

COLEMAN **ADVOCATES**

Summer Programs Update, September 2018



Coleman's summer programs were a booming success thanks to donors like you! Because of your generous support, our CMAC (Children Making a Change), YMAC (Youth Making a Change), and PMAC (Parents Making a Change) Summer Leadership Institutes engaged more young people and parents than ever!

The curriculum for each program included age-appropriate elements of Coleman's core leadership development curriculum, along with new skills building and political education workshops reflecting the most pressing issues of the moment.

Participants sharpened their individual and col-

lective organizing and advocacy skills, deepened their knowledge about the issues that affect their schools and communities, and bonded across race, ethnicity, and language.

They were able to develop a shared vision for the future and create action priorities for the coming year. Debates were frequent, hugs and high-fives abounded, tears flowed, and laughter filled the rooms of the Coleman community center as members explored the root causes of their individual and shared struggles.

By the end of the summer, program participants were equipped and inspired to mobilize their peers and lead Coleman's campaigns for the coming year.

Children Making a Change



CMAC's summer program focused on the theme "Imagination is Power." Ms. Brandie, the CMAC Organizer, developed a dynamic curriculum that offered youth daily, hands-on opportunities to explore imagination and creativity as powerful resources for making change in schools and communities.

The young people explored gender and immigrant justice issues, sharing their own experiences and dissecting the root causes for migration, xenophobia, and gender inequality, with a focus on how these issues play out in classrooms and impact educational opportunities.

The CMAC summer program concluded with the young people collectively envisioning, designing and painting a gorgeous mural expressing the ways imagination inspires hope and fuels social change.

69

I had so much fun in the summer. I really liked learning about art and making the mural at Precita Eyes. It made feel good because Ms. Brandie made me feel like I could make a change with art.

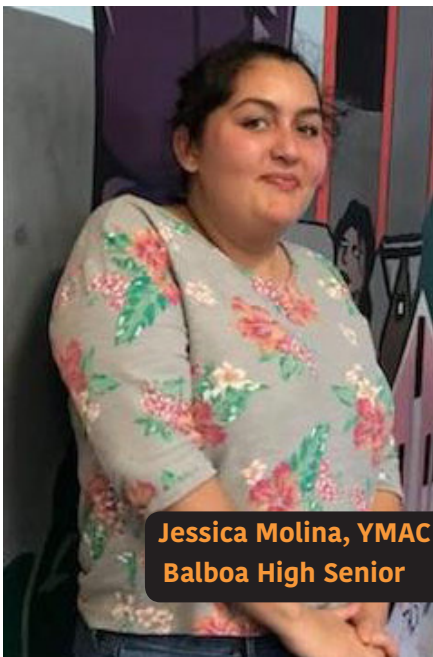


Sparkle Harper, CMAC member and 3rd grader at Carver Elementary

69

69

At first I was nervous about being a workshop facilitator for the summer program with me being a teen and teaching other teens. But as the weeks went by and I saw them more engaged each new day, it felt really amazing, especially as they got more comfortable with some saying things like, ‘I want to know more about my rights and other peoples rights.’ I’m happy I got to be a part of building this knowledge.



Jessica Molina, YMAC Member and Balboa High Senior

69

Youth Making a Change



YMAC’s summer program included educational workshops about the school-to-prison pipeline, immigrant rights, and youth-led social justice movements, as well as organizing, facilitation, public speaking, and other skills-building trainings. The program also included daily unity-building activities and opportunities for participants to share their hopes, fears, and ideas for change.

In their feedback about the program, the youth reported how much they appreciated having a safe and supportive space to share their personal stories and dig deep into the issues affecting their lives.

One participant shared that before joining YMAC, she didn’t think anyone cared about what she had to say and so she just kept her mouth shut. YMAC helped her to see that she is an expert on the problems she has to deal with every day in her school and that her voice and ideas are important and valuable. Another young person talked about how YMAC workshops and discussions helped him realize that his personal struggles are connected to structural inequities and that whole systems need to change if all kids are going to have a chance to succeed in school and in life.

Parents Making a Change



The PMAC summer program was offered in Spanish and English, with simultaneous interpretation. In addition to reviewing the full range of parents' rights and resources in SFUSD, parents explored a number of policies Coleman members helped to win over the years, including equity-based school discipline, immigrant parent rights, and district budgeting reforms. Parents also received intensive organizing and advocacy skills trainings and were provided opportunities to practice what they were learning in the field.

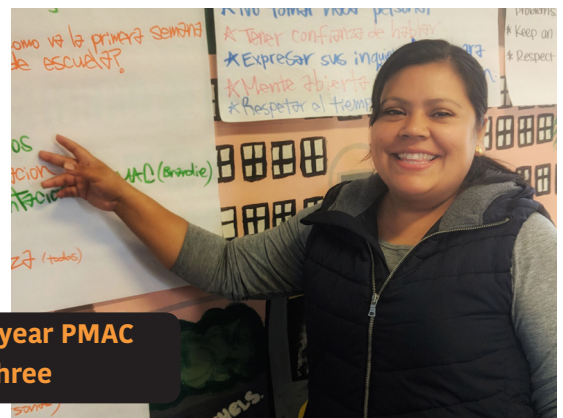
Participants reported being deeply moved and inspired by the candor and vulnerability of other parents in the program. For many parents, it was a powerful bonding experience to discover the similarities between their hopes and struggles, across race, ethnicity, and country of origin. It was also an intense emotional experience for many to share their stories and revisit so much pain and suffering.

Nicole, a parent member with expertise in holistic health and wellness, stepped up to take on a new leadership role in the group - implementing daily practices to address traumas surfaced and to support personal and group healing. The parents participated in energy and breathing practices, gratitude exercises, and mindfulness trainings. Nicole was grateful for the opportunity to share her skills, and the practices were an invaluable offering to PMAC members who deal with immense stress and toxicity on a daily basis.

The PMAC summer program concluded with parents participating in a housing rights action in the Excelsior neighborhood, where many of our parent members live. PMAC members were so enthused and empowered by all they had learned and experienced over the summer that, rather than wait to reconvene at the first fall PMAC meeting (scheduled for a couple weeks into the school year), they insisted on moving the meeting up to just days after the summer program ended. They were determined to build on the powerful momentum of the summer and eager to start their outreach efforts for our fall campaigns to win a charter school accountability policy, expand the community schools model in SFUSD, increase student and parent rights in interactions with police on campuses, and ensure that families have a meaningful role in the development of the district budget. We've got big plans and ambitious goals for these next two semesters and we are excited to see PMAC members take the school year by storm!

69

I joined PMAC because I saw so many Latino students not getting the support they need and deserve and I said to myself, 'if I as a parent don't take action to defend the rights of our children, who will?'



Guadalupe Benitez, 12 year PMAC member & mother of three