The Hate U Give—Movie Event Evaluation

On 10.26.2018, shortly after the official premiere, BTS organized a private screening of “The Hate U Give”. The screening was coupled with a youth panel and took place at Brass Mill Center. More than 90 youth providers and youth attended. Survey data was collected among 49 youth and 14 providers. Youth was in grades 5-8 (28%), 9-12 (53%), or college (19%). Seventy-nine percent (79%) of the providers identified as female and 21% as male; 60% of the youth identified as female, 40% as male, and one of the males identified as trans. Only 8% of the providers identified as Hispanic while a quarter (23%) of the youth did. Seventy-seven percent (77%) of the providers and 76% of the youth identified as Black/African American and respectively 15% and 2% identified as White. The majority of providers (85%) identified as straight (15% as bi) and 73% of the youth identified as did (vs. 17% as bi and 8% as gay or lesbian).

While the majority of providers (90%) had heard of BTS before, only 17% of youth had. After the event it seems, however, that interest in BTS had increased. Both youth and providers were interested in attending more events, either educational or fun. The majority was also interested in volunteering for BTS and/or helping to organize events. Over half of the providers (58%) and slightly less than half of the youth (46%) was interested in serving on a (youth) council.

**The Hate U Give, synopsis**

Starr Carter is constantly switching between two worlds: the poor, mostly black, neighborhood where she lives and the rich, mostly white, prep school she attends. The uneasy balance between these worlds is shattered when Starr witnesses the fatal shooting of her childhood best friend Khalil at the hands of a police officer. Now, facing pressures from all sides of the community, Starr must find her voice and stand up for what's right.

*(source: https://www.imdb.com/title/tt5580266/)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expressed interest in becoming involved with BTS</th>
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<tr>
<td>Attend educational events</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Staff ( n=10)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>92%</td>
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<td>72%</td>
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<td>58%</td>
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The majority of providers and youth were (very) satisfied with the event. They also found the discussion informative and (strongly) agreed that the event was fun.

While BTS wanted the event to be fun, its main objective was to provide an opportunity for youth to learn about events that are familiar to them, and offer a platform where they can be heard. Indeed, 87% of the youth and all of the providers (strongly) agreed that the events depicted in the movie are relevant to Waterbury and they (strongly) agreed that the events are not news to them (and 91% and 89%, respectively).

Enquiring further about the experiences of youth and providers shows that most of the providers can relate to the majority of subjects addressed in the movie. Of the youth most can relate to racism and to speaking up for your rights. Around a quarter of the youth can relate to subjects such as interracial dating, poverty, community violence, code switching and police brutality, around 15% can relate to gang affiliation and drug usage, and somewhat less to parental incarceration.

Overall, the screening appeared a huge success. It was well attended, students could relate to the movie as well as to the panel, they felt heard and BTS obtained publicity among an often difficult to reach population—youth. BTS hopes to keep the door open and invite youth at the table of its Collaborative Action Networks, Think Tank, and Community Council. Given that BTS’s mission is to make sure all Waterbury children and youth succeed in school, work, and life, it is imperative youth will be given a voice.

**Written feedback**

“I really enjoyed the movie. It really touched my heart. Thank you for having me.” (female, 13)

“I’m happy more truth went to the big screen” (boy, 15)

“Thank you for the opportunity for the children to be empowered and to be heard” (female, staff)

“This was amazing. You chose an impactful movie. Well presented” (female, staff)