

HYPE Open Mic

Youth Undoing Institutional Racism Pittsburgh
American Friends Service Committee



“Education is the Key; Don’t Lock us Out”

Youth and yelders* alike took to the mic for the first ever H.Y.P.E. Open Mic put on by AFSC’s Youth Undoing Institutional Racism (YUIR) Pittsburgh on May 26th. Hosted by YUIR Youth Leaders, poets stepped to the mic to speak their truths about racism, identity, and the constant disrespect of the School-to-Prison Pipeline. [Written testimonies and illustrations by Brashear high school students](#) lined the walls with messages like “Education Is the Key; Don’t Lock Us Out” and “Our Children Are Not Animals”.

All this artistry was part of YUIR’s campaign to abolish school suspensions grades 3rd-8th at Pittsburgh Public Schools. YUIR Pittsburgh will be releasing a fourth zine this summer featuring student stories of suspension and unjust treatment at school. All YUIR zines can be found here:

issuu.com/search?q=yuir

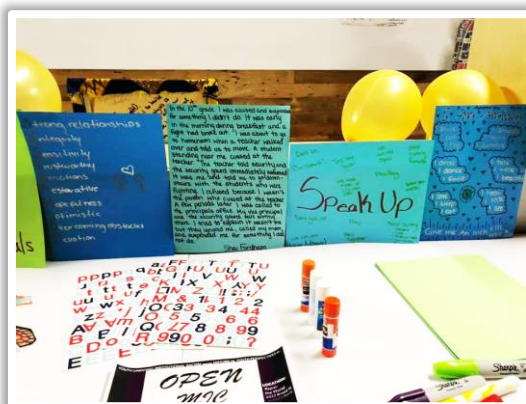
This time the “E” in H.Y.P.E. stood for Education... but stay tuned, YUIR is gearing up for Historical Youth Perspectives in Energy, Evolution, and other “E”s that will lead us toward a more humanistic future.

Please consider supporting this work with a [contribution to AFSC’s Pennsylvania Empowering Voices for Peace and Justice Program](#).

*yelders = youth + elders. Shout out to Seattle YUIR for this phrase!



YUIR welcoming the space with their opening ritual.



Attendees had the chance to share their story at the mic and on paper.