

Circle of Fire

Circle of Fire is YWU's organizing circle for women of color ages 19-35. COF is committed to building leadership and sisterhood among young women of color. We meet once a month for dialogues, sessions and trainings to build power and create change, by and for us.

Circle of Strength

Power, Strength, Fierce Pride...

Circle of Strength is a free, year round leadership development and youth organizing project. We are young women of color between the ages of 13 – 19. Our circle meets weekly to build leadership, express ourselves, be creative, learn and share. We come together to empower others, to be empowered, and to fight for what we believe in. Circle of Strength focuses on youth rights, self determination, and cultural pride. We build leaders and take action in our communities.

Sex Ed Campaign

Young Women United believes in sexuality education that is comprehensive and appropriate in regards to age, culture, experience, encourages abstinence, and includes complete and medically accurate information. Everyone the right to access accurate information regarding sexual health in order to make informed decisions and lead healthy lives.

Since December of 2002 YWU has successfully organized for Responsible Sex

Education at the State level and within the Albuquerque Public School system. We have experienced both success as well as many challenges. Our fierce young women brought this issue to the spotlight which has created tremendous support and has inspired others to take action within the community.



AVAW Campaign

When you drop the term “Violence Against Women” most people think of Domestic Violence and Rape. YWU defines violence against women as; “anything that prohibits women from reaching their full potential”. We have learned from COS's push for

medically accurate sexuality education that violence against women comes in many forms. Lack of access to correct information and resources about our bodies, our health, our environment and our rights. We challenge society's disempowerment of young women and the systems of power that don't invest in our development as potential leaders. We begin this campaign by taking the

time to build our organizing efforts in support of the service and advocacy work already going down in the city. YWU's first intergenerational campaign brings women of color 13-35 together to develop how we challenge violence against women.

Panocha Pláticas

Panocha Pláticas originated with a group of women in California as an effort to promote positive female sexuality through sharing and

discussion. Young Women United recognized a need for a similar program to embrace the sexuality of young women of color in Albuquerque. From this need YWU gave birth to its own Panocha Plática. The purpose of the Pláticas is to claim ourselves, our sexuality, and our bodies as a way to resist how our voices have been silenced. Through plática we create a dialogue with each other as women through which healing is both implicit and explicit. All women of color 18+ are welcome to join. Confidentiality is a must.

YWU Staff and Contact Info

Adriann Barboa

Director

abarboa@youngwomenunited.org

Micaela Cadena

Program Coordinator

mcadena@youngwomenunited.org

Contact for: the AVAW Campaign, Circle of Fire, & Panocha Plática.

Avicra Luckey,

Community Organizer

aluckey@youngwomenunited.org

Contact for: Circle of Strength

Dominique Pierson

Communications & Office Coordinator

dompierson@gmail.com

Contact for: General & Volunteering

The Women of YWU Speak

“At UNM I craved a group for women’s empowerment but knew those white women groups weren’t for me. I also didn’t want to isolate myself to only Hispanic empowerment. YWU had it all, it’s a place for women of color to be heard, supported and encouraged to make a difference. They are even family, kid and lesbian friendly, which is something you don’t find in many organizations.”

Esperanza

“Circle of Strength is freakin’ awesome! It’s a place where we can talk about current problems and be open with our expression. Women of color can have fun and be serious at the same time. We gain knowledge about sex education, violence against women and so much more. We learn about issues that normally aren’t addressed.”

Jocepha

“The first time I went I wasn’t sure what it was all about and wasn’t sure if it would be too ‘I’m a woman and I hate men kind of thing,’ but my first meeting I felt so welcomed, and so connected. It was such a great feeling to be around a bunch of women. I have learned so much and now realize how important it is for women to have that opportunity to just come together. And we never talk about ‘hating men’ ask my son.”

Adriann

Young Women United by and for young women of color

Come check us out!

Office hours: Monday - Friday 9:00 - 5:00pm

Young Women United

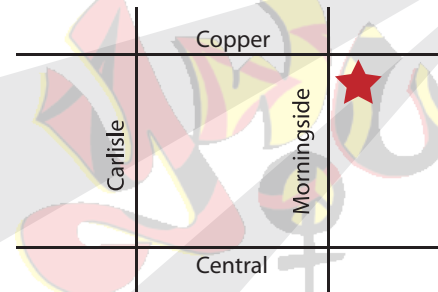
120 Morningside NE

Albuquerque, NM 87108

p 505.831.8930

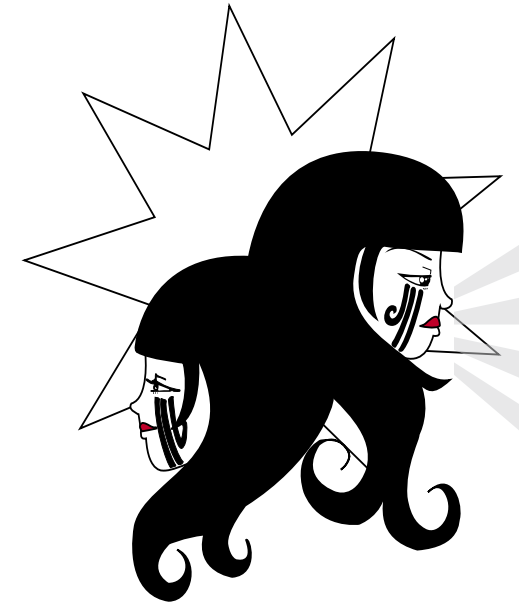
f 505.341.0826

www.youngwomenunited.org



Who We Be?

Founded in 1999, Young Women United (YWU) is a membership led non-profit organization created by and for young women of color. YWU’s purpose is to build a community of empowered young women of color to organize around issues impacting ourselves in the Albuquerque metropolitan area.



We have two sister circles, Circle of Strength (ages 13 to 19) and Circle of Fire, (ages 20 to 35). Our membership includes Native American, African American, Asian/Pacific Islander and Latina women, many of who identify as lesbian, bisexual or queer. YWU continues to challenge systems of oppression and works to create solutions to heal ourselves as well as our communities.