PHOTOVOICE
HAMILTON YOUTH PROJECT

A GUIDE TO DEVELOPING A PHOTOVOICE
PROJECT IN YOUR COMMUNITY

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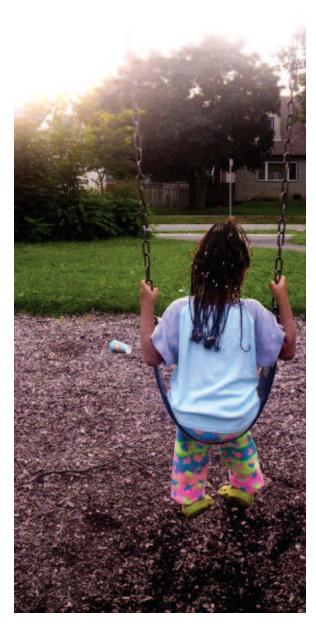Bell Arte Camera foto source
Gino's Pizza
Westside Theatre
Earls Court Gallery
The Hamilton Spectator

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THE ONTARIO TRILLIUM FOUNDATION — LA FONDATION TRILLIUM DE L'ONTARIO

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INTRODUCTION

Over the past six months we worked to stay as true to the philosophy of Photovoice as possible. We provided a framework to engage youth, we provided resources and support. More importantly, we encouraged young artists to determine what they wanted us to know. We validated but did not direct, clarified and tried not to interfere. The images and ideas are those of the youth involved, what is important, concerning and of interest to them. These are their voices.

This book, combined with the Exhibit is the outcome of our process. We provide an overview of the seven Photovoice groups we facilitated this year to present the essence of the project. We have also outlined nine steps that we hope will help other groups understand and conduct their own Photovoice projects.

Jennie, Sarah and Lloyd - 2008

STEP ONE
UNDERSTANDING PHOTOVOICE

Photovoice is a research strategy that uses photography as a tool for social change. It is a process that gives people the opportunity to record, reflect and critique personal and community issues in a creative way.

Not all youth chose to record, reflect and critique personal and community issues in the same way. Some of the youth built a project around a common theme. Other youth paired off or worked independently. Some youth chose to reflect on their experiences by writing down their thoughts; others used poetry, composed lyrics or talked about their projects at group meetings.

Facilitators were flexible and sensitive to the various ways participants chose to reflect on their images.

"Images contribute to how we see ourselves, how we define and relate to the world, and what we perceive as significant or different. The lesson an image teaches does not reside in its physical structure, but rather in how people interpret the image in question."

Carolyn C. Wang, Photovoice Creator/Researcher

CONSIDERATIONS

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