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Pathways RTC

RESEARCH & TRAINING CENTER ON PATHWAYS TO POSITIVE FUTURES



This Place Helps You Figure Out Who You Want to Be: A Photovoice Experience with Urban Native Youth



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What is Photovoice (PV)?

Photovoice is a kind of research that allows for participants to take pictures that tell stories. These pictures and stories can be about the things in their communities that help them feel strong and they can be about things in their communities that they would like to see change for the better.



Three Objectives of PV

1. To enable people to record and reflect their community's strengths and concerns.
2. To promote critical dialogue and knowledge about important community issues through large and small group discussions.
3. To reach policy makers and others who can be mobilized for change.



Research Partners

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Additional Partners

Research funding also provided by:

- OJJDP
- The Collins Foundation



Purposes of this PV Project

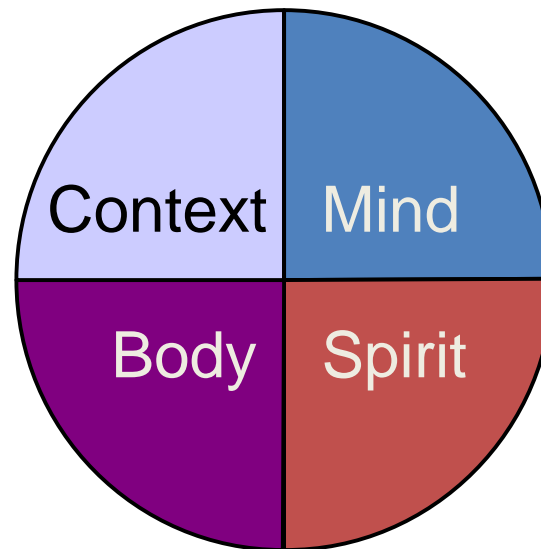
Research goals:

- To examine the proposition that when urban Native youth achieve culturally based, community-defined outcomes, delinquency is reduced;
- To better understand how culturally-based intervention strategies may influence positive cultural identity and other positive outcomes for these youth



What We Did

Developed question and photography checklist around the Relational World View Model (RVW; Cross, 1995)





What We Did (cont'd)

- Pre-piloted project within a summer class offered at NAYA (n=16 incoming 9th graders)
- Gave youth digital cameras to take photos around NAYA
- Held discussion groups with youth about their photos
- Presented youth photos and findings at a NAYA gathering



Project Phase 2

- Refined materials based on pre-pilot lessons
- Recruited youth through case managers at the NAYA
- Developed an afterschool class lasting five weeks with plans to award school credit
- Youth were provided with cameras and were asked to take photos both at NAYA and in their communities about strengths, supports, and challenges
- Smaller group (n=7) with more diverse ages



Structure

- Youth received lessons about research within Native communities and learned about how they were co-researchers with the team
- Youth trained on photo composition and photo editing
- Youth engaged in writing exercises about their experiences at the NAYA prior to taking pictures
- Took pictures during the week, uploaded and edited them and selected their favorites



Structure (cont'd)

- Every week youth engaged in writing exercises about the photos they selected
- Small group discussion where youth presented their photos and their analysis of their photos to the rest of the group who also commented
- Self-assessment at the end of the five weeks to discuss their experiences as photographers and researchers



Structure (cont'd)

- Youth photographs and comments were shared with community stakeholders at a Youth and Elders Counseling meeting at NAYA



Youth Learning Prior to Advocacy Training

Youth reported:

- Learning to see the world in a different way
- Developing new technical and artistic skills
- Feelings of becoming competent in new areas
- Learning how to create narratives about their lives using photography
- Discovering potential new career path/opportunities



Raw Data



“This is a picture of the pond behind the school. It’s really calming. Being here [at NAYA] we really emphasize your Native side and I’m part Native....Being closer to nature and earth, like this, it really helps bring out that Native part of you. This helps me appreciate that Native side of me.”

– Shawn, 18



Raw Data (cont'd)



“This [is a] Medicine Wheel which I see it all around [NAYA] since I first got here. Having balance in all four aspects of my life were never important to me until I came to [NAYA].”

– Veronica, 18



Raw Data (cont'd)



“I feel like it’s a metaphor picture. It has a deeper meaning. When I think of roses I think of how you’re closed up and then you bloom...I connect it to [NAYA] because before I came here I was holding back, like a closed rose.”

– Janie, 15



Raw Data (cont'd)

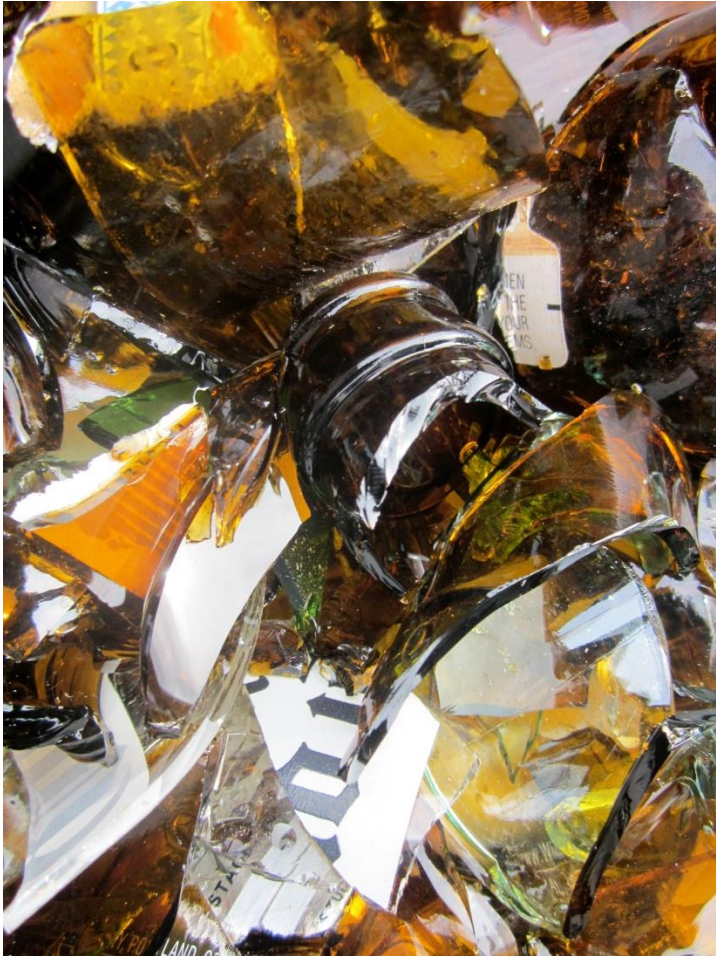


“Some of this light is from pollution, the airplanes and the trucks out here. I like my community and living here, but I’d like to do something about the air and the pollution.”

– Jacob, 14



Raw Data (cont'd)



“I think of the poverty in my community and how the homeless collect bottles to get money...I think at NAYA they show you that when you have a community you take care of one another and you don't just let something fall because everything is connected.

– Juanita, 17



Raw Data (cont'd)

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Phase 3: Youth Engagement and Advocacy

Turning Reflection into Action

- Discussed challenges and recapped helping resources at NAYA identified during photovoice process
- Received training and tools for speaking as an advocate

Activities:

- Identifying your Purpose
- Preparing to Speak
- Strategic Sharing
- Utilizing Support



Phase 3: Youth Engagement and Advocacy

Turning Reflection into Action

Project Culmination: Roundtable with Adult Allies

- 6 youth presented their personal stories, concerns, and ideas to a group of adults
- Adults included state ICWA workers; Youth Engagement staff from the Governor's office; representatives from local Native business councils; youth advocacy professionals in education and social services
- Opportunities for mentorship
- Exploring possibility of creating youth leadership council
- Multnomah Youth Commission



Questions?

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Gallery

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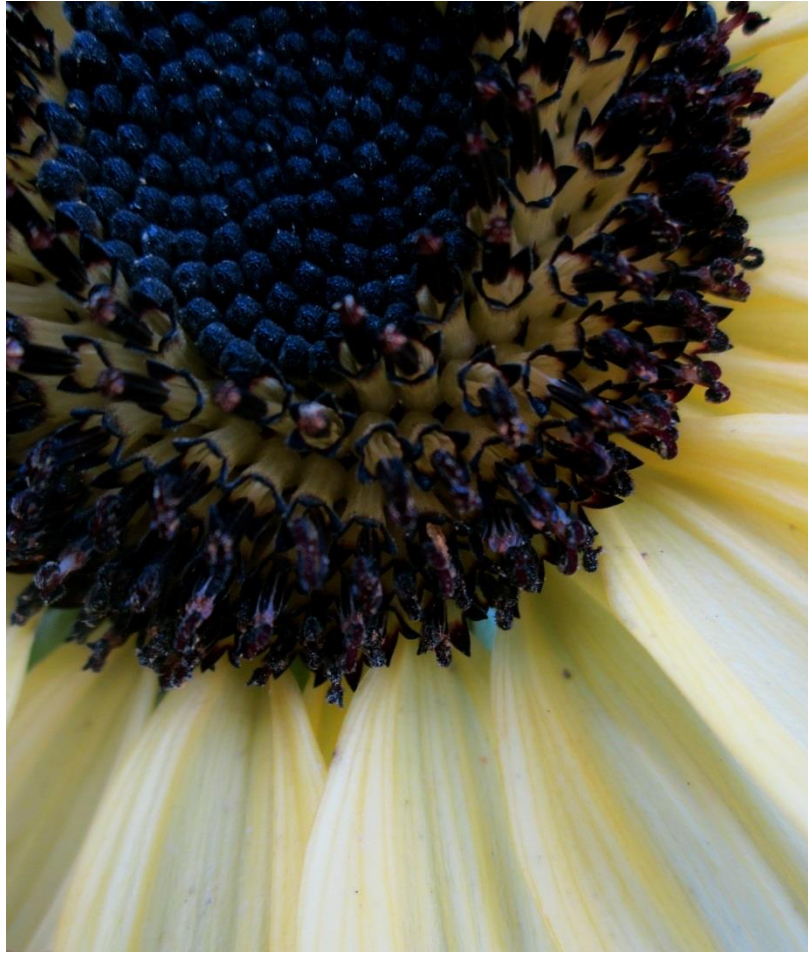




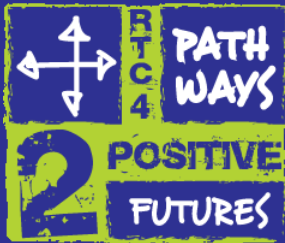












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