

# RACE, HISTORY & HEALING PROJECT

October 30, 2020

The Race, History & Healing Project launched in summer 2020 in response to community concerns about the Oñate statue that forms part of *La Jornada* public art installation on the grounds of the Albuquerque Museum. The project supports community-centered dialogue (community members talking with each other) that leads to community-generated recommendations from the community to City leadership. Resources, updates, and background information are publicly available on [the city website](#).

The Project has these core desired outcomes:

- Community dialogue sessions and other engagement activities are open, productive, and respectful.
- Community participation is diverse and broadly representative of the Albuquerque community in terms of age, gender identity, race, and cultural background as well as perspectives/opinions on the statue.
- Community members build clear and actionable recommendations for the statue that respond to needs and concerns expressed by various community groups and individuals.

The City Project team has no pre-conceived ideas about the outcomes or the recommendations and has not put forth a preferred solution or even a starting point.

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To ensure a community-centered process and outcomes, the Race, History and Healing Project includes three ways to participate and provide input: Community Dialogue, Online Survey and Telephone Interviews.

**Community Dialogue** – The Race, History and Healing project centers community dialogue led by professional facilitators so that participants come together to share, listen and work together to build a set of recommendations. Community members participate in three sessions that build upon each other. The majority of participants came to the dialogue through one of twenty-two Conveners (volunteers who invited friends, family or colleagues to a session). Other participants signed up for sessions directly through the [Race, Healing and History website](#).

**224 people completed Session One between July 27 and October 19**  
**102 people completed Session Two between August 24 and October 19**  
**98 people are expected to complete Session Three between September 8 and October 24**  
**51 people participated in the Community Solutions Table on October 27-28**

**There was a total of 59 small group facilitated sessions,  
each session lasting approximately 2 hours**

Race, History & Healing Project Update 10.30.20

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**Online Survey** - a quick opportunity to provide input regarding the art installation as well as an opportunity to sign-up for a telephone interview.

**1280 people completed surveys as of 10/22/20**

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**Telephone Interview** - RHHP team members and facilitators conduct 30 minute interviews to give community members who are unable to attend sessions an opportunity to answer additional, more in-depth questions.

**114 people completed interviews as of 10/22/20**  
**Interviews will continue through 10/24/20**

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**Community Solutions Table** - Community members who participated in the three community dialogues sessions were invited to join the **Community Solutions Table**. Fifty-one community members participated in the Community Solutions Table on October 27 and October 28. The participants used the summary of the project input from the public survey, the 116 in-depth interviews, and the dialogue sessions as a base for their conversation as they worked together to build community-generated recommendations for the Oñate statue.

The Community Solutions Table were able to come to majority consensus on two recommendations:

- That the statue (central figure of Oñate) not be returned to the installation on the land at 19th & Mountain.
- That the land (without the Oñate statue) at 19th & Mountain should be re-envisioned and/or re-contextualized.

The group also expressed a strong desire for continued dialogue with the living artists and public input if it is decided to re-envision or re-contextualize the artwork.

The community recommendations will then be presented to the Arts Board for review at a special meeting on **October 31**. The Arts Board will forward the recommendations with their input to the city administration, which will submit recommendations to City Council for ultimate consideration, per City Council Resolution R-20-80.

### **Facilitators**

The Dialogue Sessions and Community Solutions Table were led by a group of professional facilitators contracted by the City of Albuquerque. They worked with each other and independently from the City to design, facilitate and implement the community dialogue sessions and the Community Solutions Table.

**Michelle Otero** holds a B.A. in History from Harvard University and an MFA in Creative Writing from Vermont College. Otero is a writer, community-based artist, professional coach and community facilitator, who utilizes creative expression and storytelling as the basis for organizational development and positive social change. Her process of engaging individuals and communities through the expression of shared story has found a wide range of applications, from helping the City of Albuquerque establish an Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs to helping people heal from trauma. She served as a coach/mentor for the inaugural class of W.K. Kellogg Foundation Community Leadership Network Fellows, and now works as a professional coach and skilled facilitator with clients and projects throughout the US.

**Carolina "Caro" Acuña-Olvera** is an Afro Chicana Queer Woman and has been facilitating a variety of circles for over 25 years. She began peace talks and healing with her own family members regarding the trauma that has lived in her family for generations. She has facilitated issues such as undoing white supremacy, decolonization of social justice organizing, white privilege, issues of straight supremacy (opposed to queer issues), nonreligious spiritual circles, race, colorism and political dialogues. She has worked with organizations such as with Peace Action, Breast Cancer Action, The Women of Color Resource Center, The Grassroots Institute for Fundraising for Training (specifically for people of color) and The Buddhist Peace Fellowship. She has lived in Albuquerque for 10 years. Oh and P.S. She is a professional musician.

**Casey Douma** is an attorney from the Laguna Pueblo and Hopi-Tewa peoples. He has worked extensively with tribal governments and tribal entities in their pursuits to exercise their sovereignty to provide for prosperous Indigenous nations. As a Fellow in the WKKF Community Leadership Network, Casey, along others in the State of New Mexico, collaboratively worked to promote racial equity and healing for New Mexico that reflects and honors the collective spirit of our histories, cultures, and shared visions of the future.

**Ian Esquibel** was born and raised in New Mexico. He offers coaching, facilitation and consultation in efforts to create more justice and liberation in the world. Ian's core value is family happiness.

**Placida Villanueva Gallegos** is the founder of Solfire Consulting Group, a diversity, equity and inclusion consulting firm based here in New Mexico with clients across industries, regions and public/private entities. As a social psychologist, she is a consultant, teacher and facilitator of deep learning and strategic culture change, supporting groups, organizations and leaders in having deeper conversations about race in order to reach the untapped benefits of diversity and inclusion. She has done extensive research on racial inequity and inclusive leadership throughout her academic and practitioner career as well as many relevant publications and presentations on these topics.

**Vickie Oldman** is a founding and managing partner with Seven Sisters Community Development Group, LLC, a national community development consulting firm. Vickie specializes in culturally relevant approaches to community and organizational development. She has over two decades of expertise in strategic planning, leadership training, team building, asset building, and executive coaching to Native, rural communities, and leaders.

**Lucy Moore** is a facilitator, mediator, and trainer, specializing in intercultural conflicts. As a White woman she uses her experience living in Navajo Country and over 40 years working with

communities in the Southwest to team with colleagues of color to offer workshops in undoing racism, implicit bias, and building intercultural alliances. Clients include non-profits, tribes, businesses and federal, state and local agencies.

**Monique Salhab** is a queer first generation American and Post 9-11 veteran, Monique has advocated and worked with vulnerable communities - unhoused men and women, formerly incarcerated women and veterans struggling with PTSD, addiction and moral injury. Additionally, she co-managed a veteran farm and conducted outreach to/with communities, educating/advocating others to grow food as another form of revolution. Monique conducts trainings on NVDA, Safety and Community Defense, Bystander Intervention and Oppositional Strategy for Organizing. She is a Lifetime Member of Veterans for Peace (VFP) and served on the VFP National Board of Directors from 2015-2018.

**Kendra Toth** is an independent consultant who engages clients interested in exploring the impact of racial whiteness and how systems of oppression and privilege impact their lives-- both personally and professionally--through a personalized, problem solving approach. She has over 18 years of experience in teaching, school leadership, facilitation, and one-on-one mentoring. Kendra is a certified mediator and holds certification in Mindful Facilitation: Theory and Practice from Stirfry Seminars. Kendra is a cofounder of RACED consulting which specializes in designing and facilitating workshops and one-on-one sessions for people to explore their proximity to institutional power and how to cultivate abolitionist practices.

**Kenneth Winfrey** is a psychotherapist and yoga instructor, as well as an artist. In 2018, Kenneth founded Umoja Behavioral Health, PC which provides yoga-based culturally resonant care to clients from a wide variety backgrounds, identities, and statuses. In 2020, Kenneth and Jay founded the Umoja Wellness Foundation to carry out a wider variety of work projects. These include many of UBH's current projects to better help them grow, such as grant writing trainings, business consultancy, and public health education, and include constituents throughout the US, Guam and the Bahamas.

### **Advisors**

Project Advisors have significant experience in history, community dialogue, cultural resources, public engagement, public policy, and racial equity work in New Mexico and nationally. They are advisors to the community engagement and dialogue process. They provide input and feedback at key milestones and any inflection points during the process to the Project Team and to the Facilitation team. Advisors are a diverse group of volunteers focused on ensuring the process and dialogue is diverse and inclusive.

**Dr. Tom Chavez** - writer, scholar, historian, former Director of the NHCC, and former Director of the Palace of the Governors

**Dr. Finnie Coleman** - UNM Faculty Senate President, Dept. of English Language & Literature

**Robert Martinez** - current NM State Historian

**Dr. Manuel Montoya** - Associate Professor of Global Structures and International Management, Anderson School of Management, UNM

**Linh Nguyen** - Vice President of Nonprofits Advisory Group, a national consulting firm dedicated to serving the nonprofit, mission-driven community

**Regis Pecos** - former Governor of Cochiti Pueblo & Co-Director of Leadership Institute @ Santa Fe Indian School

**Dr. Estevan Rael-Galvez** - CEO and President of Creative Strategies 360, Former Senior Vice President National Trust for Historic Preservation, and Former State Historian of NM

**Antionette Tellez-Humble** - Nationally-recognized coach, facilitator, and organization development specialist

**Dr. Katharine Winograd** - Former, President of Central New Mexico Community College

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City of Albuquerque staff have supported this community process by scheduling sessions, managing RSVPS, communicating with participants, managing Zoom during sessions, notetaking for facilitators, sharing community updates, and collecting data.

City Project Team: Veronica Archuleta, Hakim Bellamy, Huitzil Sol Bennett-Perez (intern), Diana Delgado, Marisa Leger, Tanya Lenti, Dr. Josie Lopez, Diego Lucero, Alicia Manzano, Michelle Melendez, Jonathon Sanchez, Dr. Shelle Sanchez, and Terry Sloan.

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