

2012 YES! Alumni Survey

A total of 49 surveys were filled out in March 2012 on Survey Monkey. Each statement below is preceded by the total percentage of those feel each statement is true to very true, per the survey responses. The narrative statements to open questions are briefly summarized.

Perceptions of the Jam

97% feel Jams are unique spaces for young changemakers to engage with each other.

98% feel Jams foster deep inquiry, healing and well-being.

96% feel Jams are effective in creating intentional spaces for love and spirit.

96% feel Jams seek and create transformation on the inner level.

95% feel Jams seek and create transformation on the interpersonal level.

85% believe Jams seek and create transformation on the community/global level.

96% feel their whole self is welcomed at the Jam.

Perceptions of the Jam's Impact

96% feel they made important and valuable contacts at the Jam.

89% feel they have sustained friendships and alliances created at the Jam.

92% feel they learned new skills or perspectives that enhance my life.

92% felt they learned new skills or perspectives that enhance my work.

73% feel since the Jam, they are more aware of connections between issues and movements in the world.

70% feel since the Jam, they see more benefit in collaborations between organizations and movements.

83% feel since the Jam, they more likely to seek collective intelligence and diversity of perspectives in their decision-making.

86% feel since the Jam, they have taken better care of their physical, spiritual and/or emotional health.

71% feel since the Jam, they have created more life balance to help them thrive in work/activism.

87% feel since the Jam, their relationships with others are more honest and/or meaningful.

72% feel they have greater capacity to resolve conflicts constructively after the Jam.

79% say their work/activism feels more intentional and effective after the Jam.

76% feel their work/activism is more congruent with their values after the Jam.

57% feel since the Jam, they have been a more effective fundraiser, administrator and/or spokesperson for their work.

Your Perceptions of the Jam Community

99% feel the Jam Community is a strong network of people and support.

90% feel the Jam Community is a wealth of information and resources.

81% feel the Jam Community influences their understanding of local and global issues.

68% feel since the Jam, YES! has been there to support them or their work in ways that have mattered.

81% feel since the Jam, other members of the Jam alumni community have been there to support them or their work in ways that mattered.

What is the most practical thing that came out of the Jams for you? What was the most meaningful thing that came out of the Jams for you? What could the Jams do better?

Top ranked responses... Practical thing: **having a support network**; meaningful thing: **feeling grounded in community**; and do better: **helping alumni stay connected**.

Is there anything more that you want to tell us about your experience with Jams? We welcome your input and stories!

Two story examples below:

I have launched a new network for Women of Color called Standing in Our Power and one of first informal circle that I helped to organize was at my first Jam. The Jam helped to seed this new network and I am grateful that YES! is now a partner in the process of building SiOP.

At the Jam, I felt welcomed like I never have before. All of me was welcome and loved and supported. I felt comfortable talking about all parts of me, including my sexuality, which is not something I usually talk about in Arab/Muslim circles. I was welcomed and loved for who I was, in full honesty. This inspired me to seek more honesty in other parts of my life. I hold the Jam community and experience very close to my heart.

How many Jammers are you still in contact with and how often do you connect with them? How have these connections supported you in your life and work? Please share a story or two!

Jammers "still in contact" range is 1-100 and average is 14. Two story examples below:

I collaborate quite closely with Kelly Michel & together we helped to create an ongoing community of young folks with exceptional privilege who keep one another accountable in their social change work. The growing network meets 2-3 times per year with members in Africa, Asia, the Middle East, Latin America, Europe & the US. Each convening is 5-7 days.

A remarkable connection is the one I made with Ilana Meallem, Middle East Jam facilitator. During our second Jam together, Ilana told me about a project she was working on in the Dead Sea area, bringing together Israelis, Palestinians and internationals in a safe space to share and learn from each other. I decided to go spend two months there, learning, growing, and

getting inspired to write my MA thesis. It was an amazing and intense time, quite similar to a Jam actually, and it was all made possible because of our Jam connection.

How has YES! or the Jam Community supported you in your life and work since the Jam? How can YES! or the Jam Community better support you? And, let us know how you want to be engaged!

Top responses: more alumni gatherings, local support networks, better instructions on how to stay in touch with Jammers from a particular Jam; more opportunity to be involved with future Jams; more newJams; and facebook is great but other online platforms that might be better.

What is your current work and/or what are you planning to do in the future? How does your work impact your community and the rest of the world?

Two story samples below:

My current work is with Te Aho Tū Roa - Kōtuia! a nationwide youth development programme here in Aotearoa that works with rangatahi Māori (indigenous youth) to build connections to people and place by using the stories and histories of their places and bringing them alive through performance arts. We have just completed our national event (which was a massive success that energised and inspired everyone involved) and are now into a rest period before coming back next year to innovate and develop the programme.

I do militant research and political accompaniment for campesino-indigenous organizations in Guatemala that are engaged in struggles against dispossession and displacement by private (national and transnational) business and the state, and who are struggling to defend resources against the mining, hydroelectric, agrofuel, and drug-trafficking ventures that currently encroach upon them. Specifically, I have in the past 3 years supported communities currently occupying lands deemed as private property by the state, and who seek the regularization of their tenure, as well as a grassroots network of communities that seek debt amnesty after having gained access to their ancestral lands through a credit-granting mechanism created in the aftermath of the civil war (i.e. the failed model of so-called 'market assisted land reform').

How many people do you reach directly through your work? How many people do you reach less directly or indirectly through your work?

Direct impact ranges from 12 to 200,000 people and average is 20,033 people.

Indirect impact ranges from 200 to 1,000,000 people and average is 77,714 people.

Based on 672 estimated Jam alumni at this point, we can project YES! Jammers' direct impact is 13.5 million people and indirect impact is 52.2 million people.