

L V L M

Youth-approved education for liberation strategies & tools

Liberating Voices/Liberating Minds (LVLM) is the publications and professional development project of The Brotherhood/Sister Sol (BHSS) offering **Training, Coaching** and **Resources** to educators, youth workers, schools and community organizations committed to practicing education that transforms minds, lives and communities. Over 425 people (ages 15-60+) working in over 160 different spaces have experienced LVLM. They give high ratings for its quality, accessibility and influence. They are reminded of the meaningfulness of working with youth and have:

“put into perspective what is possible with youth leadership and peer influence.”

“finally found the answer of how to integrate movement building into youth development work.”

Since 2006, BHSS has enabled more youth to access educators informed about the issues that matter to and impact them. As a result of our trainings, LVLM participants have:

- Facilitated our workshops and icebreakers
- Shared our members' writings with their youth
- Redesigned their approach to a leadership development elective class
- Created single sex programming that was modeled after our **Rites of Passage Program**
- Hired a BHSS alumna as their Community Assistant and as their Chapter Leader

The Brotherhood



SisterSol

Established 1995

- Expanded their organization's library to “emphasize Black and Latino writers”
- Launched an activism project for 4th & 5th graders focused on keeping the local YMCA open that was inspired by our youth-led **Liberation Program**
- Used what they describe as “challenging readings and detailed textural analysis” and writing activities
- Given greater focus to staff development including by sharing their experiences at LVLM Institute with colleagues

Our LVLM Partners are, or have included:

- Girls Best Friend Foundation (Chicago, IL)
- Nathan Cummings Foundation (New York)
- W.K. Kellogg Foundation (Pittsburgh, PA)
- Open Society Institute (New York)
- New York City Department of Education
- The Steans Family Foundation (Chicago, IL)

“Up until this week I had forgotten the beauty of the teenager. I plan to utilize this training, first in thinking differently about my teens, then in finding ways—verbally, physically/spoken or written to remind them of the amazingsness.”

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The Brotherhood/Sister Sol offers comprehensive, holistic and long-term support to youth who ages from eight to 22. We focus on leadership development, educational achievement, sexual responsibility, sexism and misogyny, political education and social justice, Pan African and Latino/a history, and global awareness. Our evidence-based programming includes a 4-6 year rites of passage process, 5-day-a-week after school care, counseling, summer camps, job training and opportunities, college preparation, community organizing training, and international study in Africa and Latin America. Our work has earned national recognition that includes the **Oprah Winfrey Angel Network Use Your Life Award**, **Ford Foundation Leadership for a Changing World Award**, **Abyssinian Development Corporation Harlem Renaissance Award**, and **Brown University** inaugural Alumni Association Young Public Service Award.

TRAINING

LVL M Institute is typically 3-days long and designed for groups of 10 to 30 people. Participants learn about the BHSS educational approach from our staff and alumni—those who have directly experienced our model and those adept at facilitating it. Youth voice is resonant in their writings and during exchanges with current members and alumni who speak candidly about what sparks their learning and development as emerging leaders.

LVL M Institute is offered:

- At our brownstone (a living pedagogy) for individuals and duos/small teams from the same school or organization.
- Through schools, school districts, community based organizations, university departments, and foundations that contract with us to facilitate trainings around the country.

Participants will:

- Learn and practice youth engagement strategies with topics that include:
 - Facilitating rites of passage and single sex programming
 - Nurturing brotherhood and sisterhood
 - Using reflective writing to hone critical thinking and creative expression
 - Helping youth define individual and collective moral/ethical codes for achieving their personal goals and creating strong communities
 - Selecting and utilizing developmentally/culturally relevant and challenging resources
 - Developing holistic curriculum using our *Framework for Analysis*® and *Content, Perspective, Dialogue Workshop Model*®
 - Engaging in reflective, collaborative practice
- Reflect on their role as facilitators of youth development in discussions on race, class, gender, and other critical social issues
- Receive LVL M Publications

COACHING

LVL M Institute participants can receive support in adapting elements of our model into their settings to align with their mission. Coaching is individualized to meet the needs and interests of teams or individuals, but has included:

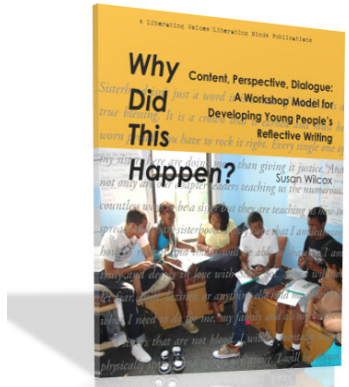
- Providing long term training leading to the founding of the *Bermuda Brotherhood* (no legal affiliation), created to help address the rise of violence on the island and hired a Brotherhood alumnus to co-facilitate the project
- Reviewing and providing advice on the design of a 7-week community ethnography project and museum inspired by one of our workshops and created by The Harlem Community Justice Center
- Working with a team of teachers and school staff at two middle schools (Isaac Newton Middle School for Science & Math, Thurgood Marshall Academy for Learning and Social Change) seeking to develop their Advisory by focusing on students social development as an enhancement to their academic classes
- Providing year-long guidance in the development and implementation of “Social Justice Core Values” at DreamYard Project (Bronx, NY)
- Offering feedback to numerous individuals on curriculum and workshop development

“The overall strength of the training was BHSS's view of children and their belief in their being individuals who are worth more than what society says they are.”

“The quality of the instructors/facilitators was second to none. The content was delivered in an easy to understand manner, and even though this is an ambitious program, the instructors give you confidence that it is possible to implement.”

RESOURCES

LVL M Publications include our curricula (a collection of over 50 workshops and strategies for developing rites of passage programming, and a how-to primer for fostering young people's social consciousness). We have also compiled anthologies of our members' writings, bringing to light the powerful voice of youth—providing both examples of the outcomes of our model and literary tools for educators.



Why Did This Happen?

Content, Perspective, Dialogue: A Workshop Model for Developing Young People's Reflective Writing
by Susan Wilcox (Ed.D.)

"For educators and others who are interested in finding ways to engage young people. . . a practical, insightful and accessible guide."

Pedro Noguera

Agnew Peter L. Professor of Education New York University

"Not only an instructional roadmap, but a moral compass for working with Black and Latino students as if they matter."

A. Lin Goodwin, Professor of Education & Associate Dean for Teacher Education, Teachers College, Columbia University

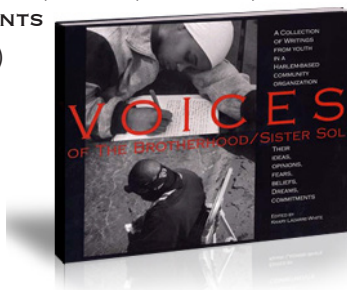
"A stellar resource to positively engage African American and Latino youth . . . to ensure academic and life success."

Sabrina King, Former Chief Academic Officer
New York City Department of Education

VOICES OF THE BROTHERHOOD/SISTER SOL

A COLLECTION OF WRITINGS FROM YOUTH IN A HARLEM-BASED COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION - THEIR IDEAS, OPINIONS, FEARS, BELIEFS, DREAMS, COMMITMENTS

- Khary Lazzarre-White (Ed.)



Brother, Sister, Leader: The Official Curriculum of The Brotherhood/Sister Sol

Compiled, edited & designed
by Susan Wilcox (Ed.D.)

" . . . a gift that is urgently needed by today's teachers. It is not a quick fix, not a simple recipe, but it is a workable investment that will empower teachers to teach and students to learn, all students."

Ruth Charney, Co-Founder,
Northeast Foundation
for Children, *Responsive Classroom Approach*

" . . . has the power to transform young people . . . should be used by public schools, private schools, youth development agencies, civic groups, cultural institutions, faith-based organizations, and families."

Reverend Alfonso Wyatt

Vice President, Fund for the City of New York



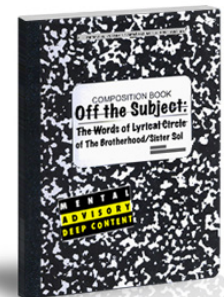
Off the Subject:

The Words of Lyrical Circle of The Brotherhood/Sister Sol

- Khary Lazzarre-White (Ed.)

"I am struck by the level of empathy and compassion found in these words. . . . It is clearly due to The Brotherhood/Sister Sol . . . the guiding force that tutors their hearts and minds with such careful attention to the redemptive possibilities of personal narrative and to the necessity for critical citizenship in the world."

From the Foreword by **Sekou Sundiata**, Poet



LVL M Publications are available online at:
<http://www.brotherhood-sistersol.org/bookstore.shtml>

REACH

Over **1000** teachers, youth organizers, program directors, principals, graduate students and professors from over **200** K-12 schools, youth organizations and universities have participated in **LVLM Institute**.

West

Bayview Association for Youth
- San Francisco, CA
San Francisco Achievers Cultural Rites of Passage Program

Mid-West

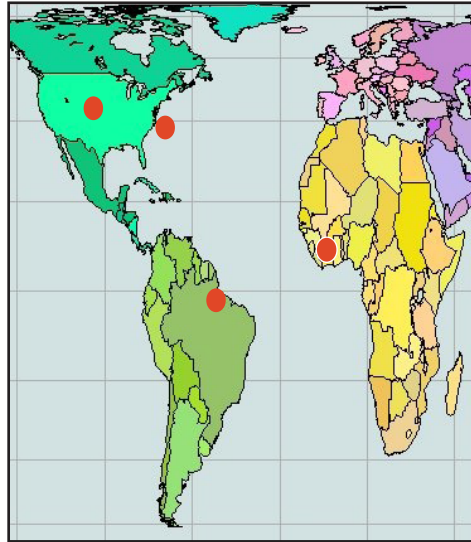
Access Living of Metropolitan - Chicago, IL
Black Male Summer Program - Milwaukee, WI
Blessed Sacrament Youth Center - Chicago, IL
Brighton Park Neighborhood Council - Chicago, IL
Celestial Ministries - Chicago, IL
Chicago Girls Coalition
Family Focus - Chicago, IL
Family Matters - Chicago, IL
Global Girls - Chicago, IL
Healthy Families - Chicago, IL
The House Covenant Church - Chicago, IL
Illinois Caucus for Adolescent Health
- Chicago, IL
Milwaukee Public Schools
North Lawndale College Prep High School -
- Chicago, IL
P.O.W.E.R. - Chicago, IL
Public Allies - Milwaukee, WI
Carole Robertson Center - Chicago, IL
Running Rebels Community Organization -
Milwaukee, WI
Sankofa Safe Child Initiative - Chicago, IL
Street-Level Youth Media - Chicago, IL
Umoja Student Development Corporation
- Chicago, IL
Urban Underground - Milwaukee, WI
YMEN - Chicago, IL

South

The Children's Defense Fund - Jackson, MS
El Centro Hispano - Durham, NC
Durham School of the Arts - Durham, NC
Feret Neighborhood Center - New Orleans, LA
Global Girls - Durham, NC
El Kilombo Intergalatico - Durham, NC
Institute for Southern Jewish Life - Jackson, MS
Jackson Public School District - Jackson, MS
Nollie Jenkins Family Center - Jackson, MS
Lakewood Elementary School - Durham, NC
Mississippi Youth Justice Project - Jackson, MS
Mos Chukma Arts as Healing Institute -
New Orleans, LA
Partnership for Youth Development -
New Orleans, LA
E.K. Powe Elementary School - Durham, NC
Riverside High School - Durham, NC
SEEDS - Durham, NC
SpiritHouse - Durham, NC
Tougaloo College - Jackson, MS
Tulane University Center for Public Service - New
Orleans, LA
United Way of Capital Area - Jackson, MS
Urban League College Track - New Orleans, LA
The Young People's Project - Jackson, MS

East

Abyssinian Development Corporation - NYC
Added Value - Brooklyn, NY
ALANY (American Latin Association of New York)
AWAAM-Arab Women Active in the Arts and Media - Brooklyn, NY
Banana Kelly High School - Bronx, NY
Broadway Housing Communities/Dorothy Day After School Program - NYC
Brooklyn Community Arts and Media High School
Brooklyn Generation High School
The Brooklyn Young Mothers Collective
Buckingham Youth Bridge - Arlington, VA
CASES (Center for Alternative Sentencing & Employment Services) - NYC
Central High School - Newark, NJ
Citizens Community for NYC
CLUSTER Community Services - Yonkers, NY
Coalition for Asian American Children & Families - NYC
Correctional Association of New York/Each One Teach One & Safe Passages
Community Involvement Program (Brown University) - NYC
The Cove-KGNA - Bronx, NY
DC Language Access - Washington, DC



Dreamyard Action Project - Bronx, NY
Fiver Children's Foundation - NYC
Girls, Inc. - NYC
Girls for Gender Equity - Brooklyn, NY
exalt youth - Brooklyn, NY
Harlem Children's Zone
The Harlem Community Justice Center
Harlem RBI
Hudson Young Leaders/Bard College
- Annandale-on-Hudson, NY
Hyde Square Task Force - Boston, MA
Korean Americans Service and Recreation Center
- Flushing, NY
Learning Leaders - NYC
MNN Youth Channel - New York City
Make the Road New York - Brooklyn, NY
Mentoring USA - NYC
New Afrikan Women's Caucus/MXG Movement
- Brooklyn, NY
P.S. 114 (Luis Llorens Children's Academy) - NYC
The New York Academy of Medicine
Providence Summerbridge/The Wheeler School

S.T.A.M.P./Sasha Bruce Youthworks, Inc. - Washington, DC
Soundview Academy for Culture & Scholarship - Bronx, NY
Southern Tier Advocacy & Mitigation Project, Inc. - Ithaca, NY
Urban Assembly School for Peace and Citizenship - NYC
Urban Assembly School for Law and Justice Brooklyn, NY
West Brooklyn Community High School
YaYa Network - NYC
Youth Empowerment Mission/Blossom Program for Girls - Brooklyn, NY

International

Brazil: Irmãos Unidos - Areembepe (Bahia)

Bro/Sis Co-Founder Jason Warwin trained colleagues and has established our first official international Brotherhood program.

Bermuda: Bermuda Brotherhood

The Director, Board and other community leaders have participated in LVLM Institute. The organization also hired a Bro/Sis alumnus to help facilitate the program that uses our model. There is no legal affiliation.

Ghana: Adagana - Wusuta (Volta Region)

Dr. Kodzo Gavua (Archaeology Department Chair, University of Legon), a partner in our **International Study Program Study**, is using our model and curriculum to work with secondary school students.