

THE ACTIVATE IMPERATIVE

At DreamYard, we are catalysts. Leadership, creativity, and power already live in the community where we, too, are members. Our role is to nurture, resource, encourage, inspire, and sometimes simply remind our community members of the power and endless possibilities that they hold. We do so by encouraging personal stories, acknowledging and working to change oppressive conditions, and fortifying each individual's personal power to transform.

GUIDING QUESTIONS

Who am I? → Personal Stories/Histories/Culture

Who are my ancestors?

What is my superpower/kryptonite?

When do I feel powerful/powerless?

Where am I? → Liberating/Oppressive Forces in Life

What do I see? (Naming)

How does it make me feel?

How am I affected?

What can I Do? → Awareness of Personal Power to Transform

What are the root causes?

What are the solutions?

What skills/knowledge do I have/need to change it?

The DreamYard Effect is realized when a critical mass of individuals are encouraged and supported to stretch beyond real or perceived boundaries to imagine and be catalysts for a more equitable world. It is the embodiment of inspiration, collective organizing, and action through creative practice, placekeeping, cultural preservation, social justice, and community empowerment.

DreamYard

"THE WORLD IS BEFORE YOU AND YOU NEED NOT TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT AS IT WAS WHEN YOU CAME IN." JAMES BALDWIN



ACTIVATE

INDICATORS

DreamYard Teachers, staff and students:

- **Commit to the notion of collective liberation: there is coalition & capacity building. “I’m not free until we are all free”.**
- **Recognize and acknowledge intersectionality as an important variable in our work together.**
- **Express comfort with people who are both similar to and different from them and engage respectfully with all people.**
- **Develop language and knowledge to accurately and respectfully describe how people (including themselves) are both similar to and different from each other and others in their identity groups.**
- **Respectfully express curiosity about the history and lived experiences of others and will exchange ideas and beliefs in an open-minded way.**
- **Examine diversity in social, cultural, political and historical contexts rather than in ways that are superficial or oversimplified**

*Inspired by teaching tolerance social justice standards / informed by a black queer feminist lens