

ROC2CHANGE[®]



*Led by students for students, **ROC2Change** inspires and empowers* high school youth across boundaries of geography, race and life experiences to become effective change agents. We elevate the authentic voices of our youth through student-organized, region-wide Student Summits on Race and year round experiences, preparing them to create anti-racism movements within their home schools and the broader community.

SUMMIT HOST MANUAL

OVERVIEW

ROC2Change began its journey in Rochester, NY in January 2016 following the Gateway2Change summit held at Irondequoit High School. Rochester Area Schools host two summits a year. The first summit included roughly 150 students from 11 districts; currently, the summits are designed to include 600 students from over 33 schools and districts. Roughly 100 adults attend as well, including chaperones, administrators, as well as keynote speakers, dignitaries, program supporters, and other community guests.

Jeff Crane, retired Superintendent of West Irondequoit Schools, first introduced the idea of the summits when he brought the group of students in from St. Louis, MO to run their Gateway2Change Summit, which was a reaction to the riots there to bring more awareness, understanding and social justice to communities by providing an opportunity for teens to speak openly with each other about race relations. From that initial summit, attending students have always clamored for more. Roc2Change is an ongoing student movement, which is supported and facilitated

by educators and school leaders. There has never been any intent to capitalize or exploit this unique happening; rather, our work has been to protect our students and allow them to continue to grow as leaders, activists, and individuals.

R2C has always been an intangible non-equity that, in a sense, only exists because of the cooperative and continuous support of our area Rochester school districts. Our purpose is to provide a platform for our teens to openly discuss race. Our approach has always been to enhance student voice through student leadership. This program has continued because of our local school districts who volunteer to host a summit and allow their students to be the leaders of that day and its program.

Each district host has been able to determine their budget, manage the expenses, find funding options, decide the date in November or March, find the venue, create the program, and to figure out the logistics in order to create a successful day that includes mixing up of the participating teens to amplify student voice in order for all to hear and to be heard respectfully. After the second summit, a team of former hosts began supporting current hosts to help guide summit planning and to provide at least one get-together from the student leaders of the prior summit with the group of students planning the upcoming event.

Each program includes some constants: students lead students into a willingness to be comfortable in the uncomfortable and to lean into it, to embrace each new learning curve with an open mind in order to gain empathy for others and to find ways to begin to address our racial inequities and issues. It is key for the entire group to understand that they will not solve all or possibly any issues through the discussion, but that individual students/schools can commit to an action plan — small or large, to work on improving race relations in their school communities.

From each Student Summit on Race, new equity champions emerge and develop as confident leaders and change agents in their home schools. As these student champions graduate from high school, they will bring their ROC2Change experiences with them into the global com-

munity. Leadership in the community will be a common by-product of participation in ROC2Change movement. Those who participated in high school can use their shared experiences to institute change in their adult lives, leading to progressive and cumulative impact across society. ROC2Change will be seen as a primary contributor to the creation of an anti-racist generation, and our entire community will benefit.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

R2C Advisory Committee was formed in January 2019; the members are the custodians of the R2C program, they look into grant options, provide support to our current hosts as they prepare for a successful summit, and routinely review, update and modify our work to reflect our community's changing needs.

As custodians of the program, the committee is charged with ensuring the continuity of the program and to make sure that each host maintains the original intent “to provide a platform for our teens to openly discuss race; its approach has always been to bring student voice through student leadership.” “Students [will] lead students into a willingness to be comfortable with discomfort, and to embrace each new learning curve with an open mind in order to gain empathy for others... and begin to find ways to begin to solve our racial inequities and issues.” (This bears repeating.) To achieve this goal, we have put several steps in place to support our current host(s) as they plan their student-led summit.

In addition to providing the framework and support for each new summit, the advisory committee manages the R2C mailing list updating it frequently to keep all interested stakeholders informed. They also manage and build community connections in order to provide our current host with resources available to assist with summit planning or costs.

Committee members and other useful information can be found at www.roc2change.org

Committee Members can be reached via email at: info@roc2change.org



We're in this together

PLANNING TO HOST

Hosts are responsible for covering the costs not covered by the Monroe I BOCES Diversity Equity and Inclusion (DEI) CoSer. In addition, the R2C Advisory Committee remains dedicated to securing donors and sponsors to help defray the costs of the summits. Our hosts can choose to host independently or in collaboration with another district.

Host Options:

1. Single District Hosts – covers the costs completely and creates the entire program alone
2. Co-hosts – share the cost and the program decisions equally
3. Partner Schools – help with the program in some way or multiple ways but do not incur any financial responsibility

Attendees: In order to provide our student participants with the opportunity to have as much discussion time as possible in smaller groups, the R2C Advisory Committee recommends the following:

- Limiting the number of students to 600
- Limiting the amount of full-day adults to 100 or less
- Allowing district administrators to visit as their schedules allow

Funding: The cost of Roc2Change will be covered by the Monroe I BOCES DEI CoSer by the determined ticket price. Ticket price may range depending on food and if paid speakers/presenters are used. Please see more about funding on page 6.

Optional Summit Location: Monroe 2-Orleans BOCES provides our local schools with their conference center facilities for the event, along with the use of their AV equipment, free of charge. Districts are free to choose different locations but must incur all costs.

Time of event: The event is usually held on a Friday in November and a Friday in March as decided by the host and runs from 8:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. Each attending school provides its own transportation there. Security is provided by BOCES and the host schools. Host schools may ask each attending school to provide security as deemed necessary.

Schedule:

Transportation requirements dictate some of our schedule. The following outline is mindful of those moments of varying arrivals and departures.

Keep in mind, the following are suggestions, not requirements and are just listed to help you with planning. It is a big job and we are here to support you.

- Registration 7:45 – 8:15 a.m.
- Opening/R2C mission, focus and mindset. Optional keynote or opening ceremony
- Begin at 8:30 a.m. (a handful of schools will continue to arrive.)
- Brief words of welcome from Hosts and recognition of sponsors
- Time for a brief message from the Princeton Prize in Race Relations
- Anchoring into mindset, purpose, focus vocabulary and agenda
- Central Focus is outlined and key information shared
- 9:15 – 11 a.m. This block of time includes 2-3 learning sessions that rotate group work and discussion
- Sharing out and social media opps
- Early lunch about 11 – 11:45 a.m.
- Lunch can include a working topic, entertainment, or social media opportunities and can extend lunch to an hour
- 12 – 12:45 p.m. Last learning session(s)
- 12:45 p.m. Call to action and time for schools to re-gather to make plans for how to share their knowledge through an action plan for their school
- Closing at 1 p.m.
- Work time until 1:30 p.m. or use this time for an open mic of student talent
- Calling of buses as they arrive

It's about sharing experiences and learning from others respectfully...

SUMMIT MINDSET

- a. Be present and open to sharing experiences and learning from others respectfully.
- b. Lean into the discomfort.
- c. Recognize that the task of improving race relations will need continuous and ongoing work.
- d. What we do today may not solve anything or come to closure, but we can continue working every time we meet and continue the work with others. Change will happen.

LOGISTICS

- Venue is pre-set at the BOCES Conference Center in Spencerport. Their facility will provide:
 - o AV needs
 - o The arrangement of the space as requested
 - o Spaces for adults to congregate
 - o Assistance with making lunch/food arrangements
 - o Materials for group work — supply boxes, chart paper, painters tape
 - o On-site support
- Food
 - o Continental breakfast of sorts
 - o Lunch
 - o Beverages
 - o Snacks if you are following previous summits (the local BOCES culinary program will provide baked goods if set up in advance and as they can accommodate requests)
- Committee liaisons for hosts – Barb Reardon and Sally Brothers
- T-shirts – optional for hosts or distribution to students. Most hosts supply the presentation team only with shirts.

- Communications – Amanda Puleo, APR is the R2C liaison for all your needs and includes or oversight or completion of:
 - o Printing – invitations, programs, posters, fliers, presentation materials, registration materials, location signs, door signs, bathroom signs, etc.
 - o Invitation information and forms sent, and re-sent
 - o Notices sent to the local media
- Registration – Barb Reardon is the R2C liaison who will take care of all registration needs and coordinate that with the invitation process. In general, 8 students and 2 adults attend from each high school.
 - o Up-to-date mailing list
 - o Electronic registration forms for students and adults
 - o Lunch selections/dietary restrictions
 - o Registration process upon arrival
 - o Follow-up surveys
 - o Name tags
- R2C Host Support – Barb Reardon and Sally Brothers
- Adult Sessions Liaison – Sally Brothers

SUMMIT HOSTS

Our host schools present a ROC2Change Summit; they are not owners of the ROC2Change initiative and cannot make decisions for ROC2Change, but can make decisions for their summit in the name of their school district.

As the program has grown, our students have wanted more experiences with peers in schools other than their own. Providing for the opportunity for multiple schools to host together has not only helped defray costs and workload, but also developed bonds with schools and among students from urban, suburban and rural communities.

Summit host districts are selected annually.

