become better conflict mediators and to make our neighborhoods safer.

11:30AM-12:30PM

LUNCH & KEYNOTE SPEAKER

KEYNOTE BY JASON RIVERS, DIRECTOR OF VIOLENCE PREVENTION AT PITTSBURGH PUBLIC SCHOOLS

INTRODUCTION BY JUDGE TIMOTHY LEWIS

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

12:45PM-2:15PM

**ART WORKSHOP
WITH ANTONIO HOWARD OR TAKARA CANTY
SHORT FILM
(JUVENILE JUSTICE IN CONTEXT)**

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2:30PM-4:00PM

**ROUNDTABLE 3
RESILIENCE AND SELF-EFFICACY**

JORDAN ALLEN, RONDA ENGSTROM, TYTON BRUNNER, CINDY LACOM

Self-efficacy is an individual's belief in their capacity to act in the ways necessary to reach specific goals. Resilience is the ability to withstand adversity and bounce back from difficult life events. Young people face an incredible array of challenges that may be exacerbated by living in tense environments and communities. The development of self-efficacy can be a protective factor against trauma, discrimination, and other stressors. Those who work with adolescents, particularly youth who are members of racial and other minority groups, should support them in developing self-efficacy in order to increase their resilience. This roundtable will discuss ways to do so, why this is important, and the effects they have on youths' lives.

**ROUNDTABLE 4
IMPACT OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM INVOLVEMENT
ON FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES**

CHANCE WIDEMAN, MICHAEL TALLEY

One in three families with imprisoned children may have to choose between buying food and paying court costs. This roundtable will address the costs of juvenile incarceration and consider strategies for supporting families and communities. On any given day in the United States, nearly 40,000 youth are incarcerated in juvenile jails and prisons. In Pennsylvania, almost 3,000 youth are incarcerated, and youth of color are over-represented and at higher risk of being detained and committed than non-Hispanic white youth. And the impact of these numbers extends to families and communities. The burdens are financial, emotional, and psychological, exacerbated by court fees and fines, travel costs, and the loss of educational or job opportunities.

4:15PM-5:30PM

**NETWORKING, MINGLING, & ART
EXHIBITION BY GEORGE JUNIOR REPUBLIC**

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Criminology & Criminal Justice Department
Gender Studies Program
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ABOUT VOICES FOR JUVENILE JUSTICE

VISION

A world where all
youth can achieve
their dreams.

MISSION

To support, center,
and amplify youth
voices and connect
communities while
creating a more
equitable and fair
juvenile justice
system.