Alaska Native Dialogues on Racial Equity

Alaska Native Policy Center at First Alaskans Institute

Funded by W.K. Kellogg Foundation
“Our goal is to breathe life back into the effort to abolish structural racism, and to help America achieve strength and prosperity through racial equity.”

Sterling K. Speirn
president and CEO
W.K. Kellogg Foundation
2012
November

“Shall there be a Constitutional Convention?”
Of the 55 original Constitutional Convention delegates, 1 was Alaska Native.
Alaska is one of the most ethnically diverse states in the Union.
What would a racially equitable Constitutional Convention look like?
The project utilizes the Call by Referendum timeline as a catalyst to elevate the dialogue around race and racism in Alaska.
2+ years
May 2010

May 2012...
2 primary goals

Reset the dialogue on race in Alaska

Advance policy solutions toward racial equity
Reset the dialogue on race in Alaska...

BY HAVING ONE.

Meaningfully engage in a statewide Conversation on race and racism
Reset the dialogue on race in Alaska...

BY HAVING ONE.

Promote dialogue in communities of all ethnic backgrounds

Advance the level of healing around racial justice
Advance policy solutions toward racial equity... for ALL Alaskans.

Strive to understand the context of racism

Link discussions with policy based solutions
How?
4 groups will help to ensure the success of this project

Visionary Group

Host Group

Partnership Circle

Focus Groups
Visionary Group

Who they are:
- Thought Leaders
- Community Leaders
- Emerging Leaders
- Culture Bearers
- Issue Experts
- Representing different communities

What they will do:
- Provide insight and guidance
- Serve as a “think tank”
- Help to define success
- Strategize timing and access
- Mentor the Host Group
Host Group

Who they are:
- Cohort of emerging leaders
- Representing different communities
- Demonstrated passion for racial equity
- Capacity and desire to host dialogues

What they will do:
- Host community conversations
- Co-create dialogue methodology and framework
- Serve as a “think tank”
- Draft framework for a racially equitable constitutional convention
Indigenized Focus Groups
Focused dialogues with specific demographics to capture attitudes and perspectives on
• Racial equity
• Policy solutions
• Systemic change
• State Constitution

Partnership Circle
Individuals and organizations across Alaska supporting the project via MOUs to
• co-create measures of success
• catalyze collective social impact
• impact spheres of influence and scopes of work
All communities will be invited to engage in dialogues during the 2nd year.
“It’s when you can’t talk about it, that you must talk about it.”
Elizabeth Medicine Crow, Tlingit and Haida
Alaska Native Policy Center, First Alaskans Institute

Photo credits:
Alaska Native Conversations That Matter, courtesy Oscar Edwin Avellaneda (Avé Photo), September 2009