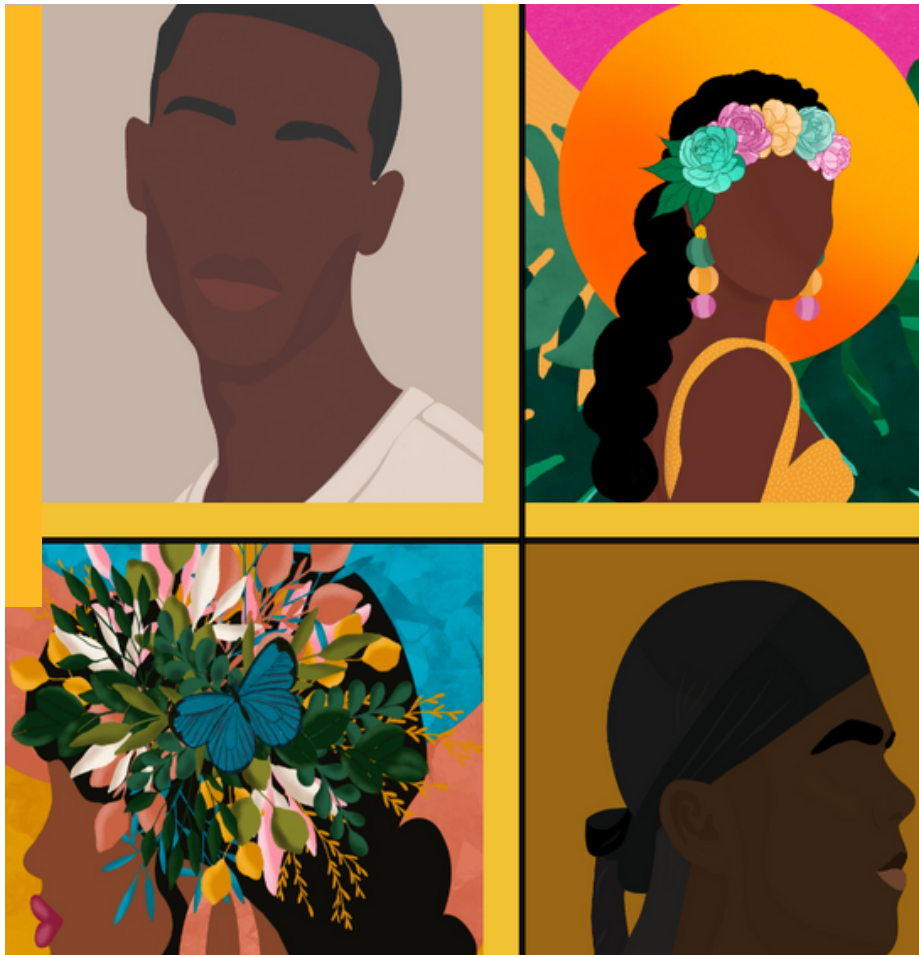


NEWSLETTER

REIMAGINE BLACK YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH



BLACK-CENTERED. YOUTH-LED. COMMUNITY-DRIVEN.

By Brooklyn Bridge Alliance for Youth

In 2019, the Black Caucus released a [report](#) on the alarming increase in suicide rates for Black children and teenagers over the past generation. In response to this and the continued impact of racism on mental health, the [Brooklyn Bridge Alliance for Youth](#), in partnership with the [Minnesota Department of Health](#), is facilitating the Reimagine Black Youth Mental Health Initiative. This is a 3-year initiative, with the communities of Brooklyn Park and Brooklyn Center to confront harm, pursue healing, and center Black youth health and wellbeing.

Newsletter Highlights

Reimagine Black
Youth Mental
Health Initiative
Overview

Overarching Goals
of RBYMHI & Meet
the RBYMHI Team

Booked & Busy in
Youth Space

Upcoming
Opportunities

Meet the Team

OVERARCHING GOALS OF THE INITIATIVE

1. SHIFT THE NARRATIVE THROUGH TRANSFORMATIONAL CHANGE.

There is no single way to be Black. Blackness holds a vast diversity of identities and cultures. We are working to uplift the diaspora in its wholeness and explore the nuances of Black experiences as we consider what it means to be mentally well. We are moving people from a place of anti-Black to Black-centered; from deficit-based to the honoring of the strengths and inherent good in Black people; from numbness towards Black pain to the loving of Black Joy.

2. STRENGTHEN THE ECOSYSTEM THROUGH RELATIONAL CHANGE.

We are building an infrastructure of support for Black youth and their wellbeing. We are working with Black youth, their families, and others with various levels of decision-making power in their lives to engage in genuine, consistent relationships and re-define collaboration. As Black youth define themselves, express themselves, and identify what they need to heal and be well, the ecosystem around them must be ready to surround and support them.

3. CHANGE THE CONDITIONS THROUGH EXPLICIT STRUCTURAL CHANGE.

We don't want to simply give Black youth coping skills that make them comfortable in the midst of incessant harm. We are working to change the conditions that perpetually harm them. This is an opportunity for sustainable policy, program, and practice change.



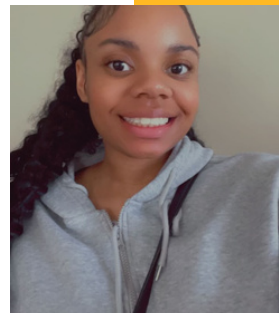
Rachel Warren,
Initiative
Coordinator



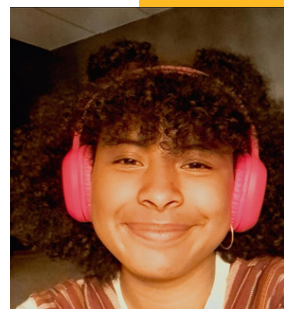
Hilda Davis,
MSW/Public Health
Intern



Lee'RayVone
Gibson,
Psychology/
Critical Race and
Ethnicity Studies
Intern



Gabrielle Drayton,
Brooklynk Intern



Erica Lee,
Brooklynk Intern



Layne Benton,
BBAY Youth
Outreach and
Engagement
Specialist

HIGHLIGHTS: BOOKED AND BUSY IN THE YOUTH SPACE!

We strongly believe that we can't do honest work that is about youth without youth. They must be engaged, supported, and uplifted! Black Youth Space is an ongoing opportunity for Black youth and young adults ages 12-22 who are connected to Brooklyn Center and Brooklyn Park to come together and build community, build power, and authentically engage in rich discussions and activities focused on what it means to be *well*.

MURAL ACTIVITY



PENUMBRA THEATRE



ATLANTA TRIP



THE LITTLE MERMAID

Do not miss out on what's to come! Check out the next page for upcoming opportunities.

UP NEXT!

YOUTH PLANNED SKATING EVENT FOR BLACK YOUTH & FAMILY

1-1 CONVERSATIONAL INTERVIEWS & PHOTO VOICE PROJECTS

OPPORTUNITIES TO SHARE EXPERIENCES OF & DEFINE BLACK JOY



BLACK JOY PROJECT

1-1 CONVERSATIONAL INTERVIEWS
AND PHOTOVOICE PROJECTS



For more information or to get involved, contact our Initiative Coordinator, Rachel Warren at the following:

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Email: Rachel.Warren@brooklynsallianceforyouth.org

Visit website for more information:

<https://www.brooklynsallianceforyouth.org/black-youth-mental-health>