

ABOUT US

REAL RITES: ABOUT OUR NAME

We chose the name Real Rites because we know the meaning of participatory research and one of the key factors is being representative of the neighborhood. Most of our team members have 10+ years in the community. The term 'Real Rites' is known among Red Hook youth as meaning genuine and true; our team and our work represents this.



Joseph Alston is a 23 year old aspiring rapper who has been living in Red Hook for 16 years. Joseph was first introduced to PAR work in 2016 when he worked on a MIT research project on how technology can build communities. What tied him to this project is his prior knowledge of PAR but also being an advocate for the youth in Red Hook. Joseph hopes this research will reset the mindset of upcoming youth and also bring the community closer than previous years.

Malik Brown is a 22 year old born and raised Red Hook resident. Malik has been participating in community events for youth and is committed to working in the New York City community to make a change. He is also an employee of the New York City Parks Department. Malik holds a high school diploma and is currently looking to further his education. He hopes this project will change the circumstances for youth and bring the community together.



Devine (Von) Fludd is a 23 year old Red Hook resident, born and raised in the neighborhood. Von brought to this project life experience of police brutality through the police murder of his brother Deion Fludd in 2013. Von hopes this project will spread worldwide and create awareness about the issues in our community and inspire others to make a change.

Maddy Fox is an Assistant Professor of Sociology and Children & Youth Studies at Brooklyn College, City University of New York and a founding member of the Public Science Project. Maddy engages in participatory action research with young people to investigate everyday injustices and re-imagine what could be. It's been a great honor to collaborate on this project with this team!



Nisha Howard is a 21 year old Red Hook resident, born and raised in Red Hook. When Nisha was growing up in Red Hook, she was a part of the local track team. Nisha contributed her skills of planning and organization to this project. Nisha joined the PAR team to become more involved in the community and hopes that this project will help make steps toward that happening. She sees bigger and better things happen and will try everything to make a better future come true.



Catherine McBride is the Director of Community Building at Red Hook Initiative. Catherine participated in this project because she believes in participatory research as a tool for the community to tell their own story. Catherine hopes that this research provides a platform for the young people involved to have their voices elevated and will lead to increased safety among Red Hook youth.

Savon Sims is a 20 year old lifelong Red Hook resident. Savon brought with him experience from a previous PAR project and deep roots in the neighborhood. Savon joined this research team because he has seen the way police harassment has affected his community and he wants to end police violence. When he was 14 years old a police officer told him that by the age of 16 he would be on Rikers Island. He was wrong.



Tyneisha (Ty) Williams is a 21 year old originally from Brownsville, Brooklyn and has been living in Red Hook for 11 years where she grew tons of love and friendships. Tyneisha can't walk down the street in Red Hook without hearing her nickname, 'Ty Berza', yelled out to her. Ty brought to this project her deep roots and community connections in the neighborhood and stepped into a leadership role as Research Assistant. Ty hopes this project will bring community unity and less violence to the neighborhood.

