

Shelby County YPAR Update 5: Training Time

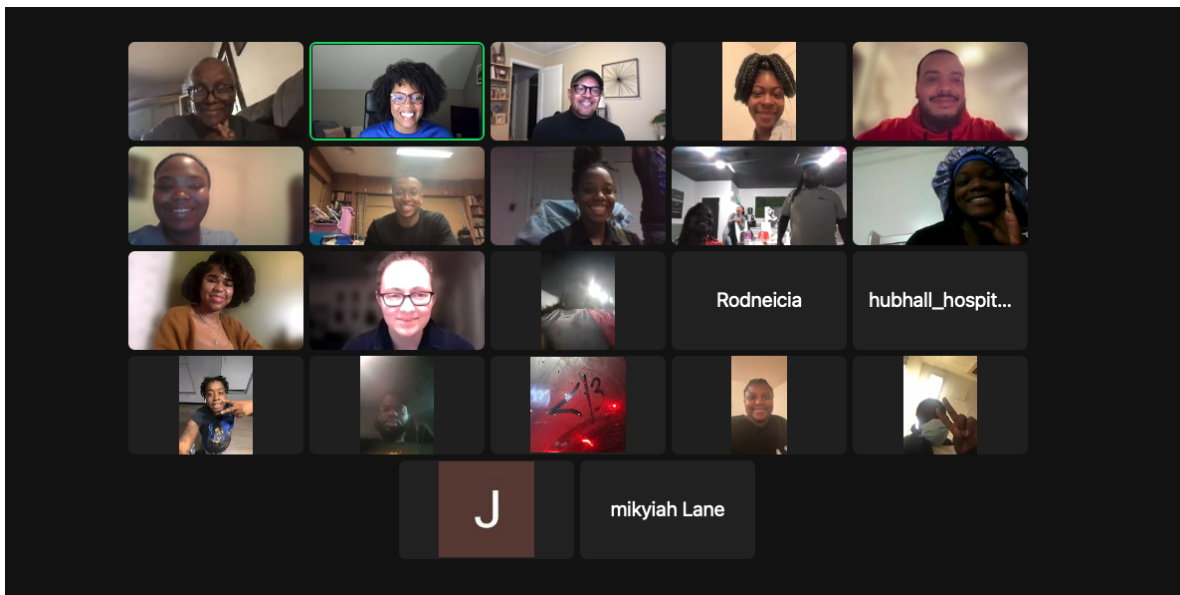
1 message

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It might be 🧟 Friday the 13th 🧟 (of October) but there is nothing spooky in this week’s Shelby County YPAR project update. Instead, you’ll learn more about the training that our Researchers and Local Research Coordinators are taking part in to get ready for the Research.

🏠 📖 **Learning the tools of the trade** 📖 🏠



This week the Shelby County YPAR Team—our 12 researchers, two alternates, folks from our three Local Research Coordinating organizations, and the facilitating team from Code for America—spent their Tuesday and Thursday evenings with educators from the Network for the Development Children of African Descent (or NdCAD for short). Across those two interactive classes, the NdCAD educators took the team through a variety of lessons and activities designed to get us all thinking critically about the various institutions that have shaped the ways we think about ourselves and concepts like community. They also spent time helping all of the participants begin to see how every one of us engages in research activities as we go through our daily lives.

The NdCAD team challenged the researchers to start thinking about their communities in a strength-based, values-driven way (as opposed to deficit thinking). To help with that, they had the researchers investigate their own communities, including identifying examples of different businesses and organizations headed by Black folks. They also gave the researchers their first “official” interview assignment for the project: interviewing a friend or family member about things that make a healthy community.

Next week there will be two more classes: one specifically on Youth Participatory Action Research Methods and the final class on turning research findings into community action.

The classes are being recorded and will be available for members of the Youth and Education Subcommittee and their organizations to watch after the training is complete.

👏 **Meet the NdCAD Team** 👏



Gevonee Ford is the Founder and Executive Director of Network for the Development of Children of African Descent (NdCAD), a family education and literacy center that was established in 1997 and based in Minneapolis, MN. Over the past 40 years, Gevonee has worked in the fields of early childhood and K12 education, specializing in program development, non-profit management and education policy. Gevonee has been at the forefront of progressive education in Minnesota serving as a teacher, trainer, program director and community organizer. His work has been recognized at national, state and local levels. He has received numerous awards including being named a 2012 White House Champion of Change, under the Obama administration.



Samuel Ramos is the Program and Training Coordinator for Network for the Development of Children of African Descent (NdCAD). Sam has spent the last 13 years working with children and families in Minnesota around the connections between literacy and healthy cultural identity. He spent several years as a classroom tutor for a culturally responsive reading intervention program for K12 students, engages with parents as a literacy and advocacy workshop facilitator and provides professional development training for educational institutions.



Dr. Brian Lozenski is an Associate Professor of Urban and Multicultural Education in the Educational Studies Department at Macalester College in St. Paul, Minnesota. He received his doctorate from the University of Minnesota where he studied the cultural contexts of teaching and learning. His research explores the intersections of critical participatory action research, black intellectual traditions in education, and cultural sustainability in the education of youth of African descent. Prior to pursuing his Ph.D., he taught for over a decade in his hometown of Philadelphia, PA and then in his current home of St. Paul, MN. As an educator and

researcher, he has worked with other educators, parents, schools, and districts to develop perspectives and strategies that aspire toward social justice while illuminating the historical realities that have created current educational disparities.

Next Steps: Continue training and then prepare for conducting research

Training with NdCAD continues next week. Once the training is complete recordings of the four sessions will be made available for folks to watch.

Once the training is completed, the researchers will begin to work on planning for their community research on helping reconnect disconnected youth.

Comments or Questions?

We want to hear from you! If you have any questions or comments about how the project is going, please reach out to the Shelby County YPAR Team at shelbyYPAR@codeforamerica.org. We'd also LOVE feedback on how to improve future updates!

If you would like to unsubscribe from these updates, please respond with "unsubscribe" in the body of your email.

👁️ Be on the lookout for the next update a week from now! 👁️

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[Join us at Code for America](#) and work to improve the delivery of services to the folks who need them most.

Interested in civic work, careers in UX research, alternatives to design thinking, trauma informed methods, and more? Check out this crowd-curated resource: <https://bit.ly/CivTechTransition>