



# Rysing from Center to Commons

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*Land or resources belonging to or affecting the whole of a community.*

**RYSE made a promise to young people: to love and listen to them and to honor their vision.** RYSE Commons is part of their powerful vision for the future of Richmond. Renovating our existing center into a 45,000 square foot campus will expand youth program and partnership space by nearly 300%.

Envision a dynamic campus for young people, grown from RYSE’s healing-centered and creativity-led foundation. A hub for personal development, play, expression, incubating ideas, performance, art, launching businesses, exploring tech, and connecting with universities and partners.



“RYSE helps youth realize they aren't what society says they are.”  
— RYSE MEMBER

Each year, 700+ young people participate in RYSE programs

*With RYSE Commons, that number will triple*

98% of RYSE members are young people of color

12% of RYSE members identify as LGBTQ

## What youth-driven components will RYSE Commons include?

Sanctuary and Healing Space

Innovation and Business Center

Counseling and Peer-Support Rooms

Makerspace & Pop-Up Shop

Performance Theater

Academic Assistance

Art Studio and Exhibition Space

Resources for Diversion and Re-entry

Outdoor Free-Play and Learning Spaces

Teaching Kitchen

Hangout Spaces

Garden Space

Computer Labs

Youth-led Organizing and Base-building

Media Production Facilities

Community Partner Space

Young people are Rysing for Richmond. Will you RYSE with them?

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**Love is leading this investment. We see Richmond coming together in support of our youth.**

All property for RYSE Commons is now fully owned by RYSE and dedicated to the wellbeing of Richmond's young people. Working with **Anne Phillips Architecture** for design and **Oliver & Company** for construction, we broke ground in July 2019. The cost of construction is supported by financing through the New Market Tax Credit program, which guarantees we have the capital to complete the project while ensuring RYSE's continued financial stability as we raise \$10 million in philanthropic contributions. **Bold and beloved campaign supporters have brought us to reaching 1/3 of our total fundraising goal to-date:**



“ *RYSE has become my safe haven, for once I am not met with laughter when I speak my truth or speak my vision. Here, I am encouraged to aim high, not only in my personal dreams, but also in my fight for social change.* ”

— RYSE MEMBER

**98%** of members feel safer at RYSE than anywhere else  
**93%** feel better connected to their community  
**100%** feel that staff at RYSE really care about them  
**91%** have a better understanding of their emotions and feelings  
**94%** have tried new things at RYSE

**Location and place shape lives. Beginning in the Spring of 2021, young people will have RYSE Commons to support them as they co-create the future of our city.** Loving and listening to young people means building capacity to support all they are and all that they will be. *RYSE Commons must involve all of us.*

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**Commons:** (Definition) Land or resources belonging to or affecting the whole of a community.

Where else in our community are there youth-centered places dedicated to play, to innovation, and to health?

Young people see today's realities, look to our collective future, and say they want more connection in their lives, not less. They want to broaden their horizons, have fun, and try new things. They want to form trusting relationships and community partnerships that genuinely support their goals and well-being.

**Location and place shape lives.** Despite neighboring the Bay Area tech nexus, many of our young people's families are threatened by displacement. Travelling the city or going to school is not safe for all youth. RYSE embodies stability and sanctuary for many young people. We have worked for a decade to now own our property and to build a legacy of youth-led healing, learning, connecting, dreaming, and leading.



What youth-driven components will RYSE Commons include?

**Sanctuary and Healing Space:** In a community where youth seek respite from violence or trauma in the community, RYSE Commons will have meditation areas and access to adults to help youth harness the power of their resiliency to navigate paths of healing, as well as a place to connect with their peers.

**Counseling and Peer-Support Rooms:** In a community where youth deserve culturally relevant and responsive mental health services and trauma-informed supports, RYSE Commons will have light-filled, easily-accessed spaces and adaptive, youth-centered therapists available for individualized support.

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**Multipurpose Education Facility & Theater:** In a community where youth desire to speak their truths but have limited access to venues and stages from which to do so, RYSE Commons will provide a place to host gatherings, events, and educational opportunities with community partners, as well a venue for elevating youth voices through music, theater, dance, and poetry performances.

**Art Studio and Exhibition Space:** In a community where youth are adaptive and creative, but often lack venues for display and exhibition of their works, RYSE Commons will provide studio space and artistic tools for youth to explore their identities, reflect upon community experiences, and heal - as well as dedicated space where youth artwork can be shared with the community for enjoyment, discussion, and dialogue.

**Outdoor Free-Play and Learning Spaces:** In a community where youth desire and deserve both structure and space to seek out new experiences, to have fun, and to be able to just be kids, RYSE Commons will include outdoor spaces for physical activity, sports, structured programs and shared open access.

**Hangout Spaces:** In a community where youth are actively seeking safe, unstructured spaces to relax, play, experiment, and grow, RYSE Commons will provide a place for youth to be themselves, connect with their peers, and organically build trusting relationships with caring and encouraging adults.



**Computer Labs:** In a community where youth want to create and consume media, connect beyond Richmond/West Contra Costa, and explore online gaming, social media, and global trends, RYSE Commons will include a state-of-the-art computer lab and adults to help interpret and engage in online spheres.

**Media Production Facilities:** In a community located beside global tech and media hubs, yet without enough youth-friendly media production spaces meeting professional standards, RYSE Commons will include equipment and facilities for high-quality works for personal expression and social enterprise.

**Innovation and Business Center:** In a community where youth seek paths to entrepreneurship, RYSE Commons will support meaningful opportunities for incubating micro-enterprises, pursuing post-secondary education, and entering the workforce across a wide range of industries to build sustainable careers.

**Makerspace & Pop-Up Shop:** In a community where youth are creative and resourceful, RYSE Commons will provide space and materials to spark innovation of next-generation ideas, products and services.

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**Academic Assistance:** In a community where young people are seeking relaxed and welcoming youth-friendly spaces where they can complete homework and grow their academic passions, RYSE Commons will include study spaces staffed by adults to supportively coach and challenge students.

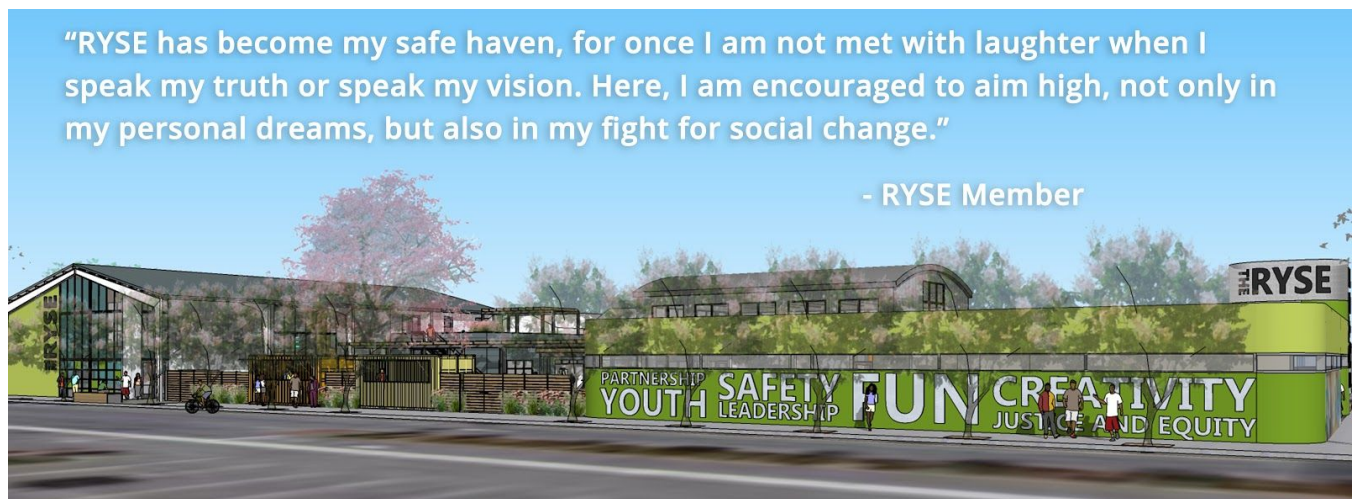
**Resources for Diversion and Re-entry:** In a community working to disrupt the cradle-to-prison pipeline, RYSE Commons will have integrative programming so that young people feel held, loved, and resourced with holistic supports that help youth navigate systems and achieve their personal goals.

**Teaching Kitchen:** In a community where access to healthy and affordable food is limited - a food desert - RYSE Commons will provide space where youth can learn to prepare meals, build health and professional skills, and engage in meaningful cross-cultural dialogues with youth and adults from the community.

**Garden Space:** In a community committed to vibrant green spaces, RYSE Commons will offer youth another entry point into discovering the benefits of urban gardening, health-conscious choices, and sustainable, environmentally conscious community growth and economic development.

**Youth-led Organizing and Base-building:** In a community where youth leadership is driving changes in our schools and beyond, RYSE Commons will be a space where young people from across West Contra Costa County can convene, learn from past- and present-day leaders, strategize, and organize for change.

**Community Partner Space:** In a community where nonprofits serving youth are squeezed for space, RYSE Commons will be a place where partners and community stakeholders can gather together, meet, dream, and discuss ideas, new initiatives, and existing partnerships as we work towards collective liberation for all.



**Love is leading this investment. We see Richmond rysing in support of our youth.**

Since 2000, the RYSE vision has been imagined, nurtured and elevated by this community. Loving and listening to young people means building capacity to support all they are and all that they will be. An expanded campus for youth-driven, liberating programs and partnerships requires bold and beloved supporters from across the region. RYSE Commons must involve all of us.

**Be a RYSE Commons supporter and show your love for young people and the future they will create.**

Find out how you can support their vision by emailing us at [commons@rysecenter.org](mailto:commons@rysecenter.org). Stay updated or send a donation at [rysecenter.org/rysecommons](http://rysecenter.org/rysecommons).

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