



**Leadership
Women™**

**Creating a New
Vision of Leadership**
A National Conversation

July 27-29, 2017
Dallas, Texas



WOMEN & COMMUNITY ACTIVISM

Ruthie Frierson
Founder, Citizens for 1 Greater New Orleans

Melissa Sawyer
Founder & Executive Director
Youth Empowerment Project



Citizens for 1 Greater New Orleans



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lemmgL_VT3M&feature=youtu.be



**YOUTH
EMPOWERMENT
PROJECT**

MISSION STATEMENT

YEP engages underserved young people through community-based education, mentoring and employment readiness programs to help them develop skills and strengthen ties to family and community.



VISION STATEMENT

YEP envisions a community where all people have access to the opportunities, skills, resources and relationships they need to actualize their potential.



CORE PURPOSE

YEP's core purpose is to empower young people to improve their lives and the lives of others.



Youth Empowerment Project – Our Work in 2017

YEP Mentors

Community Based Mentoring

Community Based Prevention

Community Based Intervention

Community Based Reintegration

YEP Works

Work and Learn Center

Postsecondary and Employment Transition Services

YEP Educates

NOPLAY
(New Orleans Providing Literacy to All Youth)

The Village

YEP Enriches

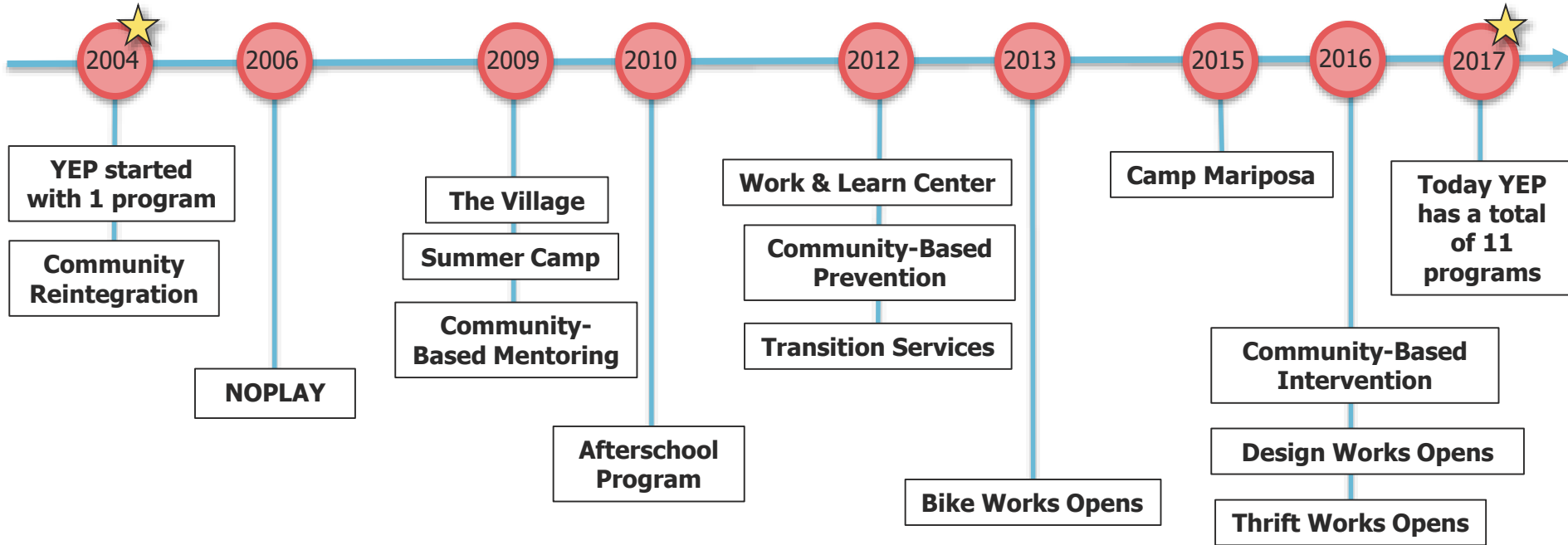
Afterschool Enrichment

Summer Camp

Camp Mariposa



YEP'S HISTORY



YEP's Impact

\$671,682

- Financial Aid received by Post-Secondary Transition Services participants

70%

- Of YEP's Work & Learn Program graduates were placed in workforce opportunities

350

- Number of YEP's High School Equivalency graduates since the program's inception in 2007

1201

Number of YEP Participants served in Fiscal Year 2016



“Empower A Generation”



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dhKUQsKyTrQ>



Lessons Learned: Final Thoughts on Community Activism



- **You have to be passionate.**
- **Find a way that works for YOU to get involved.**
- **You don't need to start something new to make a difference.**
- **Don't be stuck on a pre-determined pathway.**
- **Surround yourself with people who have skill sets that you don't and who are smarter than you.**
- **Don't think you have won the war when you have only won the battle.**
- **Laugh.**
- **Remember what you are doing is important and ultimately makes a difference. We must all play our part.**



**To learn more visit: www.youthempowermentproject.org
or follow us on social media: @YEPNOLA**





**Leadership
Women™**