

# Invest in your youth by spending two days learning how to support their voice

Join us on July 8-9, 2015 for two full days of strategies, practices and ideas for how to start and support an effective youth advisory in your program or school. We design our workshops to be active, engaging and focused on practical strategies and practices that can be directly applied in schools.

As a result of the training participants will:

- Identify meaningful roles youth can play in programs
- Learn the components and stages of Neutral Zone's Teen Advisory Council
- Examine participatory research processes as a way to engage youth
- Learn and use planning strategies that can be applied to involving students in project
- Understand the components of youth-adult partnerships (YAP) and how to support YAP
- Practice strategies, including scaffolding and divergent questioning to effectively support youth-driven initiatives

Plus, you'll receive a copy of the Teen Advisory Council guidebook, a practical guide for starting and supporting an Advisory.

Total cost: \$195

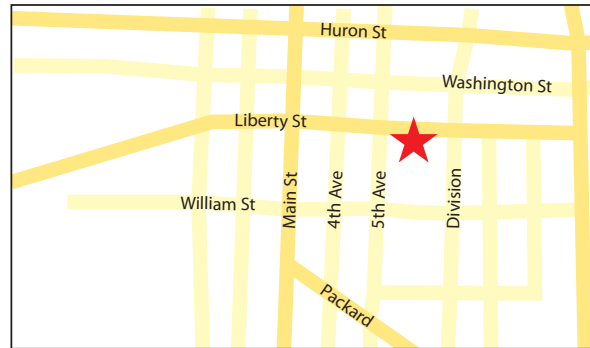
**Research demonstrates that providing youth greater voice and leadership in the programs that serve them has many benefits: their participation grows, as does their engagement, interest, and investment. A greater leadership role provides new opportunities to develop 21st century skills like problem-solving, collaboration,**

*I really enjoyed the practicality and demonstration of the different techniques/ideas. I also really got a lot from having time to work toward implementation of our ideas. It helped while my ideas are fresh but also helped me process.*

*- 2013 Youth Engagement Institute Participant from community-based health center*

## Questions?

Email John Weiss at [weiss@neutral-zone.org](mailto:weiss@neutral-zone.org)



The Neutral Zone is a non-profit teen center dedicated to promoting personal growth through artistic expression, community leadership and the exchange of ideas.

[www.neutral-zone.org](http://www.neutral-zone.org)

If you need lodging recommendations, please e-mail [weiss@neutral-zone.org](mailto:weiss@neutral-zone.org)

The Neutral Zone announces  
its 2015

## Youth Engagement Institute for Community-based Youth Workers & School Advisors



## *Advisory: A Model to support Youth Voice & Engagement*

July 8-9, 2015  
9:30am – 4:30pm

at the Neutral Zone  
310 E. Washington Street  
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

# Instructors



**John Weiss** is the Executive Director of Neutral Zone. John has served in this role for seven years and has been working with diverse populations of youth and youth-serving programs for more than 25 years. John also served as a teacher for Willow Run Community Schools and Ypsilanti Public Schools. John served as Project Director for the Youth Driven Spaces pilot and is one of the lead developers, trainers and coaches of Neutral Zone's work to disseminate its youth-driven practices and strategies to schools and youth-serving organizations.



**Sharonda Simmons** is Neutral Zone's Program Manager, served as an AmeriCorps Volunteer for two years and has been active in designing and leading Neutral Zones education programming. Sharonda has a B.A. from the University of Michigan in English and African American studies. Sharonda is trained in intergroup relations from the University of Michigan Center for Intergroup Dialogue and has received a Trainer of Trainers Youth Work Methods certification from the David P. Weikart Center on Program Quality.



# The Program

In 2010, Neutral Zone and its partners (including the Weikart Center for Program Quality and MSU's Community Evaluation Research Collaborative) began the Youth Driven Spaces (YDS) project. YDS was a 2-year pilot to support programs that serve older youth implement youth voice and decision making structures and strategies that have been developed and tested at the Neutral Zone.

Through YDS, one of the most important strategies disseminated is the teen advisory council (TAC) model. TAC is an effective and meaningful way to provide youth the opportunity and structure to be involved in a range of programmatic and governance projects and decisions. School Advisories is a model derived from this work which has been piloted at several Safe and Supportive Schools (S3) sites in 2012 to present. The Advisories have helped provide students authentic roles and decision making in S3 activities to create a safer and more positive school climate.

[neutral-zone.org/youth-driven-spaces/](http://neutral-zone.org/youth-driven-spaces/)



# Register

**Online:**

[www.neutral-zone.org/youth-driven-spaces/](http://www.neutral-zone.org/youth-driven-spaces/)

**Or by mail:** fill out this form, and mail it (and your check, if paying by check) to:

Youth Engagement Institute  
c/o The Neutral Zone  
310 E. Washington Street  
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

name \_\_\_\_\_

address \_\_\_\_\_

phone \_\_\_\_\_

email \_\_\_\_\_

Please add me to your mailing list. This Neutral Zone stuff sounds amazing. I'd like to hear more.

Total workshop cost: \$195

my check (payable to the Neutral Zone) is enclosed

please bill my credit card (AmEx, Visa, MC or Discover)

credit card # \_\_\_\_\_

exp. date \_\_\_\_\_ CVV code \_\_\_\_\_

signature \_\_\_\_\_

billing zip code \_\_\_\_\_

Please register by June 12th