2006-2016: Evaluating the Work and Expanding Impact through Collaboration

In May, we hosted YES!‘s biennial alumni survey online which helps us track long-term impact. We received the highest response ever, with 165 jammers participating. A few highlights to share:
- 100% feel jams are unique spaces for changemakers to engage with each other.
- 99% feel they made important and valuable contacts at the jam.
- 100% feel the Jam community is a wealth of information and resources.

Overall, we found that YES! is making progress in our goal to provide both organizational support and a post-jam network to support alumni and their work in ways that matter to them. 80% believe it is important for local Jam to remain connected, while 64% believe that it is important to foster international Jam connections. We look forward to new efforts led by alumni to further build the learning community!

Check out the full report at www.yesworld.org/media

25th Anniversary Expressions

Our 25th anniversary celebrations opened up expressive outlets for sharing YES!’s learnings and contributions in new ways. We began a graphic recording project, to link powerful Jam tools with visual images; an alumni musical/poetry compilation to evoke Jam energy; and a short video of Jam facilitators around the world, welcoming the fullness of each person. All of these efforts speak directly to the heart and will hopefully enable people to better understand the core spirit, practices and purpose of Jams. See more at www.yesworld.org/media

YES@Work

Over the last several years, YES! has been partnering with organizations, universities, social enterprises, and other institutions to utilize our transformational learning and leadership tools to meet their challenges and needs. This year, we concretized these efforts into a pilot program, YES@Work, to support aligned groups, including Habib University, Thrive East Bay, Mindfulness in the Law Teacher Training, Barrett-Koehler Foundation and the Project for Integrating Spirituality, Law and Politics. Let us know if you have recommendations for us, or want to work with us in this capacity!

“YES! is supporting our organization to shift our internal communication processes. They have introduced new language that helps us understand where we’re at, where we going and where we want to be. We have been using a number of tools that help us build accountability for new forms of teamwork and communication. Everyone spoke, everyone really listened and reflected back what was being said. It helped us to develop our empathy muscles.”

- Simone Adler, Operations Manager, Other Worlds, Oakland, California USA

Stay Tuned for 2016-17 Jams and other programs

- Kauai Convergence Lab mini-Jam, November 3-4, 2016
- Oakland Peace Center Jam, November 10-13, 2016
- India Arts for Social Change Jam, November 29 - December 4, 2016
- Pakistan Youth Leadership Jam, January 25-31, 2017
- Queer/LGBTQ+ Jam, March 10-16, 2017
- Healing Our Movement Ecosystem (HOME) Environmental Jam, March 28 - April 2, 2017
- Evolving + Emerging Economies Jam, April 11-16, 2017
- Arts for Social Change Jam, July 2-7, 2017
- North America Leadership Jam, September 10-18, 2017

Find more details at www.yesworld.org/connectjams

YES! 2015-2016 Annual Report

www.yesworld.org

3rd Toronto/Greater Toronto Area Jam

June 13-19, 2016, Markham, Ontario, Canada

“This has been one of the most spacious, loving, authentic, exploratory, playful and safe communities within which I’ve ever had the privilege of participating. I am astounded at what moved and shifted for me during this seemingly short time. I am deeply encouraged and inspired to know that my vision for a “different” era is complementary to the visions of my new Jam Fam (here and around the world). And that individually and collectively we are already living into the world we know is possible. Being the change does really change the being.”

- Hannah Renglich, 29, National Dialogue Coordinator, 4Ws Youth Movement, Toronto, Canada

8th Middle East Youth Leadership Jam

October 23-30, 2015, Wadi Rum, Jordan

“I observed at the Jam what I already knew the world is broken. However, what I learned there is that with those broken pieces, you can build a beautiful mosaic of a shared and a newly visioned future, a mosaic where every piece is just as important as the next in realizing the bigger picture of global healing and growth. I have never witnessed collective healing and visioning like I did at the Jam. It gave me hope and drive to continue very hard and often exhausting work. I now go back to help lead a team through the process of a collaborative community-based work model.”

- Omar Aklam, 30, Multinational Programs & Strategy, Seeds of Peace, Jerusalem

Yes! 2015-2016 Annual Report

www.yesworld.org

1990-2016: 26 Years of Transformation!

YES! connects, inspires and collaborates with multi-generational changemakers to build thinking just and regenerative ways of life for all. We work at the meeting point of internal, interpersonal and systemic transformation; realizing that all layers of change are interconnected and interdependent. Our programs seek to expand the vision, community, and capabilities of leaders at all levels — visionaries, artists, social entrepreneurs, activists, and more, to support their unique gifts, their commitment to service, and their creativity towards creating a better world.

- Yes! 2015-2016 Annual Report
I am truly grateful to know that there are a group of people out there who understand the mechanisms of personal oppression and its connection to the work, the destiny of the changemaker, we all aspire to be. I found real connection to the work, the destiny, the group of people out there who understand the challenges posed, and the permission to create, to hold, to build, to empower, to draw new boundaries, to climb new hills, and to look for new horizons through the WE. In the end, it’s the community, the group, the society as a whole, that holds the power and the seeds of change.

Elif Kevser Özer, 28, Oral Historian and PhD Student, Istanbul, Turkey

The Jam helped cultivate a curiosity and relationship with parts of myself that I had not yet met. I feel more expansive because of the Jam, because of the questions asked, the challenges posed, and the permission granted... Let’s dare greatly together. Let’s look at the ugliness and not turn away, feet planted, one hand on our heart, the other extended palm up, remembering we are supported by a vast and limitless well of love and creativity.

Josh Arnold, 33, Founder, Global Awareness Local Action, Ossipee, New Hampshire, USA

I am in awe of the Jam which held me in my moments of triumph, vulnerability, joys and sorrows. I received so much strength for listening to the stories – feeling into the processes, hearing the words of wisdom, and learning the tools to use for different purposes and situations. Thank you for giving me the space to fall in love with myself and for letting me explore myself.

− Pulkit Aggarwala, 27, Executive Director, Phoenix Hospital, Chandigarh, India

“This Jam allowed me to see and understand leadership from a whole different perspective, it changed my vision of the world… This is the Jam how you train the next generation of changemakers, not by coercion, imposition, and competition, but by creating common grounds, effective methodologies, inclusive processes of understanding, a source of inspiration from the group, and the sole determination to create, to hold, to build, to empower, to draw new boundaries, to climb new hills, and to look for new horizons through the WE. In the end, it’s the community, the group, the society as a whole, that holds the power and the seeds of change.”

Monica Carmona Vargas, 31, Evolucion a Transcend Project, Mexico City, Mexico

I am healed and transformed through in the most beautiful of ways.”

Angela Silras, 32, PhD candidate in developmental psychology, Riverside, California, USA

Thank you for helping me know myself better, for allowing me to discover talents that I did not know I had, and for giving me inspiration and courage to use these talents for social transformation. After the Jam, I have a heart that is inspired, courageous, and one that is looking forward to using Jam tools in my life.

− Burcu Ünal, 31, mandala and stone painting artist, Ankara, Turkey

The alchemy of what we created has helped me become unstuck and also given me invaluable tools for my tool-belt. I understand now that the new economy is built on, and in fact, is, love, kindness, authentic vulnerable connection, exquisite self-care, right relationship, and working together as community... strengthened by the support and bonds of community. I feel like you helped remove the veil from my eyes and reminded me of my true purpose in this world which is to walk and act in love, kindness + my truth, and have faith that this will carry me through in the most beautiful of ways.

− Niki Bolley, 42, writer & performance practitioner, Gorton, California, USA

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− Antoinette Gonzalez, 40s, immigration attorney, Warrenton, Virginia, USA

“The Jam meets an urgent need to bring together attorneys who care about ‘law and social change’, who have an interest in deepening what it means to bring our whole selves, our social interacting selves, and the selves that participate in systems. We are bringing spirit to the conversation. Spirit has always been present in history of social change that addresses systemic inequities based on race, class, gender, and sexuality. Spirit is what drives people to take risks, have courage, and make space for change.”

Antoinette Gonzalez, 40s, immigration attorney, Ukiah and Fresno, California, USA

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