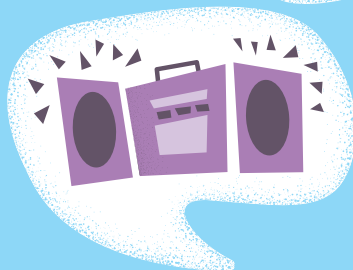
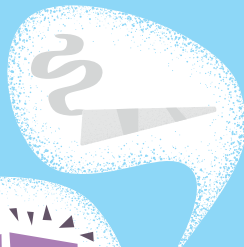
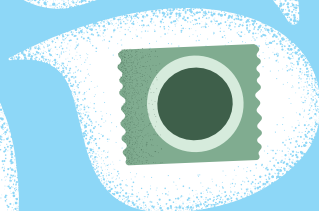
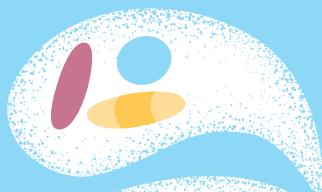
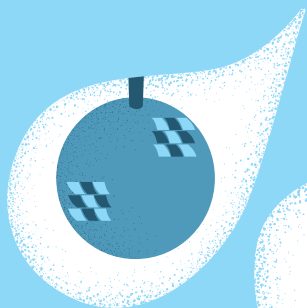


MEN AS PEACEMAKERS'

BEST

**BE EQUAL SAFE & TRUSTWORTHY CURRICULUM
INFORMATIONAL
BOOKLET**



WHAT IS BEST?

A program of Men As Peacemakers, the BEST Party Model is an innovative environment-shaping program designed to empower students with the awareness, relationships, and skills necessary to shape the campus environments they occupy and influence. This 8-week program targets high risk environments for sexual violence, engaging student leaders and other influential student groups (athletic teams, Greek houses, clubs and associations) in community-building and making grassroots, student-driven changes to campus life and culture. BEST also supports school administrators, coaches, and staff in implementing proven prevention models in order to create the safe, equitable, and fulfilling campus experience all students want and deserve.



WHY PARTY CULTURE?



Parties can be a vital part of the college experience. They are student-driven environments that exist in parallel with sanctioned campus spaces and policies. In turn, party culture has a big effect on the overall campus culture and environment.

While every campus is unique, parties are consistently a significant point of intersection with sexual violence on college campuses. But this presents a tremendous opportunity for students to reimagine their social interactions and physical spaces!

Rather than bystander intervention (ie: programs which train students to recognize and respond to sexual violence as it is occurring), BEST helps student leaders create party environments that are safe, fun, and respectful for all participants – and where sexual violence does not occur.

HOW BEST HELPS CAMPUSES CREATE A NEW NORMAL

BEST utilizes community-building and environment-shaping to create a “new normal” on campus. The process increases social-connectedness and helps student orient themselves around four essential elements:



Interconnection: In community, the wellbeing of all people is interconnected. BEST builds close relationships between students across the campus community, helping them to develop a loyalty and responsibility to one another, and a commitment to the wellbeing of all - and in all campus spaces.



Shared Anti Oppression (or Equity) Values: All people have values. These values are often shaped by loved ones and influential people or institutions in our lives. Through BEST, students explore their values, and assist one another in connecting their existing beliefs to anti-oppression values that lead to equity and the well-being of the entire community.

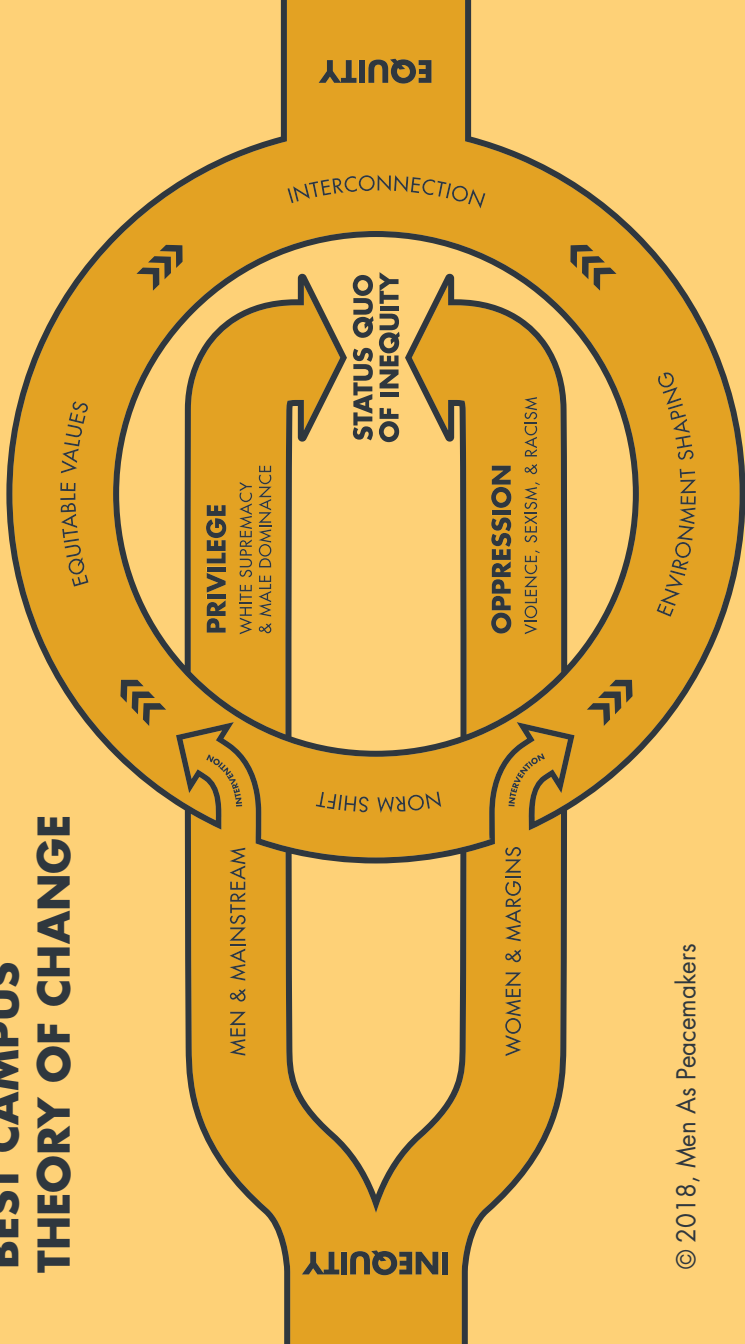


Practice Environment-Shaping Skills: Social environments are consistently shaped to communicate shared agreements and influence behavior. College parties and campus environments can also be systematically and proactively shaped for shared student experiences of safety and equity. BEST uses public health tools to train students in shaping their own environments to prevent sexual violence.



Vision, Strategy, and Commitment to Shifting Norms: Beyond party environments, BEST also asks students to apply their values, commitment to interconnected wellbeing, and environment-shaping skills to campuses and communities as a whole. BEST builds the capacity of the campus community to shift norms and create a new normal free from sexual violence where everyone is able to thrive.

BEST CAMPUS THEORY OF CHANGE



BEST PROGRAM COMPONENTS

MAP offers a variety of tools and supports to campuses and student groups looking to engage in strategic community-building and environment-shaping. These include:

1

8-week BEST Group Curriculum for providing athletic teams, fraternities and sororities, and other influential student groups with tools and strategies for reimagining and shaping party culture and environment.

2

BEST Facilitator Training for student leaders interested facilitating BEST groups on campus and within their spheres of influence. *Students must have completed the 8-week BEST program to be eligible for this training.

3

First Year-Orientation and Educational Programming providing incoming students with foundational knowledge and skill-building opportunities for navigating and shaping safe social environments.

4

Campus Awareness and Promotional Events around sexual violence prevention, environment-shaping, and increasing student capacity to be change-makers and leaders on campus.

5

Technical Assistance and Support to student facilitators and campus administrators, counselors, coaches, and staff looking to integrate evidence-based prevention strategies into the campus response to sexual violence.

6

Institutional Trainings specifically tailored to increase campus capacity for sexual violence prevention strategy and engagement.

"BEST Party model is an integral part of our sexual violence prevention programming. It allows students to take ownership of their social spaces, learn and practice bystander skills, and creatively engage with primary prevention techniques. Our students gain life-changing knowledge and have fun at the same time."

"I want to change the environments around me for the better."

"I know specific ways I can strategically shape an environment (like a party) to be safe and enjoyable for everyone."

"I have become more aware of my own defensiveness and biases when it comes to party settings. Listening to the experiences of others in addition to all the content and knowledge Sean had to share have made me start to view parties more holistically and from multiple different perspectives to make sure they are equitable, safe, accessible, and FUN for everyone."

"I feel like I've become more knowledgeable about how I can make environments where not only people who are susceptible to sexual violence feel safe, but also environments where perpetrators have difficulty commit acts of violence in the first place."



MEN AS PEACEMAKERS

To engage individuals and communities in innovative strategies that promote equality, repair harm, and prevent violence against women and children. A 501c3 organization.

For more information about implementing BEST on your campus, visit menaspeacemakers.org/best.

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