



**Cultivating Creative Partnerships**

Thunder Bay

*Planning Team:* Sharon Godwin, Lila Cano, Marilyn McIntosh, Alice Sabourin, Alia Abaya, Amy Bartlett

*Co-facilitator:* Alice Sabourin

***i. Participants:***

David Wilkinson	Thunder Bay Aboriginal Arts & Heritage
Moreen Cox	Atikokan Art Centre
Yvonne Heinbuch	Mushkowzeikewewak Singers
Beatrice Maado	Mushkowzeikewewak Singers
Cam Burgess	Metis Nation of Ontario
Lila Cano	Community Arts & Heritage Education Project
Michelle Uvarile	Urban Art Works Studio
Bruce Stonehouse	Studio North of Superior
Irene Warmenhoven	Visual Artist
Pauline Fogardy	Regional Multi Youth Centre
Cathy Woodbeck	Thunder Bay Multicultural Association
Nicole Sutherland	Thunder Bay Catholic District School Board
Bonnie Anderson	Niiganigabo Enterprises
Jeordi Pierre	Niiganigabo Enterprises
Claudia Otto	Image Dance Studio
Marilyn McIntosh	Ontario Arts Council
Trodi J. Jones	Action for Neighbourhood Change
Lorraine Boldand	YES Employment
Rose Sky	Independent
Leanna Marshall	Children's Centre Thunder Bay
Eleanor Albanese	Learning Through the Arts
Socorro Kelly	Outward Bound
Bonnie McNulty	Ministry of Culture & Recreation, Muskoka
Darlene Maki	Ka'naehi-hih
Kelly Lambert	Ka'naehi-hih
Russell Mirette	Ka'naehi-hih
Marsha Ottertail	Ka'naehi-hih
Jason Shisheesh	



Tyler Quill	Willow Springs
Eugene Lefrancon	Aboriginal Awareness Centre
Anthony Angus	Nishnawbe-Aski Nation
Donna Simon	Independent
Tedray Kirton	

## *ii. Outline*

**Community Arts Ontario & The Thunder Bay Art Gallery**

**presents**

**Cultivating Creative Partnerships**

**Friday May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2007 1:00pm-5:00pm**

**Thunder Bay Art Gallery, Thunder Bay**

Refreshments will be provided

*“The definition of community means building connections between people for a common purpose...”*

*“Community arts should be recognized as both a tool and a product of community development. Inherent in this is that cultural programs can play a role in addressing social problems.”*

*Zainab Amadahy, Leading Community Arts into the Future Report*

Goals:

- Learn about the practice and impact of community arts (intergenerational, cross-cultural).
- Identify opportunities to develop or further meaningful connections.
- Share resources and tools to assist the continued growth of artists who work to overcome the effects of colonialism.
- Draw out the elements that make up successful partnerships in the region.
- Reveal some of the barriers to participation in the arts (personal, societal, historical, environmental).
- Identify solutions to the barriers uncovered.

Questions to Consider as a community:

- What skills are you/your group using to break down the barriers to participation?



- How have you/your group transformed closed doors into open spaces? What do you need in order to continue?
- What are you doing to confront racism in your organization/work?
- What resources and models can you draw on in your own community to create and maintain healthy inclusive spaces?
- How does community arts practice (art with communities, by communities, for communities) facilitate empowerment? Does it look different in diverse contexts and if so, how?

#### Who Should Attend:

- Diverse Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Artists
- Cultural workers
- Youth
- School Board Trustees/Administrators
- Educators
- Community members
- City Councillors
- Health Care Providers
- Social service administrators/employees
- Municipal Leaders & First Nations Educators and Administrators
- Funders & Potential Funders

#### Schedule

##### **1:00pm-2:00pm**

##### **Opening Address**

Aboriginal drum circle and ceremony: Conducted by Mashkowzee Ekwewak  
Response: Derek Khani

##### **Prayer and Call to Welcome: Freda McDonald (to be confirmed)**

##### **Ritual/Story Beginnings**

Physical Exercise facilitated by Diane Roberts

How do we embody the stories we create or create the stories we embody?



**Introductions: Who are we and what brings us into this common space?**

Facilitated Alice Sabourin

Identifying Shared Community Values

**2:00pm-2:30pm**

**How Art Transforms Community**

Interactive Exercise facilitated by Lila Cano

Arts Practice: Moses Beaver—storytelling and flute (to be confirmed)

**2:30pm-3:00pm**

**Lifting Barriers: Empowering Change**

Small Groups Discussion

How do we define & evaluate empowerment in our practice?

How do strategies to empower reproduce power structures?

How do we overcome this?

**3:00pm-3:30pm**

Small Groups Creative Report Back

Facilitated by Alice Sabourin

**3:00pm-3:45pm      Short BREAK**

**3:45pm-4:30pm**

**Risking Success: Collaborative models that make or break a community**

Introduction to Evaluation: Alice Sabourin

Measuring Success

Evaluating expectations against outcomes (artists expectations, community expectations, funders expectations)

How do we satisfy all of our stakeholders (community, granting bodies, artists)

**4:30pm-5:00pm**

**Wrapping Up: Evaluation and Next Steps**

Open up discussion for any last words

**5:00pm-5:30pm**

**Closing Ceremony**

Hand Drum Singing Circle led by Alice Sabourin



### ***Highlights (tab)***

This workshop opened with a welcome and thanksgiving ceremony led by the Mashkowzee Ekwewak Singers using hand drums and unified voices. A response by Derek Khani and TedRay Kirton on the Djembe drums prompted a spontaneous offering of tobacco from the Mashkowzee Ekwewak Singers. The ceremony of the giving was well received and in this giving and receiving—this welcome and arrival, I felt the shift in the room and a new tone of promise was set for this workshop and for the workshop series.

*(probably should put pics in here of this)*

Co-facilitated by Alice Sabourin, this workshop inspired spontaneous creative imaginings and deep meaningful exchanges.

### **Noteable Quotes:**

“Growth happens at the edge of fear” Moses Beaver

“Partnering means that everybody comes to the table offering something and it also means that everybody goes away from the table having been filled with something. It’s about what you have to give and what you gain when you take away.” Lila Cano, CAHEP

“The joy of living is...that we create our own reality—every moment— and that knowledge that we create our own reality needs to be at the forefront of our work as artists” Derek Khani

### **Excerpts from Lifting Barriers Empowering Change Breakout Group Session**

Group A: Tree formation

Lifting Barriers



## Empowerment

What is your practice? Community based—benefits of our social contribution—how is this measured?

Mentorship (spiral graphic) Relationships (spiral graphic) Pride

(spiral graphic) Personal Gifts & Potential (spiral graphic) ripple effect  
(spiral) appreciation of other's gifts (spiral) passing on traditions

(spiral) community members are creating their community; their reality  
(spiral) consensus; shared values and decisions

## Willingness

You  
Me  
Us



Group B: Use of Circle inside of Circle graphic

No boundaries

