

YOUTH TALK ABOUT THIS!



6/20/14

Final Report: International Coalition of Sites of
Conscience Project Support Fund

A Collaborative storytelling project on HIV/AIDS between the
Museum of International Folk Art's Gallery of Conscience, Youth
Media Project, Santa Fe, and N'MPower of Albuquerque, July
2013-January 2014

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FINAL REPORT: INTERNATIONAL COALITION OF SITES OF CONSCIENCE PROJECT SUPPORT FUND

I. OVERVIEW OF THE PROJECT

• **Project goals**

As stated in the Gallery of Conscience's proposal to the International Coalition of Sites of Conscience's Project Support Fund, our goals for *Youth Talk About This!* were to:

- 1) Increase understanding of the history of the global AIDS pandemic and the ways in which particular histories have affected and continue to affect successful prevention and treatment outcomes.
- 2) Increase understanding of folk arts as a vehicle for engaging this history and a tool for social change at distinct historical junctures in this trajectory.
- 3) Increase the self-confidence, empowerment, health trajectory, and communicative competence of a historically and currently marginalized and disenfranchised population of LGBTQ youth in New Mexico, in particular, and young people in general.
- 4) In partnership with two community-based organizations, pilot a multi-faceted initiative that helps establish the Gallery of Conscience's community engagement process, creating a replicable model that can be applied to future collaborations.

• **Key outcomes and Impact**

We have successfully met our stated outcomes through the implementation of this project. The catalyst for the project was a series of dialogues, interviews, and participatory programs that brought volunteers at N'MPower, an LGBTQ youth resource center based in Albuquerque, in direct contact with local and international traditional artists whose work was on display in the Gallery of Conscience exhibit, *Let's Talk About This: Folk Artists Respond to HIV/AIDS*. N'MPower members interacted with other artists not just in their capacity as interested community youth, but also as some of the exhibit's featured artists, as creators of their own New Mexico AIDS Quilt. Through these encounters, and the curriculum of the program itself,

targeted youth learned about the history and current impact of the HIV/AIDS pandemic through the lens of diverse cultural worldviews. They also experienced, firsthand, the many ways in which folk arts have been mobilized in various cultures and time periods around the world to provide awareness and commemoration, support prevention and treatment, and counter the stigma of the disease. Over the course of three months, N'MPower youth developed the media and folk art literacy skills necessary to conceive, produce, and present a powerful radio program which had significant impact on the individuals involved, and throughout the range of the program's distribution.

One of the keys to the project's success was the fact that the targeted youth group had participated in programs in conjunction with an exhibit in the Gallery of Conscience, *Let's Talk About This: Folk Artists Respond to HIV/AIDS*, since its opening day, World AIDS Day, December 1, 2012. They returned for programmatic events throughout the year, including a series of public programs taking place during International Folk Arts Week, a week-long series of folk arts related activities taking place throughout Santa Fe during the week leading up to and including the International Folk Art Market—the largest venue for buying, selling, and displaying traditional arts in the world.

During International Folk Arts Week, N'MPower members engaged with traditional artists from Mozambique, Peru, Cuba, and South Africa, as well as Hispanic, Native American, and Anglo-European folk artists from New Mexico. This experience, as well as earlier programmatic experiences related to the Gallery of Conscience's *Let's Talk About This* exhibit, provided a strong foundation for the *Youth Talk About This* project. During the *Youth Talk About This* media training, N'MPower members interviewed the local *Let's Talk* traditional artists that they had been introduced to through earlier *Let's Talk* programs, learning in more depth about historic and contemporary Hispanic, Native American, and Anglo-European attitudes towards HIV/AIDS and how folk arts have been utilized to address the pandemic, historically and in the present.

Although HIV/AIDS awareness, prevention, and treatment are a focus of N'MPower's ongoing activities, learning about the pandemic from a more global and intergenerational perspective opened their eyes to both the similarities and differences among cultural approaches, past and present. For example, through interviewing quilters who created panels for the national AIDS Memorial Quilt, participants learned firsthand about the discrimination AIDS patients faced at the peak of the AIDS pandemic in the 1980s and 1990s. This experience made participants aware of how different things are now, especially as HIV patients are able to live with the disease and participate more fully in society and in life.

Q: *How has this project helped you understand the history and current reality of the global HIV/AIDS pandemic through individual stories?:*

A: *Talking to people that were there during that time really let me know how much things have improved.*

One constant among the diverse cultures and historical eras was the stigma and silence that often contribute to the continued transmission of HIV/AIDS. Through their work on this project and in general, N'MPower members are working to break through these barriers to educate others and foster compassion

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for those living with HIV. Through the creation of an hour-long radio broadcast in which they shared their exploration and discovery (made possible through the *Youth Talk About This* project), N'MPower participants have developed an enduring resource through which others can learn about multiple historical and cultural perspectives on HIV/AIDS, and obtain accurate information about prevention and treatment. Segments of this radio program have since been disseminated to local and international community members, scholars, activists, advocates and health professionals at national professional conferences, healthcare workshops, community programs, radio programs and websites both nationally and internationally.



N'MPower modeled their quilt after the national AIDS Memorial Quilt, but reinterpreted their quilt as a contemporary expression at a time when many people are *living* with HIV. Yet, at the outset of this project, N'MPower members did not necessarily consider themselves to be “artists.” Through their participation in International Folk Arts Week and their training on folk arts (Folk Arts 101) in the context of *Youth Talk About This*, they developed a new lens through which to see and interpret their own cultural expressions and experiences, as

well as those of others.

This project allowed Gallery of Conscience (GoC) and Youth Media Project (YMP) staff to collaboratively develop a curriculum that combines the GoC's focus on traditional arts as a tool of awareness about issues of conscience and a catalyst for social change with YMP's program for training youth in media literacy and the development of media pieces about current topics for radio broadcast and posting on the web for, as YMP states, “a socially responsible world.” Interviewing, writing, and presentation are tools of the trade, both in folklore and journalism. It was thus a natural fit for the GoC and YMP to work collaboratively with youth to hone their observation, listening, and interpretative skills through the lens of cultural expression and critical inquiry, and to work with audio recordings to develop media pieces that integrated interviews with artists and participants' own writing about folk art and stigma.



Further, the project allowed GoC and YMP to pilot a collaborative train-the-trainer model, through which an intern trained with YMP and GoC staff to document international traditional artists who were in

Santa Fe for the opening of the *Let's Talk* exhibit and the International Folk Art Market-Santa Fe. This year's intern, Tara Trudell, a media arts major at New Mexico Highlands University, developed a media piece that would become a model for N'MPower participants as she in turn helped train N'MPower to do this work with local artists. During *Youth Talk About This*, Trudell worked side by side with YMP and GoC staff to train N'MPower participants in all aspects of the process. See timeline below for a detailed curriculum.

• ***Future steps or plans for activities or events that have arisen from implementing this project***

As a result of implementing the *Youth Media Talk About This* project, Gallery of Conscience and Youth Media Project staff members have laid a strong foundation for future collaboration. Both organizations have received major funding from both local and national arts organizations (including the National Endowment for the Arts) for a second joint project based on the template we developed during *Youth Talk About This*. In this second iteration, we will be working with two new youth organizations throughout FY 2015 to produce radio programs in conjunction with our current exhibition, *Between Two Worlds: Folk Artists Reflect on the Immigrant Experience*. We will use this opportunity to continue to refine our shared curriculum and work flow, while building on the success of our first shared project.

Our plans, currently under negotiation, are to work with the Santa Fe based organizations, YouthWorks, and Santa FE Community College's Dreamers In Action Program. YouthWorks is a non-profit, community-based organization that creates opportunities for disconnected youth and families in Northern New Mexico to become engaged and valued members of their communities. Their programs offer job training and placement, life skills, counseling, education, and leadership development, inspiring youth to realize their full potential. YMP and GoC staff has met with YouthWorks staff to discuss the collaboration, which will take place in fall 2014 or spring 2015. YouthWorks staff is excited about the project, as they see the skills their participants would acquire as complementary to their curriculum and the upcoming GoC theme relevant to the students' lives in the community.

The theme for the GoC exhibition, *Between Two Worlds*, will form the topic for the next GoC-YMP collaboration. *Between Two Worlds* centers on the interrelated themes of immigration, home, belonging, and displacement through the lens of traditional arts. The exhibition features works from multiple perspectives: those who've left their countries in search of a new home; those left behind; and those who welcome them in their midst. We will be featuring and working with artists from Cuba, Mozambique, Tibet, Nigeria, Mexico, Brazil, New Mexico, and the Lakota and Navajo Nations. YouthWorks participants regularly grapple with intercultural tension, reflecting the larger dynamic among Hispanic, Latino, and Anglo-European cultural communities in Santa Fe and northern New Mexico. We anticipate that the folk art-media curriculum will provide students with an opportunity to explore their differences and similarities in meaningful ways.

Further, as the Gallery of Conscience moves ahead with its work on *Between Two Worlds*, we hope to stay engaged with N'MPower members, as the theme of home and belonging is relevant to them as they continue to navigate their place in society. *Youth Talk About This* has helped the GoC to strengthen its process for building lasting community partnerships that endure beyond the scope of a single project.

II. TIMELINE

Over three months, Gallery of Conscience, Youth Media Project, and N'MPower worked together in Santa Fe and Albuquerque, meeting at the offices of YMP and N'MPower, the Museum of International Folk Art's Gallery of Conscience, and in artists' homes.

2013

Youth Media Project Training

6/25- Youth Media Project summer intern training; GoC community engagement coordinator, 27 Laura Marcus Green, participates in training to learn about YMP process and envision ways to collaborate

7/7- International Folk Arts Week; YMP intern Tara Trudell documents IFAW programs,

14 including forums, an artists' retreat, public art making activities, and gallery talks, as well as the artists and Market, in general. Each of these events brought international folk artists together with local folk artists (including members from N'MPower) to dialogue about the ways in which they used folk art in their communities as catalysts for education, advocacy, commemoration, dialogue, or outreach. Green and Trudell interview international artists.

7/22- Trudell works with other YMP interns and YMP and GoC staff to create a 3-minute

8/20 "draft" of an audio piece interweaving her own experience with the Gallery of Conscience and stories gathered from South African beadworker Lulama Sihlabeni.

8/21 Youth Media Project holds Listening Event at their headquarters, Warehouse 21 (a youth arts venue), featuring an hour-long broadcast by YMP summer interns.

8/22- Trudell continues work on her piece about Sihlabeni, resulting in an 8-minute audio Piece.

N'MPower Training

9/10 GoC & YMP staff introduces N'MPower members to *Youth Talk About This*.

- 9/28 All day workshops: Orientation on media literacy and folk arts. Participants select artists to interview and begin developing interview questions.
- 10/2 Participants listen to and discuss sample YMP media pieces, continue discussion about effective media practice. They begin free writing about an item (tangible or intangible) with cultural or personal meaning, folk art or otherwise. GoC staff begins scheduling artist interviews.
- 10/5 Training on recording equipment and on interviewing techniques: vox pop—participants interview random visitors to Santa Fe’s farmer’s market about HIV/AIDS. Participants free write about a time in their lives when they have experienced stigma.
- 10/9 Participants listen to and discuss YMP sample media pieces about LGBTQ issues. They discuss and develop interview questions about folk art and HIV/AIDS. Participants receive information about the artists they will interview in order to tailor interview questions accordingly. Continued training on recording equipment—N’MPOWER members interview one another as practice to gain confidence with equipment and interview process.
- 10/12 Participants conduct interviews with artists and work on writing pieces to be interwoven with edited recordings. Participants interview in pairs, with one interviewer asking the questions and one engineer managing the recording equipment. A member of GoC or YMP staff accompanies participants to all interviews.
- 10/16 Participants log and edit interview recordings and work on writing pieces.
- 10/19 GoC Team Members present the project and screen a version of Tara Trudell’s piece at the annual American Folklore Society Meetings in Providence, RI
- 10/22 Participants interview artists.
- 10/26 Participants interview artists, work on writing, logging, editing, recording their written pieces, selecting music for their pieces, and putting it all together.

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- 10/31 Participants interview one another about N'MPower Quilt, continue work on writing, logging, editing, selecting music for their pieces, and putting it all together.
- 11/1 Participants continue work on writing, logging, editing selecting music for their pieces, and putting it all together.
- 11/6 Participants continue work on writing, logging, editing, selecting music for their pieces, and putting it all together. Participants fill out in-process evaluation of *Youth Talk About This*.
- 11/7- YMP & GoC staff work on logging and editing participants' media pieces, finalizing and
11/14 integrating music, preparing for Listening Event.
- 11/14 Participants begin work on hosting script (the "glue" that connects their individual media pieces).
- 11/14 Public Program in the Gallery of Conscience at the Museum of International Folk Art: "Audio Revolution on Museum Hill—Listening Event". Opening reception and Listening Event. YMP intern Tara Trudell and N'MPower participants present and premier their individual pieces to the public and take part in talk-back session with public. Fifty people in attendance at this event.
- 11/22 Select participant's work on developing hosting script.
- 12/5 Script writing and recording finalized.
- 12/11 Public Program: Listening Event/World AIDS Day event at N'MPower. Tara Trudell and N'MPower participants present individual pieces to local community and host World AIDS Day observance and ceremony. Twenty people in attendance.
- 12/12- YMP staff integrates individual pieces, hosting recordings, and additional music to
12-17 produces final radio broadcast.

12/18 *Youth Talk About This* airs on Santa Fe community radio station KSFR as part of Youth Media Project's Audio Revolution! series. N'MPower members gather to listen together.

2014

1/18 Half-hour version of *Youth Talk About This* airs on KRZA out of Alamosa, Colorado

1/18 Half-hour version of *Youth Talk About This* airs on KUNM, Albuquerque

4/27 Laura Marcus-Green presents the *Youth Talk About This* Project at annual meeting of Applied Anthropology in Albuquerque, NM

5/27 Suzy Sheriff, GoC Director, presents the *Youth Talk About This* Project at annual meeting of American Alliance of Museums in Seattle.

NOTE: In addition to the activities listed above, GoC and YMP staff met regularly throughout the project to plan the curriculum and process media materials.

III. PARTICIPANTS

• *Participants and others who benefited from the project*

The primary participants in *Youth Talk About This* were N'MPower members. N'MPower is a non-traditional community support group in Albuquerque for gay, bi, questioning men, and transgender youth between the ages of 18-29. At a gallery talk at the July opening of *Let's Talk*, during International Folk Arts Week, N'MPower Program Manager Curtis Billie told the public, "We



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are not artists; we are not talented. We are people whom society says are no-one. This quilt shows that we are *someone*.” This observation lodged in our hearts, a reminder that we were working with youth who often feel marginalized. Over the course of *Youth Talk About This*, we observed N’MPower members transform from shyly taking part in Gallery of Conscience activities to acting as if they “owned” the gallery, as they proudly participated in programs, told their stories to live audiences, and shared their media pieces with the public at the MOIFA Listening Event.

Eight core participants engaged with the project directly, while an additional ten N’MPower members periodically attended trainings, interviews, and public events. These non-core N’MPower volunteers were especially present and participatory at sessions that took place at N’MPower, although some members came to Santa Fe to support their family members and friends for the Listening Event as well. Participants were LGBTQ youth, mostly in their twenties, and were Latino, Native American, African American, and Anglo European.

Additionally, YMP intern Tara Trudell, a Chicana-Native American single mother of four, benefited from the project, acquiring media, interviewing and leadership skills that she is already applying to leading a poetry-arts workshop for women coping with domestic violence and addiction.

Staff from both the Museum of International Folk Art’s Gallery of Conscience and Youth Media Project developed and implemented the project, including: Suzy Seriff, GoC director; Laura Marcus Green, GoC community engagement coordinator; and Aurelia Gomez, MOIFA director of education; Judy Goldberg, YMP director, Katy Gross, YMP Education Coordinator; Erica Kramer, YMP production coordinator; and Shannon Letham, YMP intern.



Internationally renowned Northern New Mexico artists who participated in this program also benefited greatly from this event, saying that they felt honored to have participated and to have played a part in creating a reason for dialogue around this important issue. Artists interviewed for the *Youth Talk About This* project include: Diana Moya Lujan (Hispanic straw appliqué), Andrew Montoya (Hispanic retablo making), John Gallegos (Hispanic retablo making), Kathy Wan Povi Sanchez (San Ildefonso pottery), Sharon Wirtz (quilter who worked on the AIDS Memorial Quilt), and Jane Gabaldon (whose son died of AIDS and has a panel in the Quilt, AIDS activist).

Approximately fifty people—including participants, artists and their families, and the public—attended the Listening Event in the Gallery of Conscience. Approximately twenty-one people—including participants and community members—attended the N'MPower Listening Event.

Further, the radio audiences of KSFR (Santa Fe), KRZA (San Luis Valley, Colorado), and KUNM (Albuquerque and New Mexico) heard the broadcast on the radio. Youth Media Project posts their programs to its own website and the national Public Radio Exchange, so it is possible for a national audience to hear the broadcast. N'MPower plans to continue using the broadcast as an educational tool in its ongoing work with HIV/AIDS.

IV. IMPACT AND EVALUATION

• *Outcomes achieved*

1) Through the exhibition, the face to face dialogues between LGBTQ youth and international folk artists, and the *Youth Talk About This* media project resulting from these encounters, GoC raised awareness among a particularly at-risk teen and young adult population about the history of the global pandemic of HIV/AIDS both in the United States and in key areas around the world, and the efforts by folk artists and communities internationally to address this health crisis in their communities through education, advocacy, and communal rituals of mourning and commemoration. GoC provided a global historical insight into the ways in which distinct communities—including teens and young adults—have faced this social as well as global health crisis by using their performing and visual traditional arts to address cultural roots of stigmatization, secrecy, myth-making, and shame that stand in the way of effective treatment and prevention. This outcome was then multiplied locally and globally through the distribution of the final digital storytelling programs created by our teen and young adult partners and a curriculum for reproduction of the process for teens and young adults throughout the world.

2) Through successful community-based programming in the Gallery of Conscience, the *Youth Talk About This* project improved the competency of participating youth to craft compelling media pieces that can be mobilized to impact the awareness and understanding of young people about HIV/AIDS and ultimately reduce their engagement in risky behaviors that lead to contracting this and other sexually transmitted diseases. Further, in addition to positively impacting the lives of young people in New Mexico and their media audiences, the *Youth Talk About This* project will have a ripple effect in reducing societal barriers and stigma that surround HIV/AIDS—the attitudes that surround it, and more importantly, those living with the disease. Ultimately, the media pieces created through this project will contribute to fostering a more inclusive social landscape, both in New Mexico and in the international communities that access them.

Q: What lasting impact do you hope this project might have on youth or general awareness of HIV/AIDS??

A: I hope that the project will bring awareness that HIV/AIDS still exists and that knowledge is a good start. Maybe they'll be open-minded to the cures!

3) Through the exhibition, *Let's Talk About This: Folk Artists Respond to HIV/AIDS*, and the "Youth Talk About This" digital storytelling project, the GoC successfully launched its new mission to engage and connect communities through community driven co-created projects that fit the needs of our long-term community partners both at home and abroad. Drawing on its strategic community partnerships with YMP and a pilot youth community, the GoC developed and nurtured a sustainable partnership with two community organizations; developed a successful template for sustainable and replicable programs for youth engagement around issues of conscience through the power of dialogue to access history as a lens for exploring contemporary issues; for us to really encourage interpersonal dialogue, support fully co-creative and collaborative practices, deliver dynamic and relevant content, nurture long-term relationships and partnerships with local New Mexico community organizations and leaders, support explorations of personal relevance to both visitors and partner community organizations.

• ***Assessment methods that measured whether project goals were met***

~ In-process and final written evaluations

Written questionnaires with a sampling of responses:

How did the experience impact you? What did you enjoy most about the workshop?

Youth media was a long experience. It brought me out of my comfort zone. It allowed me to interact with new people. (21 yr old native/Hispanic youth)

Hearing others' stories (26 yr old)

The topic alone is very important. I loved meeting artists from around the world and seeing what they created.

It was a reminder that there is a need for education and awareness. Spending time with artists and learning what their story is about and how they are affected (31 yr old Native American)

What part of the workshop was most challenging for you? How did you respond to this challenge?

The scheduling was definitely the hardest. YMP and MOIFA worked with our schedule. They are the best. (31 yr. old native American)

I responded in a negative way when it came down to repetitive editing and reducing great stories to almost nothing but all in all our final stories sounded good! (21 yr old, native/Hispanic)

What specific skills are you taking away from this experience? (writing, storytelling, interviewing, engineering/recording. Logging, editing, script writing, community engagement, public speaking, etc) Are these skills valuable to you? Please describe? What skills would you have liked to learn more about during this project?

I'll be taking away the importance of processing thoughts within myself before speaking. All those listed above as well. I'd like to learn more about public speaking. (31 yr. old native American)

Public speaking, writing, recording...These skills will help in college when my course gets hard. (31 yr. old native American)

As a result of your participation on this project, what value do you see in both media arts and folk arts (as a tool for self expression, as an outreach or educational tool, as a way of building community, or other areas?)

Art as a whole gives us the opportunity to reach others we may not reach. Often the visual learners are left out. (31 yr. old native American)

Participating helped see new things to explore the museums. That folk art can be expressed almost anyway. (31 yr. old native American)

How has this project helped you understand the history and current reality of the global HIV/AIDS pandemic through individual stories?

It reminded me that we are all affected. (31 yr. old native American)

The Let's Talk exhibit showed how other cultures see and understand HIV/AIDS awareness. (31 yr. old native American)

What new insights are you taking away about media arts and folk arts?

Sometimes people may not seem bothered by social issues but gravitate to it when it's in

~ Ongoing engagement with participants over the course of the project and observation (ethnographic tool) of their response to the project

~ Feedback from the audience during the public Listening Event, which was recorded and transcribed; audience included the artists interviewed and their families

~ Feedback from audience during Listening Events

~ Follow-up feedback from artists involved

~ Final product: the broadcast itself

~ Debriefing with GoC and YMP staff

• ***What we learned form our evaluation: what indications do we have that we achieved our goals?***

~ Participants responses gathered through the evaluations were overwhelmingly positive. Most acknowledged the challenge of logging and editing their interview recordings. The tedium of logging audio recordings and the challenge of whittling an interview into a much shorter media piece were among the things participants liked least about the process. A discrepancy in the training led to a misunderstanding about how much time each participant would be allotted for his/her media piece, with the result that several participants had to cut their pieces. This underscored the importance of conveying to participants early on the ultimate length of their media pieces, so they will have a sense of the editing process going into their interviews.

~ Participants' stories that they wrote during free write exercises indicate the level their comfort with the process to candidly explore their own relationship to HIV/AIDS and gender in their own lives.

~ The project's success was clear in the level of participants' engagement with the art work, with artists, and with the process, in spite of its challenges. Participants' expressed a sense of empowerment as they took part in the media literacy training, and through their Folk Arts 101, began to apply an interpret to their lives and traditions. The curriculum was designed to empower participants, as they selected the art pieces and artists that most appealed to them, designed their own interview questions, and conducted the interviews themselves. Participants were clearly nervous going into their interviews with the artists, but in the process relaxed and focused on their work. One participant, following his interview said, "I feel . . . accomplished." The participants' excitement and sense of accomplishment following their interviews fueled their commitment to persevere in the hard work of logging and editing the audio recordings.

One participant initially shied away from interview process, but made a last-minute decision to conduct an interview. This participant is Native American and through his writing explored his struggle with finding his identity as a gay man and a Native American person living between Native and Anglo-European worlds. He later related that his interview with a Native American artist and elder helped him address some of the issues with which he has been grappling.



~ The YMP Listening Event model entails the audience sitting in a circle with project participants and listening attentively to the media pieces, which were each introduced by participants, then engaging in a talk-back session about the media pieces and project as a whole. The sense of intimacy created by this format, and perhaps the location of this event in the Gallery of Conscience itself, provided a comfortable setting for artists and audience members to address comments and questions to the participants. People were clearly moved by the participants' candor and courage, the artists' work, and the importance of addressing a sensitive topic like HIV/AIDS in this way.

At the N'MPower Listening Event, held at their site in conjunction with World AIDS Day, there was a candlelight vigil following the listening and talk-back session. The vigil was conducted by an older man, a longtime HIV survivor, who invited those in the circle to speak in support of loved ones lost to AIDS or living with HIV, or to express any thoughts they might have. One young man spoke up, saying that he just happened to stop by N'MPower that evening, that he hadn't been there in quite a while. He revealed that he was newly diagnosed with HIV and that it was so powerful to hear the stories in the media pieces. At several points, his response was so intense; he'd had to step outside. He said that hearing the stories and the support woven into the media pieces made him feel less alone as he grappled with his new situation. The elder conducting the vigil told this young man that living with HIV is not easy but possible, and it is an incentive to live better. He said he would be there for the young man if he needed support, as did others in the circle.

Subsequent correspondence from the artists also revealed their response to their involvement with the project and the media pieces:

It is events like you and the museum put on on social justice issues that change the world and people's prejudices one by one. Thanks for using your position and folk art in this way.

Marquell and Antonio were such wonderful young men. It broke my heart that anyone ever thought they were less than perfect. I told them if they needed extra grandparents, we were here.

I just had the opportunity to listen to the broadcast, it is such a wonderful piece. It truly exemplifies everything that the gallery, artwork and the exhibit truly means and stands for. The stories and the hope that each individual shares truly shines through and touches you. I'm sure that every individual that listens to this broadcast, or had the opportunity to visit the gallery over the course of the past year has taken not only knowledge and better understanding of HIV/AIDS, but also better understands its repercussions, how to aid in the fight against and how to help individuals that live with the disease on a daily basis. By promoting education and truly focusing on breaking down the barrier of "Stigma" we can move forward and focus on the path to a cure, helping each individual and community that is affected by this disease and promote global health and acceptance.

Thank you so much for the experience as a whole, the kindness and encouragement every step of the way. This experience has been truly uplifting and I am honored beyond compare that I was able to be a part of it.

Also, following one of the interviews, an artist asked interviewers about N'MPower and its resources, as he has young family members who might benefit from their services. N'MPower is unique in its support of the LGBTQ youth community and is the only such resource in northern New Mexico. The interviewers proudly shared information with the artist, encouraging him to visit and to send his family members their way.

~ Perhaps the most telling testament to this project's success is the final broadcast itself. The broadcast is composed of seven individual pieces, "stitched" together with hosting by participants. Each piece in and of itself speaks to the power of this project to evoke the voices of the artists, N'MPower participants, and to the collaboration that merged the resources of the Gallery of Conscience and Youth Media Project. Taken as the sum of its parts, we believe that the impact is even greater, on all counts.



We hope that Coalition staff will have the opportunity to listen to these pieces. An mp3 of an abbreviated version of Tara Trudell's piece about Lulama Sihlabeni is attached here.

Tara Trudell's abbreviated 3 minute segment featuring Lulama Sihlabeni, Beadworker from

South Africa.

A sample of a single radio segment can be found at:

<http://www.youthmediaproject.org/2014/02/retablos-a-message-of-hope/>

The 55-minute N'MPower Audio revolution broadcast can be accessed at:

<http://www.youthmediaproject.org/2013/12/lets-talk-about-this/>

~ Gallery of Conscience and Youth Media Project staff have met several times throughout the winter and spring to debrief about what worked in the *Youth Talk About This* project and what components can be improved in the future. Overall, we agree that this pilot project was very successful and that we have developed a replicable template and curriculum for future collaborations. Areas to work on include: project timing; expectations of the project intern(s); the scope of participant interview with artists and how to approach the logging and editing process realistically; and division of labor and time commitments of project staff. The “what worked” column includes: community engagement with intergenerational, intercultural participants; the affirmation of the power of story to present underrepresented voices, especially those who might not be represented in a museum; the relationships built among community members who might not have otherwise met; participant engagement; and usable skill building among participants. Gallery of Conscience and Youth Media Project have since teamed up to adapt this model to a new collaborative project for FY 2015, and have received support for this next project from the National Endowment for the Arts, Art Works grant, as well as a New Mexico Council for the Arts grant.

Which goals were we unable to achieve, and why?

One of the goals included in our proposal was the establishment of a listening station in the Gallery of Conscience, through which visitors could listen to the audio pieces created for this project. Unfortunately, the completion of the broadcast coincided with the end of the *Let's Talk About This* exhibit, so it was not installed in the Gallery of Conscience for visitor enjoyment. Due to this lack of time, we were not able to achieve this goal, however we would like to develop this idea in the future, as we develop a collection of media pieces that relate to our work. We fully intend to include the second round of YMP/GoC youth broadcasts on immigration into the *Between Two Worlds* exhibit in 2015.

As reflected in the financial report, the GoC did not produce a gallery guide for this exhibit, as we had originally intended. This was partly a result of the constantly changing nature of the exhibit experiment, in addition to a lack of funds. This did not impact the *Youth Talk About This* project in any way.

Although we had originally envisioned hiring an outside evaluator for the project, we ended up creating a thorough evaluation process that was carefully collated and analyzed by the team itself, especially Laura

Marcus Green, who administered all written and recorded interviews, and documented all ethnographic phases of the project.

Finally, although we had hoped to produce a digital, web-based and written curriculum for our youth digital storytelling project, a lack of funds prevented us from achieving this goal for this project. However, plans to create such a written curriculum are still on the table for the upcoming year, using both the Between Two Worlds and Let's Talk About This projects as case studies. We have received funding from the National Endowment for the Arts to create such a curriculum guide in the next 18 months.

• ***Unanticipated outcomes***

We experienced a number of unanticipated outcomes as a result of this project.

~ N'MPower was approached by a local health organization to present their media pieces at a World AIDS Day event.

~ Another local youth organization expressed interest to N'MPower in going through the training and developing their own media pieces

~ N'MPower participants are interested in pursuing a future project. As one participant said of media work, "Now, I'm addicted!"

~ The national AmeriCorps program that funded the HIV/AIDS N'MPower volunteer who participated in the *Youth Talk About This* took interest in the project and is grateful to have an outreach tool that shows the importance of their work.

~ A friendship between two N'MPower participants and one of the artists whom they interviewed. The artist made panels for the AIDS Memorial Quilt at the peak of the AIDS pandemic in the 1990s. One of the N'MPower participants who interviewed her has been HIV positive for six years. During the interview, the artist shared stories of ways she supported AIDS patients in the "bad old days" of the AIDS pandemic, when few patients survived. The N'MPower interviewer was so inspired by the support and compassion he heard in these stories, he chose to disclose his HIV status in the context of the interview. Subsequently, the artist reached out to the N'MPower interviewers, sending them books about the AIDS Memorial Quilt for their further learning and offering to be their "honorary grandparents." The N'MPower participants were quite moved by this, as their gender and HIV status render their own family relationships difficult. To find acceptance and a sense of family in the community with this artist and her husband was a very special gift. It seems likely that the artist and the N'MPower members will continue to get together occasionally.

• ***Efficacy and usefulness of evaluation methods/future methods***

The diversity of evaluation methods seems to have yielded some meaningful results, both to understand the efficacy of our process and to consider what we will do differently next time. Although most of our evaluation methods were particular to our project format, we would recommend them to others doing this type of work. Other evaluations methods we are considering for the future include:

~ Audience surveys at the listening events.

~ Alternately, since these surveys are challenging to administer in the context of the event, we would like to record the talk-back sessions in the future. As people began to respond to the MOIFA Listening Event, YMP staff spontaneously decided to record the session and had an intern transcribe the recording. We gathered invaluable feedback this way.

~ Another idea is to send out an online survey to participants, just following the event. YMP gathered audience contact information, so this is a possibility and might result in some candid feedback, as audience members have time to reflect.

~ We are also considering doing a recorded session with participants, in which they reflect on their experience with the project.

V. PROMOTION AND COMMUNICATIONS

• *Communication tools used*

Print Ad: Included with this report is the quarter-page ad for the MOIFA Listening Event that ran in the *Pasatiempo*, the weekly arts magazine that comes with the Santa Fe *New Mexican*, Santa Fe's main newspaper. The same ad appeared in the *Santa Fe Reporter*, Santa Fe's weekly alternative newspaper.

Audio Revolution!
Connecting Artists, Empowering Youth

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 5:30-8 PM
 Enjoy a free listening event with Youth Media Project of Santa Fe and N'MPower of Albuquerque, held in conjunction with the exhibition *Let's Talk About This: Folk Artists Respond to HIV/AIDS*. Hear stories created by participants in N'MPower's HIV/AIDS advocacy, education, and community outreach program.

A Gallery of Conscience program. Funded by the International Coalition of Sites of Conscience, the International Folk Art Foundation, and New Mexico Arts.

Photo © Bob Smith

YOUTH MEDIA PROJECT | SITES OF CONSCIENCE | nmla

MUSEUM OF INTERNATIONAL **Folk Art**

On Museum Hill in Santa Fe · 505-476-1200 · InternationalFolkArt.org

Newsletter: The ad was also used as part of Youth Media Project's December newsletter, which was circulated to their constituency.

Social Media: Posts, Blogs, Listserv Announcements: The YMP announcement was then used to generate a post to the GoC listserv of about 200, and to the Community Planning and Action Group (CPAG) (the New Mexico HIV/AIDS network maintained by the NM Department of Health). GoC staff sent out an announcement for the December 18th full-length broadcast to the GoC listserv, CPAG, and to PUBLORE (public folklorists' national listserv). Listening Event was publicized on MOIFA website and facebook.

Youth Media Project Blogpost:

Let's Talk About This

Dec 20th, 2013 | By producer | Category: Audio Revolution, Current Show, Radio Show



N'MPower participant Antonio Martinez, right, talks to retablo artist John Gallegos at the Gallery of Conscience. Photo by Katy Gross

Youth Media Project presents stories from a collaborative project between The Museum of International Folk Art's Gallery of Conscience, and participants from N'MPower, an HIV/AIDS advocacy and empowerment program in Albuquerque. Participants conducted interviews with local folk artists, whose artworks are currently on display in the Gallery of Conscience's exhibit *Let's Talk About This: Folk Artists Respond to HIV/AIDS*. Hear these powerful interviews and personal stories in response to HIV/AIDS and other stigmas.

[Download audio file \(NMPOWERGOCSITE.mp3\)](#)

Print Flyers:



Let's Talk About This
MUSEUM OF INTERNATIONAL FolkArt

Thu, Nov. 14, 5:30-8:00 p.m.

Audio Revolution on Museum Hill: *Connecting Artists, Empowering Youth*

A listening event in collaboration with Youth Media Project of Santa Fe. Featured will be the media

pieces participants created on HIV/AIDS advocacy, education, and community outreach. Additional funding from the International Coalition of Sites of Conscience & New Mexico Arts.

Conference Sessions: GoC Community Engagement Coordinator Laura Marcus Green presented this project and shared an audio clip at the 2013 meeting of the American Folklore Society in October. In March 2014, Green presented a longer version of this presentation at the Society for Applied Anthropology. In May, 2014, Seriff presented this project and shared an audio clip at the 2014 meeting of the American Alliance of Museums in Seattle.

VI. SUPPORT OF COALITION

Support from the Coalition for this project came in several forms, beginning, of course, with the financial support which made our project possible. In addition, we received the following support:

Publicity: The project was featured in two November 6th postings under the Project Support Fund heading of the Sites of Conscience website. In one, it was featured as a recipient of the 2013 Project Support Fund, and in the other, a full article about the project was featured. The larger exhibit was tagged under the headings AIDS/HIV/Audio Revolution, gallery, Gallery of Conscience, LGBT, LGBT Youth, MOIFA, Museum of International Folk Art, N'MPower, New Mexico, oral history, Project Support Fund, radio show, storytelling, Youth Media Project. This posting received 21 facebook "likes" and 1 tweet.

Connections: The Immigration and Civil Rights Coalition, of which MOIFA's Gallery of Conscience is a member, was a wonderful resource of colleagues and organizations around the country with whom we had a chance to share our project at workshops throughout the project support year. In addition to getting the word out about our project, we also benefited from learning about other youth-related storytelling projects at sister-sites, especially the Museum of Tolerance and Museum of the New South.

Resources: The dialogue materials created and distributed through the ICSC website were of tremendous value to us as we developed the dialogue program for the *Let's Talk* exhibit which became the core of the *Youth Talk About This* project.

Although our *Youth Talk About This Project* is complete, our digital storytelling program with youth will continue in the coming 18 months with a new collaboration between Youth Media Project and MOIFA, based on our current exhibit on immigration. We feel that this model is one that could fruitfully be shared at other immigration-focused sites around the country. We would love to work with the Coalition to help us distribute and teach this model to other sites, both nationally and internationally, especially those that are working with youth directly. We could imagine creating a workshop at one of our upcoming NDI project meetings, or even

at a future meeting of regional coalition meetings. We see this as a program, like the Body Mapping program, that works beautifully with the Coalition’s mission, and is a “home grown” and successful model of empowering youth through media literacy, folk arts literacy, and social justice literacy combined.

VI. FINANCIAL REPORT

(Please refer to original budget for breakdown of financial details in each category)

	Site Contribution		Coalition Contribution	
	Original Budget	Final Budget	Original Budget	Final Budget
Staff : Suzy Seriff, Laura Marcus Green, Aurelia Gomez, Laura Addison, Bryan Johnson-French (GoC Team Members, including project director, Laura Marcus Green)	7,900.00	8,000.00	4,000.00	5,000.00
Consultant Fees	9,900.00	10,550.00	4,650.00	4,000.00 (Pd To YMP)
Materials and Supplies	2,000.00	2,000.00	590.00	704.00 (Pd to YMP)
Pomotion/Communication	8,500.00	4,500.00		
Evaluation	3,000.00	500.00		
Travel and Lodging	6980.00	7,000.00	\$660.00	296.00 (Pd to YMP)
Administrative Expenses	1,300.00	500.00		
TOTAL	39,580.00	33,050	10,000.00	10,000.00

VII. APPENDIX: PHOTO LOG

Number	Date	Setting	Description
2013_YMP-N'MPower_01	10/9/13	N'MPower Albuquerque	Forrest House conducts practice interview with Antonio Martinez during training
2013_YMP-N'MPower_02	10/12/13	Home of John Gallegos, Ilfield	Antonio Martinez, right, interviews John Gallegos, with engineering assistance from Marquell Hicks
2013_YMP-N'MPower_03	10/12/13	Home of John Gallegos, Ilfield	New friends: Marquell Hicks, John Gallegos, and Antonio Martinez
2013_YMP-N'MPower_04	10/22/13	Youth Media Project Studio, Warehouse 21, Santa Fe	Marquell Hicks, right, interviews Jane Gabldon, far left, and Sharon Wirtz, with engineering help from Antonio Martinez
2013_YMP-N'MPower_05	10/22/13	Warehouse 21 Santa Fe	New friends: Sharon Wirtz, Antonio Martinez, and Marquell Hicks
2013_YMP-N'MPower_06	10/26/13	Tewa Women United Office, Española	Curtis Billie interviews Kathy Wan Povi Sanchez
2013_YMP-N'MPower_07	10/31/13	Museum of International Folk Art Gallery of Conscience	Forrest House interviews Antonio Martinez about N'MPower's New Mexico AIDS Quilt
2013_YMP-N'MPower_08	10/31/13	Museum of International Folk Art Gallery of Conscience	Antonio Martinez in front of John Gallegos retablos
2013_YMP-N'MPower_09-10	11/1/13	Museum of International Folk Art Gallery of Conscience	Hard at work logging and editing; YMP intern Tara Trudell works with Antonio Martinez and Marquell Hicks
2013_YMP-N'MPower_11	11/6/13	N'MPower Albuquerque	Hard at work on editing
2013_YMP-N'MPower_12-15	11/14/13	Museum of International Folk Art Gallery of Conscience	Audio Revolution on Museum Hill: Listening Event
2013_YMP-N'MPower_16	12/11/13	N'MPower	N'MPower Listening Event and World AIDS Day observance

Youth Talk About This!

		Albuquerque	
2013_YMP-N'MPower_17	7/8/13	Museum of International Folk Art Gallery of Conscience	N'MPower manager Curtis Billie and member, Donald at opening of Let's Talk About This: Folk Artists Respond to HIV/AIDS, photo by Bob Smith
2013_YMP-N'MPower_18	7/9/13	Museum of International Folk Art Gallery of Conscience	Let's Talk About This Artists and Staff, including N'MPower members at Artist Workshop, International Folk Arts Week. Photo by Bob Smith