

Opportunity Youth Speak: Our Voice, Our Vote 2016 Rally

organized by the Boston Community Action Team

Overview: Opportunity Youth United

Formed by the National Council of Young Leaders, 14 young leaders from Nat'l Orgs (e.g. YouthBuild, JFF, Year Up)

Recommendations to Increase Opportunity and Decrease Poverty in America

- Expand effective comprehensive programs for youth
- Expand national service opportunities
- Expand private internships
- Increase all forms of mentoring
- Protect and expand pathways to higher education
- Reform the Criminal Justice System

Boston Community Action Team

- First of many community action teams, to incite local change
- Headed by James Mackey, the team organized meetings, recruited, and eventually a rally at the State House
- Opportunity Youth Speak: Our Voice, Our Vote 2016 Rally was organized for youth to share their stories, perform, and call on elected officials to support national, state, and local policy changes

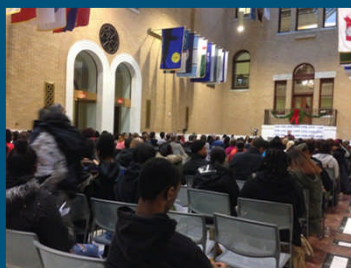


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In attendance: Youth and allying adults from organizations such as DSNI, BYSN, MassVote, YouthBuild Boston, and The Center for Teen Empowerment

Newton Mayor Setti Warren, Suffolk County Sheriff Steve Tompkins, Sen. Sonia Chang-Diaz's office, Rep. Byron Rushing, Rep. Liz Malia, and Rep. Evandro Carvalho were in attendance as well

15 youth speakers, along with performances, on a variety of topics ranging from employment, service, education, race, the importance of voting, and justice for all



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Youth Voice Project spoke on our stories, the differences and the similarities, and how comprehensive programming led to us graduating, getting internships, and finding the work that we do now.

