

Black youth create change in their communities through many different actions, and three main goals guided their changemaking.

- Pursuing racial and economic equity.
- Preparing peers for an anti-Black world.
- Improving themselves to improve their community.

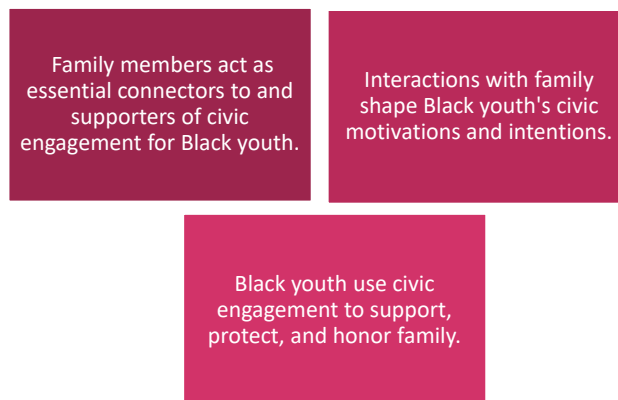
The Why and How of Young Black Changemaking

Black youth have different pathways into changemaking. Three key launching points describe what sparks Black youth to start their changemaking journey.



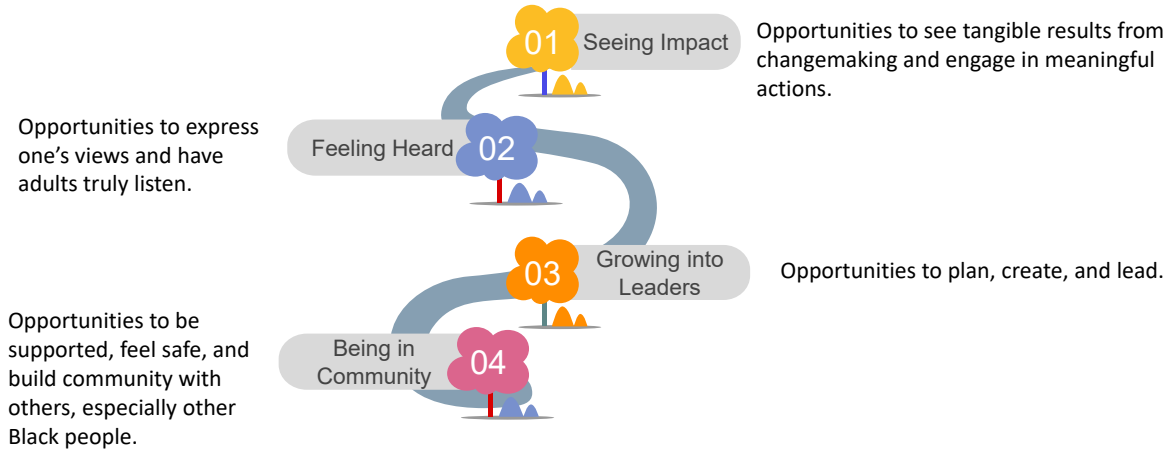
Launching Points: What Sparks Young Black Changemaking?

Black families are a core influence on young Black changemakers, and this influence played out in three major ways.



Family as Essential Connectors and Supporters of Young Black Changemaking

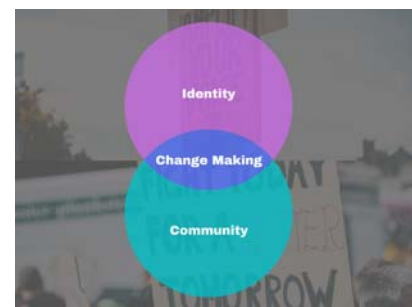
Black youth's experiences in community organizations are central to their growth as changemakers. Four experiences stand out:



The Role of Organizations in Sustaining Young Black Changemaking

Black youth develop individual and collective identity through changemaking.

- Building knowledge of historical injustices and legacies of Black changemakers strengthens youth's identity as a Black person and Black community member.
- Changemaking is one way that Black youth resist stereotypes.
- Racial awareness and identity can shift broad civic engagement to racial justice changemaking.



Black Identity and Community as Sustaining Forces for Black Youth

Non-Black spaces are often described as sites of oppression and exclusion, but also of resistance.

Black youth experience significant racial harm in non-Black spaces.

Black youth are often silenced and experiences of racism are ignored.

Black youth work to create safe Black spaces and challenge racism collectively.

Being Black in Non-Black Spaces

Summer 2020 brought egregious police violence and killings of Black individuals and a national uprising in the Movement for Black Lives. Young Black changemakers responded through reflections, emotions, and actions.

Reflections on the Moment

A global, virtually interconnected movement

A watershed moment in history

A continued legacy of racial justice activism, connecting past and future

Potential for long lasting social change for the next generation

Emotions

Urgency for Racial Justice

Sad, angry—why did it take so long for this?

Exhausted

Actions

Social media activism

New or renewed political activism

Seizing this moment to "be the change"

Young Black Changemakers Confronting Racial Injustice in Summer 2020