



INDIGO

CULTURAL CENTER

ANNUAL REPORT FY 2017

MISSION

Indigo Cultural Center is committed to the study of culture, the enactment of culture, the celebration of culture and using the strength in one's culture to promote social justice and racial equity.

VISION

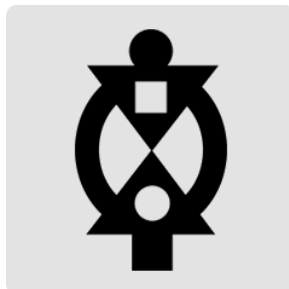
We envision socially and racially just communities that promote strong nurturing families and healthy child development.



FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear friends and partners of Indigo Cultural Center,

As I reflect on the past ten years of shaping and growing Indigo Cultural Center, I am in awe of the partners and collaborations we've embraced along the way. I don't often talk about our logo and its origins, but the original vision for the type of organization we wanted to become is as relevant today as it was 10 years ago.



Indigo's values, and even logo, are continuously inspired by an **Adinkra** symbol that means "**Boa Me Na Me Mmoa Wo.**" This symbol has deep-seeded roots in Ghana and is traditionally seen in artwork; its meaning



translates to "**help me and let me help you.**" As a symbol of cooperation and interdependence it is a visually appropriate representation of our organization and of our work.

Over the past ten years, our Indigo collaboration portfolio has expanded throughout country to over 35 partners across 8 different states – including over 10 national partners. In addition, even though many of you know me as the 'face' of Indigo, we have had the good fortune to have crossed paths with over 45 talented individuals as part of our internal Indigo team.

We remain committed as ever to our desire for authentic partnerships. Whether it be research and evaluation or racial equity consultation, we use a collaborative model and working style that emphasizes the inclusion of diverse perspectives in the planning, implementation, and dissemination process. We recognize the strengths that all our partners bring, and we build on those assets. What we know for sure is that when we work in this way, we learn and grow too.

In addition to seeking and remaining committed to authentic partnerships, we are also setting our intentions on manifesting inspired and creative partnerships. As we move forward into the next phase of our organizational development, we have our eyes set on attracting partners that stretch us beyond the traditional scope of early childhood and into the uncharted waters of 'design thinking.' Stay tuned as we promote new partnerships with the Museum of Walking, ASU's Center on Mindfulness, and more!

Looking forward, I know that this next year and the next decade of Indigo's growth will bring inspired opportunities for making more of a direct impact by working with partners who are also focused on social justice and creating loving, supportive communities.

Eva Marie Shivers, J.D., Ph.D.





OUR TEAM

Featured Indigo Team Members

Jonathan Gonzalez, **Board Chair**

Jonathan has been serving on Indigo's board since 2013. Working with Indigo has helped Jonathan to reflect on his own work and career and his commitment to social justice and equity work. Jonathan is proud of the training on racial and social equity that Indigo has developed and values the commitment to social justice issues, as well as the importance of arts and early education. Jonathan has dedicated his time and expertise to Indigo because of his belief that in today's climate of polarized racial politics and increasing tensions, social and racial equity programs and training are needed more than ever. "We need to continue to strive towards a society where racially just communities promote strong nurturing families and healthy child outcomes."



Carlo Altamirano, **Research Specialist, The Arizona Kith and Kin Project Evaluation**

Carlo has worked as a research specialist for the Arizona Kith and Kin Project with our long-term community partner, the Association for Supportive Child Care, since 2014. Carlo remarks that there is always something new to be learned: from learning to manage new software; gaining knowledge about the best practices on child development and child care professionals, to the human side of the diverse communities that live in Phoenix. Carlo enjoys the opportunity to sharpen his skills as a bilingual interpreter and translator, playing the role as a bridge between the population within the Arizona Kith and Kin Project and the Indigo research team. Carlo is proud of the work he does with Indigo to inform policies and provide recommendations, as well as providing real-time feedback to the project staff, helping them realize the enormous impact they have on the participants they work with and ultimately, on the kids that benefit from this program.



Jena Nagamine, **Executive Assistant**

Jena started working with Eva as a research assistant in 2017 and moved into the role of Executive Assistant later that year. Jena works to handle details and administrative work of Indigo and is proud to help Indigo take on new projects and expand its influence in the community. Jena has always felt passionate about racial equity work and has spent most of her career working with social service agencies to help young children and disadvantaged populations. Jena was happy to join Indigo and put her passion to work, and to become engaged in the incredible work that is happening in our community around racial equity. Jena is proud that Indigo provides not just ways to make us feel useful and good, but ways for us to actually make meaningful changes to bring about racial harmony and healing.





ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Research & Evaluation

Institute for Child Development Research and Social Change

For the past 10 years, Indigo's *Institute for Child Development Research and Social Change* has been partnering with local, state, national and federal agencies to design, conduct, produce and disseminate evaluation research that is based on our philosophy of Community Based Participatory Action Research. Our goals with our research partners involve designing and conducting evaluations that inform their ongoing practice and policies and help maintain and secure additional funding for their programs.

Highlights from our research and evaluation efforts:

We remain dedicated to and proud of our advocacy and dissemination efforts with [The Arizona Kith and Kin Project](#). During 2016, we produced four separate evaluation briefs, which we disseminated nationally during four separate webinars in conjunction with the [Alliance for Family, Friend and Neighbor Child Care](#). In 2017, we consulted with colleagues from around the country as they used the research from these 4 briefs to inspire program design, policy development, and research agendas.

In 2017, we entered into a new research partnership with [Georgetown University's Center for Child and Human Development](#) to study the intersection of Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation and Family, Friend and Neighbor child care. These are two sectors of the early childhood field that have been part of Indigo's research agenda for the past 10 years. The findings from this national study will inform policy, practice and research. The first round of results will be disseminated at national conferences in 2018, and Indigo's role will be central in interpreting these findings so that others can directly implement into policy, practice and research.

Our executive director, Dr. Shivers, continues to provide research consultation on a national level with partners like WestEd; the Illinois Early Childhood Mental Health Partnership; the National Center of Excellence: Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation; and the Home-based Child Care Research Group – funded by the federal Office for Planning, Research and Evaluation.

2016-2017

Major Evaluation Projects

The Arizona Kith and Kin Project Evaluation (Partner: The Association for Supportive Child Care – with funding from First Things First)

Smart Support Evaluation (Partner: Southwest Human Development – with funding from First Things First)

Assessing IECMHC in Family, Friend and Neighbor Child Care Settings (Partner: Georgetown University – with funding from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation)

Alameda County's Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation Standards of Practice Evaluation (Partner: Alameda County Behavioral Health Care Services)

Collaborative Educators Institute (Partner: Paradise Valley Community College – with funding from First Things First)

Racial Equity Training & Consultation



In 2017, Indigo deepened its commitment to keeping racial equity at the forefront of its work. Dr. Shivers facilitated racial equity consultation with organizations locally and throughout the country. Jena Nagamine, one of Indigo's newest team members, provided technical assistance and administrative support for equity training and consultation activities.

Indigo's approach to facilitating training, consultation, and conversations around equity is relationship-based, and centers on mindfulness, transformational learning, systems thinking and setting our intentions on creating authentic harmony. Further, most of our training and consultation is firmly grounded and contextualized by key principles in early childhood development, early childhood mental health, and early childhood education (e.g., attachment theory; identity development; anti-bias education; parallel process; transactional theory; critical race theory).

Before each training and consultation event, we work closely with our partners to co-create objectives for learning and anticipated follow-up activities. Our ultimate goal is to engage in partnerships where we can help build our partners' capacities to continue and lead their own equity work internally.

In 2017, we provided equity training and/or consultation in partnership with the following groups:

- Mental Health Department Equity Workgroup (Southwest Human Development)
- Division of Services to Children and Families, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services
- Parent Infant Training Curriculum (PITC) (WestEd)
- Colorado Office of Early Childhood, Department of Human Services
- Zero to Three
- Michigan's Social Justice Partnership
- Arizona Alliance for Black School Educators
- University of Minnesota, Center for Early Education and Development
- University of Colorado Denver, School of Education and Human Development



OUR FUTURE

Creative Community Collaborations

We want to exercise our creative muscles and engage in 'out-of-the-box' collective action by inviting and pursuing partnerships that stretch us beyond the traditional scope of the early childhood field. Here are two examples of collaborations in 2018 that will no doubt widen our sphere of influence:



Museum of Walking

ASU's Museum of Walking to promote embodied racial harmony experiences.



American Creed Screening

PBS AZ – Community screening of the documentary, 'American Creed' to support the launch of Indigo Cultural Center's second decade of equity visioning.

FUTURE DIRECTIONS

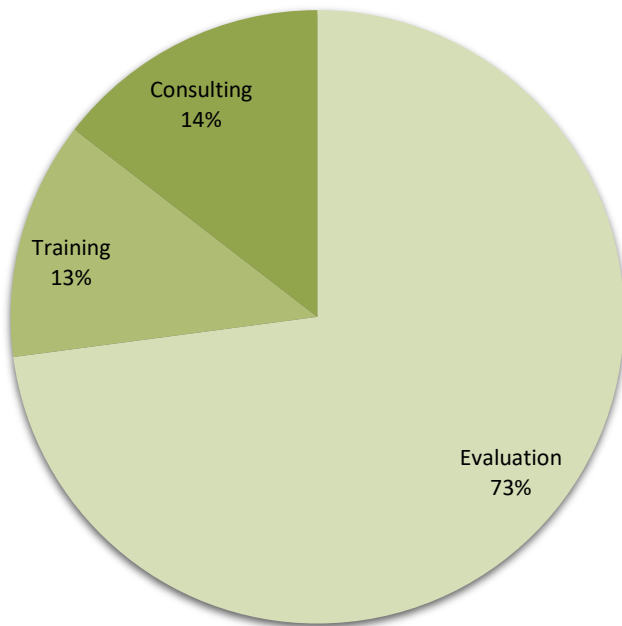
Research and evaluation projects continue to be more focused on issues that promote a social justice agenda and where the findings can be used to advocate for more equitable access to resources and to advocate for meaningful systems changes.

Racial Equity Training and Consultation efforts are transforming into distinct programs. We are currently beginning a fundraising campaign to support the development and expansion of the following programs:

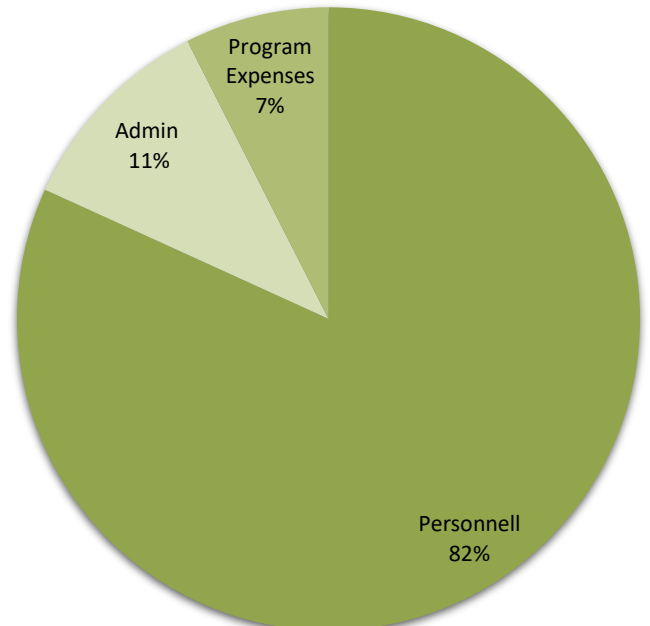
- Leadership Equity Capacity Development
- Parent Early Childhood Racial Socialization Meet-ups
- Train-the-Trainer Early Childhood Equity Academy
- Social Justice Battle Fatigue Retreats
- Early Childhood Anti-Bias Learning Lab

Please contact us if you are interested in learning how you can partner with Indigo on any of these programs. www.IndigoCulturalCenter.org

OUR FINANCIALS



Operating Revenue:
\$123,724



Operating Expenses:
\$122,077

All funds raised go toward furthering our Racial Equity Training/Consulting Division and our Creative Community Collaborations Division. Help us reach our goal by donating on our website and



helping us get the word out on Twitter and Facebook!

Our Goal for 2019:
\$100,000
Raised in Grants
and Donations



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THANK YOU!

A big THANK YOU to Indigo's supporters, team members and partners. We are proud of the work that we do, are inspired by you for the future, and truly believe that we couldn't do it all without you. We are forever grateful.