

Race, History and Healing Project
Preliminary Summary of Input
October 26, 2020

The City of Albuquerque launched the Race, History & Healing Project (RHHP) in response to community concerns about the Oñate statue which is part of *La Jornada* public art installation on the grounds of the Albuquerque Museum. The City embarked on a robust public participation and input process to support community-led recommendations for the future of the Oñate statue. The process centered Community Dialogue Sessions where interested community members discussed the statue and surrounding issues through a series of small group, professionally facilitated sessions with each other. The City Project team has no preconceived ideas about the outcomes or the recommendations and has not put forth a preferred solution or even a starting point.

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.

Understanding that not all interested community members could or would choose to commit to multiple extended dialogue sessions, the City also invited input through a public survey and through in-depth interviews. The key results of the public input collected and analyzed to this point in time are summarized in this document.

The Community Solutions Table will have access to this information as they meet with each other to generate actionable recommendations. All 81 community members who participated in the three dialogue sessions were invited to the Community Solutions Table, and 51 community members have responded that they will participate. The recommendations from the Community Solutions Table will be presented to the Albuquerque Arts Board, and then City Administration, and ultimately to City Council for a final decision per City Council Resolution R-20-80.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Overall, a majority participants in the Community Dialogue sessions, the interviews and the survey either want the statue out of view or want the statue moved to a different location where context and more complete information about the history could accompany it.

It is notable that there is strong agreement among the 81 who completed the three Dialogue Sessions that the statue should have a new location and context added. These individuals spent approximately six hours sharing their own concerns, values, and ideas as they listened to the concerns, values, and ideas of others who participated.

There is broad representation from the community in terms of gender, race, ethnicity, age, and location across the Community Dialogue sessions, survey, and interviews.

In addition to the input about what the community would like to see happen to the statue, participants shared a great deal of valuable input about values, public space, heritage, education, history, and the role of community process. This input is currently being reviewed and analyzed.

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](#). In general, about 65% of people who registered for sessions throughout the past few months did attend. In most sessions, at least 25% of people who registered did not attend.

241 people completed Session One between July 27 and October 19
110 people completed Session Two between August 24 and October 20
81 people completed Session Three between September 8 and October 24

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

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

1290 people completed surveys as of 10/22/20

Telephone Interview – RHHP team members and facilitators conducted 30 minute interviews to give community members who were unable (or preferred not) to attend sessions an opportunity to answer additional, more in-depth questions.

116 people completed interviews as of 10/26/20

Common Themes

Across the Community Dialogue Sessions, the survey, and the interviews, common themes appeared. Regardless of their opinion about what should happen to the statue:

- most participants spoke to the importance of learning and understanding the history of New Mexico and its peoples. Younger participants also addressed the value of a full education about our community’s history, something that many felt was not available to them;
- participants often spoke about personal identity, cultural heritage, the importance of representation in community, and presenting a complete history rather than a partial history or “erasing history;”
- participants spoke about their connectedness, appreciation, and love for the City and for New Mexico.

Across the Community Dialogue Sessions, the survey, and the interviews, a majority of participants wanted the statue to be moved to another location with additional and more complete historical context.

Most often, participants who wanted the statue returned to its original location referenced Hispanic history, cultural heritage and the importance of history. Most often, participants who wanted the statue to stay out of view entirely, referenced Native American historical trauma, violence, and incomplete history. Most often, participants who wanted the statue moved to another location, referenced the importance of history, the opportunity to learn from art, the value of art and artistic interpretation, and the desire to value differences.

Summary of Input about Oñate Statue Location

The Community Dialogue Sessions, the Public Survey, and the Interviews all invited participants to share their input about what specifically should happen to the Oñate statue. This table presents a condensed summary of the input collected to this point.

What should happen to the statue?	Input from Community Dialogue Sessions	Input from Public Survey	Input from One-to-one Interviews
Do not return (either relocate or remain out of view entirely)	71%	53%	63%
Return to original location	9%	36%	21%

Other idea or did not state an opinion	20%	11%	16%
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COMMUNITY DIALOGUE

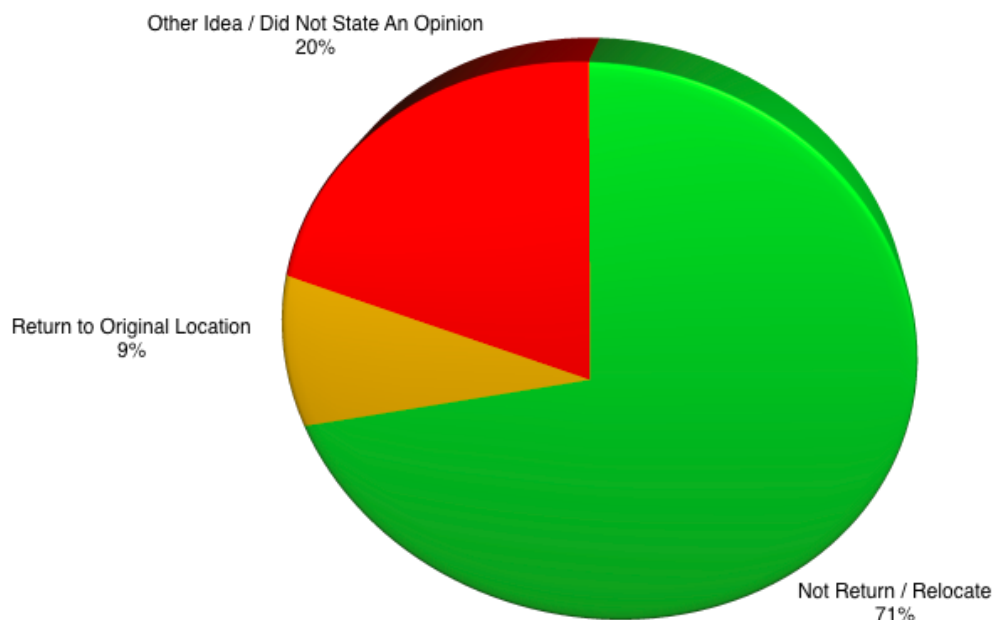
Open, online sessions: The community dialogue sessions were open to the public and widely promoted. These community-centered dialogue sessions are central to the public input process as bringing people together to discuss issues and build toward solutions together through conversation is central to the Race, History and Healing Project. Due to public health orders limiting in-person gatherings, all dialogue sessions were held via Zoom. Community members who committed to the dialogue process (three distinct sessions) spent up to six hours sharing with and listening to other community members. Participants in the dialogue brought broad and diverse opinions about the statue to the conversation.

Professional Facilitators: A group of 10 professional, experienced facilitators were contracted by the City of Albuquerque to support the community dialogue. They worked with each other and independently from the City to design, facilitate and implement the community dialogue sessions and the Community Solutions Table. Across the sessions, participants discussed issues related to race, identity, core values, community values, impact of the statue, personal statements about what should happen to the statue, and what they would need if they are not satisfied with the final decision.

The most commonly held values that emerged from the Session Three Dialogue were appreciation for a diversity of worldviews and a desire for a complete and honest telling/teaching of Albuquerque history with “all the bad and the good parts.”¹

Session Three Dialogue: During Session Three participants were asked, *what do you believe should be done with the Oñate statue and the La Jornada Installation?* The following is a summary of the responses. Participants provided important details about their reasoning and often provided nuanced and specific suggestions about their solution. Although participants were not given parameters or categories for what should happen to the statue, the suggestions fell into consistent groupings.

Community Dialogue: What Should Happen to the Oñate Statue?



¹ Quote from a session three participant.

Statue should be relocated: 36% of participants in Session Three stated that the statue should move to another location, 88% of these respondents also stated that it should include context, history, and/or multiple perspectives

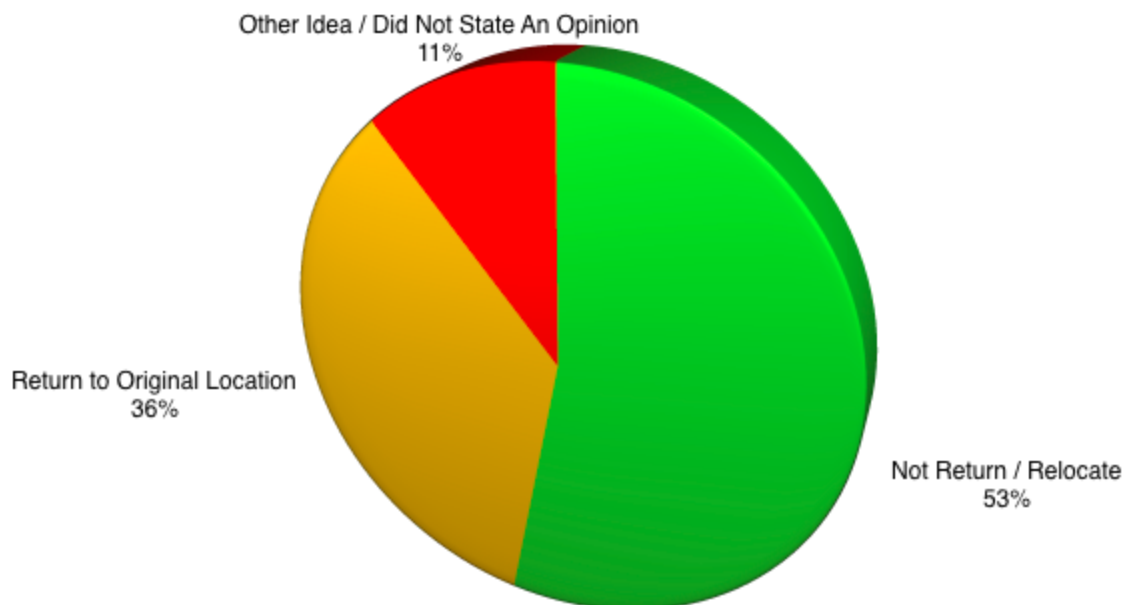
- Statue should not return: 35% of participants in Session Three said that the statue should not return to its location, 20% of these participants explicitly stating it should remain out of view entirely
- Statue should return to original location: 8% of participants in Session Three said that the statue should return to original location, and 25% of these participants said it should return with additional context
- Other ideas: 4% of participants in Session Three offered ideas about the statue that do not clearly fit with the above groupings
- Did not state an opinion: 16% of participants in Session Three did not share a specific opinion about what should happen with the statue

SURVEY

The survey was open to public input from July 14, 2020 through October 21, 2020. The survey received a total of 1,290 responses. Generally, respondents live in the City of Albuquerque and are long-time residents of the state. The majority were between the ages of 25 and 55. When asked about cultural activities, respondents selected many options, indicating the survey drew respondents with a diversity of interests.

Overall, a total of 42% of respondents would prefer the statue remain out of view and 36% of respondents felt the statue should return to its original location. Another 11% of the respondents felt the statue should be moved to an alternate location.

Survey: What Should Happen to the Oñate Statue?



- Statue Should Remain Out of View: 42% of respondents felt the statue should remain out of view because it has no significant value, it glorifies violence, or it is offensive.
- Statue Should be Moved to an Alternate Location: 11% of respondents felt the statue should be moved to an alternate location that would allow for historical context to be added.
- Statue Should Return to Original Location: 36% of respondents felt the statue should return to its current location. Most of these respondents did not believe a change was necessary, but some felt the addition of a plaque would be helpful. These respondents felt the statue/installation possessed historical, educational, and cultural value.

Survey participants were given the option to disclose their age, gender, race/ethnicity, tribal or pueblo affiliation, how long they've lived in New Mexico, their zip code, and the cultural activities in which they participate. The response rate differed for each demographic question, ranging from 35% to 90%.

Gender: The majority of participants are 35 to 44 (22%), with a large representation of participants in the 25 to 34 (17%), 45 to 54 (16%), and 65 and over (16%).

Race/Ethnicity: Participants were given the option to disclose their race/ethnicity. Participants were asked to select all that apply. Only 35% of respondents chose to answer this question. The majority of respondents identified as White or White and one or more race. The second most common response was Hispanic, Latino, Chicano, or Mestizo or Hispanic, Latino, Chicano, or Mestizo one or more race.

Years in NM: Participants were asked how long they have lived in New Mexico, the majority of participants reported that they have lived in New Mexico for 31+ years. Less than 200 of the participants reported that they have been in New Mexico for 10 years or less.

Tribal or Pueblo Affiliation: Participants were also asked if they had a tribal or pueblo affiliation, 100 participants (approximately 8%) responded that they did have a tribal or pueblo affiliation. Over 120 different tribal or pueblo affiliations were listed by participants. The majority were listed as Navajo (31).

Zip Codes: Participants were asked to enter their zip codes. Nearly all respondents answered this question. The majority are from New Mexico and a total of 86% were identified as Albuquerque zip codes.

INDIVIDUAL INTERVIEWS

Interviewing is the most common format of qualitative data collection in the social sciences. It is often employed to gain a more narrative and full understanding of issues. All survey respondents were invited to participate in a longer interview. Although 340 individuals indicated that they would like to participate in an interview, less than 100 of those participants scheduled a time for an interview when they received an invitation. Interviews were also conducted with organizational leaders in the community and individuals who had a role in the Cuarto Centenario. Both living artists, Nora Naranjo Morse and Sonny Rivera were interviewed.

One-on-one telephone and Zoom Conference interviews were conducted between October 8th and October 25th. A total of 114 interviews were conducted during the interview period, most lasting 30 minutes. By and large, respondents live in the City of Albuquerque and are long-time residents of the state. Interviewees were asked six open-ended questions about the importance and impact of the statue, shared cultural heritage, values in public spaces, and recommendations about what should happen with the statue.

Interview participants were asked, what core values guide how you interact with people in our community? Which are important to see reflected in public spaces?

Interviewees most often referenced: Respect, Love, Understanding, Connectedness and Diversity. They also commonly spoke about: Truth, History, Dialogue, Hope, Identity, Dignity, Integrity, and Children.

Interview participants were asked, "Given that the community is divided on what the statue represents and what should happen with it, what solutions or recommendations can you offer that would strengthen our community?"



- Statue should not return to original location: 63% of interview participants said that it should not return to its current location, and 12% of these participants express that it should remain out of view entirely
- Statue should be relocated: 36% of interview participants said that it should move to another location, of those who think it should be moved to another location, 83% added that it should include context, history, and/or multiple perspectives
- Statue should return: 21% of interview participants said that it should return to its original location
- Other ideas: 10% of interview participants offered ideas about the statue that do not clearly fit with the above groupings
- Did not state an opinion: 6% of interview participants did not share a specific opinion about what should happen with the statue

RACE, HISTORY & HEALING PROJECT