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### Cultural Expression Through Art

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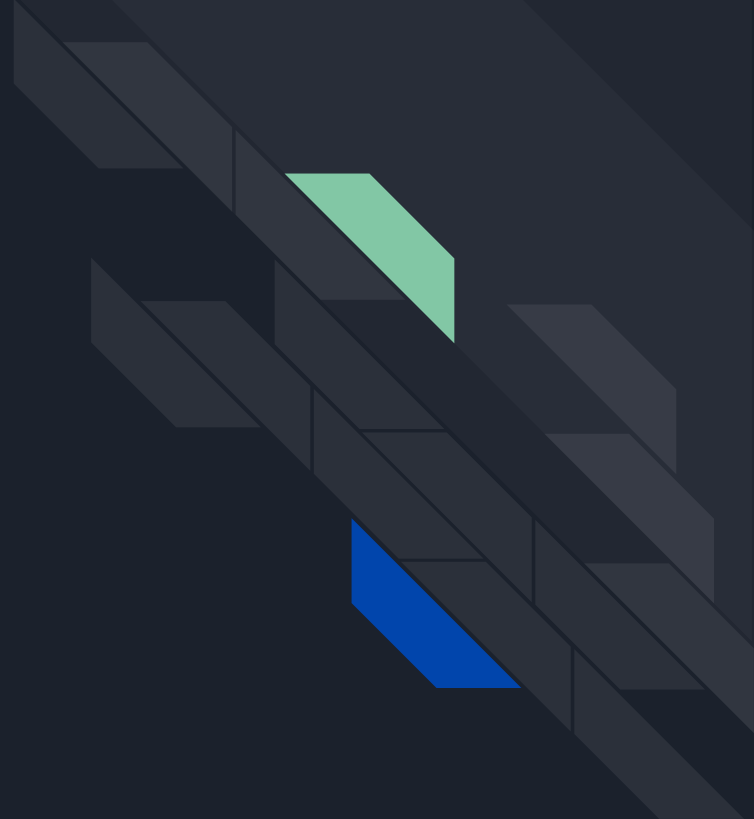
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# Cultural Expression Through Art

Natalie Bova Martin, Madeline Damon, George Finn, Lauren Sullivan  
Mentor: Fred Peck

# Statement of the Problem



- We see a lack of cultural awareness in our community
- We see targeting youth as a key way to address this problem
- Art is a universal language that will allow us to communicate lessons to youth about culture





# Background Information

# Culture:

What is culture?

- Shared
- Dynamic
- Learned
- Persuasive
- Membership Based



**What are some issues with modern perceptions of culture?**



# Cultural Awareness

Cultural Safety

Cultural Competence

Cultural Empathy

Cultural Intelligence

Cultural Humility



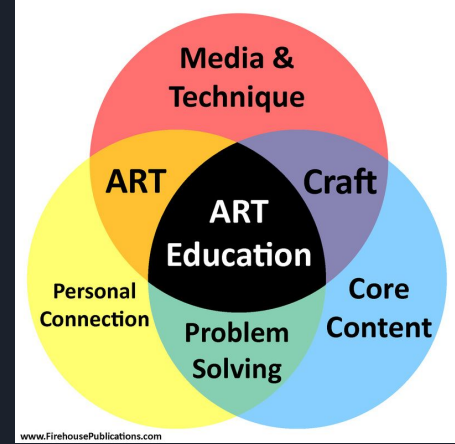
# Lack of Cultural Empathy

- Little understanding of discrimination among white students, causing it to carry over to their classrooms
- 56% of institutions had a requirement of multicultural courses to be completed
  - Lack of training for educators



# Art Education

- Art education has been proven to benefit youth in many ways.
  - Increased engagement
  - Higher cultural participation later in life
  - Social and emotional growth
- Art education has the ability to teach more than just art
  - Art can be understood no matter where you are from
- Adolescence (age 10-19) is a time of identity formation.



Wallace-DiGarbo & Hill (2006)  
Pedraza (2010)  
Grytting (2000)



# Combining Art and Culture

- Introduction of non-white or European art and art history makes students of varying cultures and beliefs feel more welcome and heard
- The increase of cultural diversity is allowing pre-existing assumptions to be challenged.
- Creates an opportunity to educate in ways that leads to a better understanding of the problem because of the visual nature



**Methods:**



Bringing it all  
together: a toolkit



# Development of the Toolkits:

- We partnered with experts:
  - Angie Stokes (Japanese Kamishibai)
  - Karen Gaul (Tangrams)
- Collaborative: Met with experts to discuss development
  - Partners created video lessons

# Toolkit Specifics

- What is Culture Toolkit
  - Step 1; Explores what culture is and how it relates to our everyday life.
- Tangrams Toolkit (China)
- Kamishibai Toolkit (Japan)
- Mandalas Toolkit (Many cultures)
  - Demonstration/teaching (video)
  - Cultural significance
  - Structured opportunity to create art





# Website Demonstration

<https://sites.google.com/view/cultural-through-art/>



# Pilot Testing and Revision

- Audience: Porter Flagship (5th grade)
- Pilot Test Goals:
  - Youth Survey
    - Evaluate content
  - Facilitator Survey
    - Evaluate usability
  - Revision



# Survey Results

## Students

- All had fun completing activities
- All or some of the information was new
- Activities were not confusing

## Facilitator

- Website was easy to navigate
- Directions were understandable
- Projects were accessible, supplies easy to obtain
- Activities took longer than expected

## Revisions

- Add in estimated times to completion
- Edit video tutorial formatting

What does culture mean  
to you?  
“Everything about you”

What is your favorite thing  
about culture?

“Culture is for everyone”  
“It can all be different”



# Future Applications

How do we envision these tool kits will be used in the future?

- Scenario 1: Kids do it themselves
- Scenario 2: Done in a group with an adult facilitator
  - Scenario: informal learning (Boys and Girls Club, Flagship)
  - Scenario: formal learning (school-based)



# THANK YOU!

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Our Website Link: <https://sites.google.com/view/cultural-through-art/>



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