RAD

COHORT

INSIGHTS

REPORT

The Research Activate Deepen (RAD) Cohort is Youth Climate Lab's second iteration of the award-winning program that supports youth to lead the collective effort towards a more equitable, just, and climate-resilient future. The RAD Cohort equips youth (18-30) with skills, mentorship, and funding to design and implement community projects that foster meaningful engagement, collaboration and intersectional action to advance the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Centring SDG 13, Climate Action, and SDG 17, Partnerships for the Goals, the RAD Cohort fosters a community of solidarity rooted in principles of radical collaboration, climate justice, arts-based methodologies, and intersectionality.

WHAT WE DID TOGETHER

The RAD Cohort's seven-month learning journey included learning modules on topics such as the 2030 Agenda, climate justice, community-led solutions development, multi-solving, and project development.

MODULES

7

PEER-TO-PEER CIRCLES

10

Participants were also invited to reflect and test out their learnings from the modules through peer-to-peer circles. These spaces were designed to strengthen the cohort community, be introduced to tools to help cope with climate anxiety, arts-based methodologies for creative collective visioning, and bounce off ideas for their community projects

Through national webinars, participants engaged with climate and community leaders advancing action and innovative solutions to learn about their journeys and expand their network

WEBINARS

4

YOUTH PAID AS MENTORS

12

Each participant was also matched with a mentor with similar SDG or community interests to provide guidance, share insights, and support participants shape, design, and implement their community projects. Mentors are advocates, organizers, and leaders committed to supporting the growth and capacity-building of young people. They hold knowledge and experience in working with communities, practice equity-centered collaboration, and are excited to prompt insightful questions to encourage participants to think critically about their projects.

PARTNERSHIPS TO DESIGN AND DELIVER THE RAD COHORT PROGRAM

(#PARTNERSHIPSFORTHEGOALS)

The program and curriculum were designed with support from the 4Rs Youth Movement. A partnership with The Starfish Canada was also sparked, to amplify participant voices through an opportunity to submit to The Starfish Journal. Community Foundations of Canada was also integral to the success of the program by providing mentorship for YCL staff, and helping to amplify the program across social media.

CREATION OF THE RADICAL COLLABORATION CARDS

A 20-card virtual card deck was developed to facilitate and aid groups in determining opportunities for radical collaboration. The prompts foster a type of collaboration that radically embodies equity, lived experiences, community, art, youth, and intersectionality to advance solutions-development in a way that is inclusive and systemic.

32 RAD Cohort participants were represented from coast-to-coast-to-coast covering 7 provinces/territories

92% of participants self-identified as having one or more underrepresented identities

29 participants had never engaged with Youth Climate Lab before the RAD Cohort program

80% of participants had no/limited experience implementing community projects and project management prior to the RAD Cohort

29K reach/impressions from all RAD Cohort related social media posts

411 website engagement of the RAD page from July 2023 until January 2024

PROGRAM STATS

33

20 participant-led community service projects were designed and delivered and 13 alumni and YCL network micrograntees provided to lead community projects advancing the SDGs

16

16 out of 17 SDGs were address by participants' community projects

675

RAD Cohort participants collectively spent approximately 675 hours working with their communities

13K

was distributed to youth to support their community projects

39

partnerships with local non-profits, advocacy groups, and collectives were formed by participants to design and implement their community projects

344

Participants estimate that a total of 344 youth were engaged through their community projects

76%

of participants reported that they are interested in continuing their projects

90%

of participants reported that they are interested in staying engaged in their communities through volunteering

PROJECT STATS
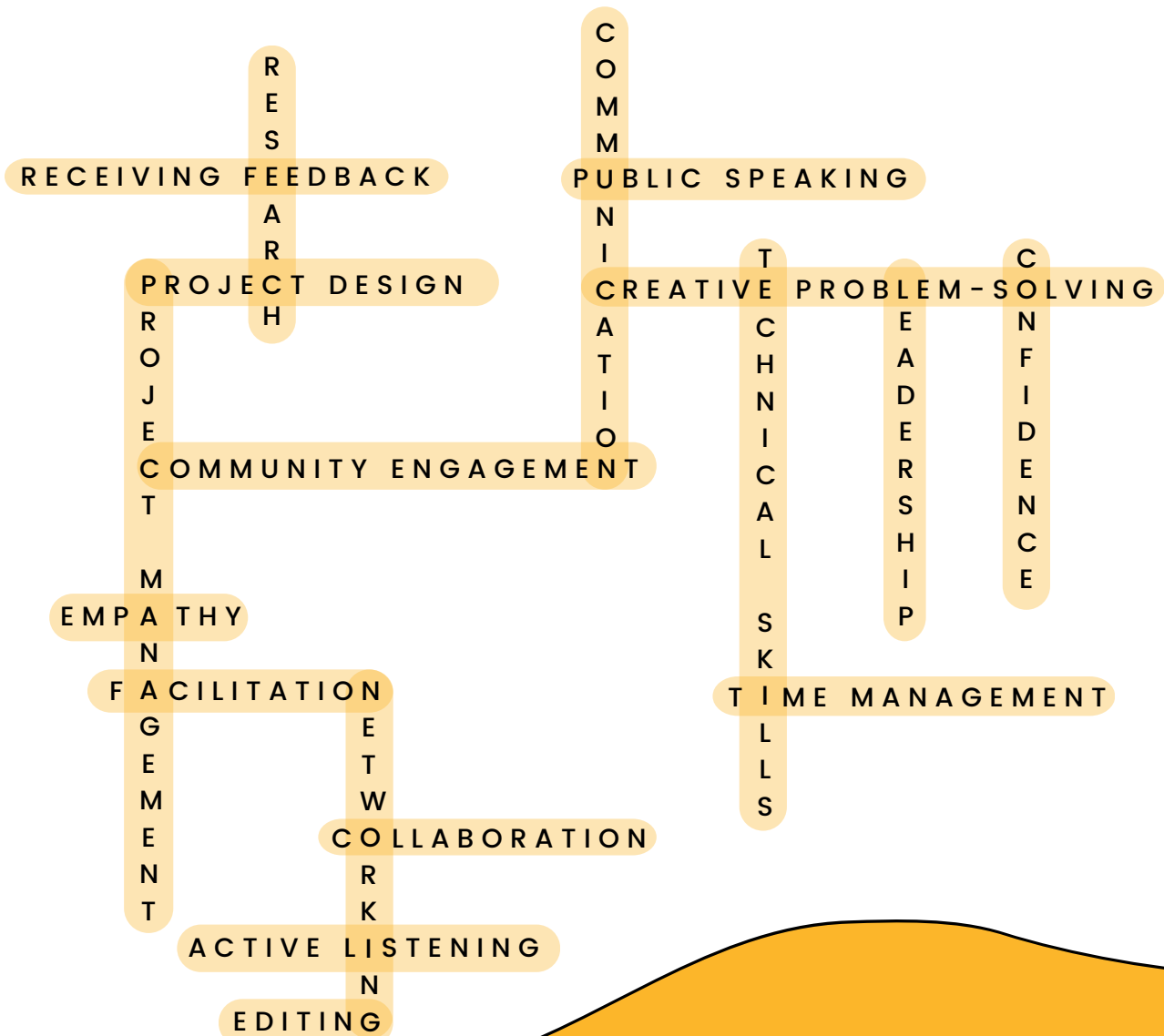
INSIGHTS & OUTCOMES

The skills participants said they developed and strengthened throughout RAD Cohort

RESEARCH

COMMUNICATION

RECEIVING FEEDBACK

PUBLIC SPEAKING

PROJECT DESIGN

PROJECT MANAGEMENT

CREATIVE PROBLEM-SOLVING

TECHNICAL SKILLS

LEADERSHIP

CONFIDENCE

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

EMPATHY

FACILITATION

NETWORK

TIME MANAGEMENT

COLLABORATION

ACTIVE LISTENING

EDITING

- Participants noted that funding, mentorship, peer-to-peer support, training material modules, and flexibility were especially helpful to enable their success in designing and implementing projects.

- Many participants reported that despite their passions for various causes, they experienced barriers dedicating time, resources, and energy to unpaid opportunities.

- Participants reported that significant intentional time and funding are essential to allow for a successful delivery of a community project that engages community and centers the principles of the RAD Cohort program.

STAFF REFLECTIONS

KENEISHA, RAD PROGRAM LEAD

RAD has really been a space of exploration and growth—both for me as the program lead and for our participants. It's been so heartening to see our participants gain confidence in their leadership skills and become pleasantly surprised by the ways their communities show up when they call out their visions.

RAE, RAD PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Witnessing the participants grow in confidence and leadership skills through RAD has been incredibly rewarding. It's inspiring to see how the participants' visions resonate within their communities, rallying support for their initiatives and climate action.

SOOMIN, PROGRAM LEAD + MENTORSHIP COORDINATOR

The RAD program serves as a transformative sandbox for participants to test and experiment with tools and resources for powerful movement-building and service for the community by the community. I am ecstatic to witness the impact and systemic change that will be shaped and led by the RAD participants through the community projects and beyond to realize the future we want to be living in.

Youth Climate Lab