

# Spaces and Places

## UPDATE: August 2013

### PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Spaces and Places Research Project led by Dr. Linda Liebenberg (PI) and Janice Ikeda (Project Manager) explores the ways in which communities can build better civic and cultural engagement with youth. This qualitative study is currently taking place in two communities in Labrador and, with the help of our partners and local site researchers, we have recently completed the first research phase of the project.

A total of 17 youth between the ages of 12-17 have participated in the project by helping us gather and analyse data. These youth have also helped us begin disseminating findings back to local and broader communities.

### WHAT DID WE DO?

During February and April of 2013, we gave each youth a digital camera to take photographs for a week. We asked youth to make photos of the spaces and places around them; spaces that made them feel they belong to their community and spaces that didn't make them feel they belong. We also filmed each youth with a video camera for a day. Youth were then interviewed both their photographs and a video compilation that the research team created from their video footage.

Finally, over one weekend, we held a focus group and data analysis workshop. In these groups we asked the youth to help us understand and begin the initial analysis of the findings. We documented this process in one of the communities on film (<http://youtu.be/Mcw-Wupi0-w>). From these workshops, the youth in each community created a youth-driven, art-based dissemination project.



### DISSEMINATION PROJECTS

During April and May 2013, the youth took the ideas that came out of the research and workshops and decided on how and to whom they wanted to present the information. In both communities, these projects were supported by a facilitator, but ultimately were driven and led by the youth themselves.

#### COMMUNITY 1

In one community, the youth chose to present this information as a mural painted on the wall of their community hall. We also created a video of the mural making process to ensure their message was mobile (<http://youtu.be/PLXYDkm1xSo>).

#### COMMUNITY 2

The other community chose to produce posters of the findings using the photos they took for the research and writing messages on them (<http://flic.kr/s/aHsjG11BTQ>). These posters are also available as post cards. Both the posters and postcards have been returned to the youth, their community, and their local government to use and distribute as they see fit.

# EARLY FINDINGS

The early findings show that there are two messages consistent across both communities:

**1.** Connection to culture is important to youth and they need more opportunities to engage in cultural activities. More time and financial resources need to be made available to support youth engagement in cultural activities. Importantly, these resources and opportunities need to be structured in ways that make sense to youth.

**2.** Youth voices need to be heard in order to make meaningful change for youth today.



## CHILD AND YOUTH CARE CONFERENCE IN ST. JOHN'S, NEWFOUNDLAND

The Spaces and Places team, including 2 youth from each community presented these preliminary findings at the Child and Youth Care World Conference in June 2013. We prepared the presentation and presented as a team. Everyone, including the youth, took on a role and presented about the research process, the experience participating in the research and dissemination, and the impact this research had on the communities. Stay tuned for another video that documents this process.



## FUTURE PLANS AND PROJECTS

We have several ideas about where to go from here:

We will go back to both of the communities in the coming months to launch the dissemination projects and hold community meetings about these findings

We have applied to our ethics review boards to do another phase of research. We would like to invite the youth to take another set of photos and complete another photo interview and workshop to explore transitions between child and teenager and high school and adulthood.

For more information and updates on this and other resilience projects go to our website:

[www.resilienceresearch.org](http://www.resilienceresearch.org)



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