

Spring 2026 Newsletter

www.projectwhat.org

IG: @project_what

BREAKING NEWS:

Project WHAT! celebrated their 20th Anniversary!



Two decades of ProjectWHAT!.

A journey defined by the courage and advocacy of young people reshaping how the world understands the impact of parental incarceration. What started as a bold effort to bring youth stories into policy conversations has grown into a space grounded in care, healing, and community. In most recent years, PW's focus has moved toward being present for the young people at the heart of our mission. As we honor our roots and the voices that built this foundation.

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PW Current Cohort

PW youth are currently getting ready to close out the program year strong. They have been focusing on going out and spreading awareness on CIP issues, sharing their experiences of parental incarceration and spreading the word that PW is hiring for the summer cohort!

We're Here and Talking : Showcasing some of PW's impact in the Bay Area



Project WHAT! has celebrated 20 years of youth empowerment work! The picture above shows current youth advocates, PW alumni, current PW staff, the 1st program manager of PW and Community Works's founder. This picture is a small glimpse of the impact that PW has had in the Bay Area and beyond. We have been lucky to work alongside youth, as they are subject matter experts, in hopes to provide more resources and supportive spaces for youth who have been impacted by the incarceration system. PW was created because CW founder, Ruth Morgan, alongside the San Francisco

Children of Incarcerated Parents Partnership found a need for youth voice in spaces. 20 years later, PW has helped served over 200 youth, partnered with 60 middle and high schools in Oakland and San Francisco, worked with 14 colleges/universities, and have facilitated workshops/ trainings on how to be better adult allies to over 1600 service providers. These numbers are low projected numbers, not showing the actual impact that PW youth have had when advocating for more visibility of the effects of parental incarceration. We are excited to continue doing the work!

We're Here and Talking : Showcasing some of PW's impact in the Bay Area



ZINE STATION

Attendees were able to create their own versions of zines through the direction of some of the activities that PW youth participate during their summer training experience.

GALLERY WALK

20 years of art work, zines and stories were highlighted in the gallery walk. Attendees were able to see the experiences that PW youth shared in timeline projects and zines. They were also able to see PW's space in our newly renovated office!



YOUTH PANEL

PW youth were able to talk about the impacts of parental incarceration and being system impacted. Hearing from first hand experience, attendees were able to hear from youth on how to show up better as adult allies.

Untold Narrative: Exploring the Essence of Our Fashion Brand and Its Philosophical Journey



Legacy in Action Award

Recipient: Kyle Magallanes Castillo

The Legacy in Action Award was given to a PW alum who has contributed to Project WHAT!'s legacy by their ongoing commitment to supporting and uplifting the voices of young, system-impacted people. Kyle is one of the co- executive directors of Community Works and is continuously working to help show the impacts of incarceration by uplifting the voice of those with 1st hand experience.

Voice and Visionary Award

Recipient: Jakaela Foster @jiguelozuna

The Project WHAT! Voice and Visionary Award was given to a PW alum, who not only embodies the values of Project WHAT!, but continues to push the needle forward! Your ongoing commitment to Project WHAT!, and overall dedication to the cause, have been immeasurable. Jakaela is one of the program coordinators of PW and is embodying what it means/ looks like to advocate for youth and the work they do on a daily basis.



Voice for the Voiceless Award

Recipient: Tony Shavers

The Voice from the Voiceless Award! award is dedicated to a PW alum who has continued to champion Project WHAT!'s mission of empowering people to step into their voice. As an author and personal development coach, Tony continues to advocate for PW and children of incarcerated parents in the spaces he is in. Please check out his amazing work at www.tshavers.com

