

## **YBE Out in Front Project Board: Narrative**

This youth outreach program is a student-employee-led, staff and faculty-supported program Youths in the Built Environment, first piloted in 2021 as a way to address historic under-representation of Black, indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) in Landscape Architecture. Recruitment for UW student-employee coordinators to lead the program prioritizes College of Built Environment (CBE) students with prior experience working in the Duwamish Valley and/or with diverse populations. We believe that this student-to-student model is an effective and impactful form of bringing youths from historically underrepresented communities into the built environment fields.

By engaging youth around public space, ecology, and social justice questions, the program seeks to empower youths as experts and changemakers within their own communities. Through lectures we provide opportunities for them to reflect on the effects of living in these adverse conditions, and integrate skill building and design opportunities that allow them to create their own solutions for improving the environmental and social health of their community spaces.

The design portion of the curriculum focuses on a local site to create a strong connection between the youths, their physical environment, and design processes. Through exploration, conversations, and design, we empower youth to reimagine a different, more equitable, and just future through the lens of landscape architecture and community-based design.