



**INDIGO**  
CULTURAL CENTER

# ANNUAL REPORT FY2015

Dear friends and partners of Indigo Cultural Center,

Nine years ago when I relocated to Phoenix from Pittsburgh, I never imagined that an idea that was conceived by me and my best friend while laying on a hammock daydreaming about our fantasy 'job' – would turn into a reality that continues to grow beyond our best daydreams.

Over the past nine years our Indigo collaboration portfolio has expanded over the state and country to more than 30 partners, and we have had the good fortune to have crossed paths with more than 35 talented individuals as part of our Indigo team.

This past year was one of transition. Some of our long-term research projects came to an end, we revised our mission and vision statements, we spent productive energy on capacity-building, and we re-committed ourselves to a stronger sense of purpose around racial justice in all our work.

Many of you know that my mom suffered a major stroke last October. Adding the role of caregiver to my life helped nudge me to finally step into my long-term vision of sharing leadership with someone else. Towards the end of this fiscal year, we finally welcomed Katie Greisiger as co-director for Indigo. Working with Katie as my co-pilot has been transformative!

Looking forward, I know that this next year will bring more opportunities for making Indigo's foundation stronger (focusing on board development and operations), and for spreading our wings as we develop two new divisions: Indigo Arts for Social Justice and Racial Equity Training and Consultation.

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



## Accomplishments: Research and Evaluation

For the past 8 years, Indigo's *Institute for Child Development Research and Social Change* has been partnering with local, state and national 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.

In addition, we are particularly proud of our dissemination efforts with Smart Support and The Arizona Kith and Kin Project. In partnership with Indigo, these two programs have leveraged evaluation results to: maintain and increase funding; inform state and federal policies; the broader literature; and national dialogue on children's development.

Specific examples of dissemination strategies included:

- Presentations at state and national conferences;
- Effective research infographic products used at key stakeholder meetings where funders are present;
- Presentation of findings at national experts meetings (e.g., Sesame Street Workshop; The RAINE Group: Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation annual meeting; National Research Workgroup on Home-Based Child Care)

In the spirit of creating authentic partnerships with our research clients, where we engage in developmental evaluations that keep us in the stance of 'learner' and 'explorer,' we have been mightily influenced by the racial equity work of the BUILD Initiative. With funding from the W.K. Kellogg foundation, BUILD's journey over the past two years with their racial equity work, has inspired Indigo to also make racial equity central to our vision and mission. As we have traveled with BUILD as their evaluation partner, we have seen up close how their commitment to racial equity and their organizational capacity development is transforming early childhood systems leaders throughout the country. Their transformational work as an organization has motivated Indigo to embark upon our own organizational capacity-building journey.

## VISION

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

## 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.

## Major Evaluation Projects July 2014 - July 2015

- Smart Support Evaluation (Partner: Southwest Human Development)
- The Arizona Kith and Kin Project Evaluation (Partner: The Association for Supportive Child Care)
- The BUILD Initiative Equity Project Evaluation (Partner: The BUILD Initiative)
- The BUILD Initiative and Institute for Museum and Library Services Partnership Evaluation (Partner: The BUILD Initiative)



## Accomplishments: Arts and Community Events

In March 2015, Indigo Cultural Center partnered with the [Alliance for Family, Friend, and Neighbor Child Care](#) to host a documentary screening and community conversation related to the California Newsreel's latest documentary series: *The Raising of America*. The event was hosted at downtown Phoenix' independent theater venue, The Film Bar, and attracted a sold-out crowd. Proceeds from the event went to the [Alliance for Family, Friend, and Neighbor Child Care](#).

The goal of this event was to raise awareness and momentum among Phoenix' vibrant downtown leadership circles, and to promote a conversation about early development that was framed by racial justice themes. Integrated into the screening of the documentary were storytelling performances by [Yarnball's](#) Dan Hull and Rachel Egboro, [KJZZ's Stina Sieg](#), and [This Could Be PHX's](#) Ryan Tempest. Following the screening our partner, Calvin Terrell of [Social Centric Institute](#), guided the audience in a conversation about racial justice and early childhood development.

The goal of the event was to engage downtown Phoenix millennials in the early childhood conversation – and to leverage their community-building energy in to support for families, and a better understanding of the importance of quality and racially equitable early childhood education. Indigo plans to re-engage the event participants in a Community Conversation series in 2016 – a future project of Indigo Arts for Social Change.

In addition to the support of the member organizations of AFFNCC, Indigo was grateful that the event was a collaboration of different community partners and sponsors including the Association for Supportive Child Care, Kaplan Early Learning Company, AzAEYC and Valley of the Sun AzAEYC, and the Focosso Food Truck.

## Communities of Practice and Racial Equity

This past year, Indigo partnered with several organizations and agencies to deliver training and facilitate conversations with a diverse group of audiences. The focus of the training and conversations were all directly related to racial equity and social justice in early education systems.

In April 2015, Indigo Cultural Center partnered with [Georgia's Department of Early Care and Learning](#) to consult, train and facilitate conversations related to their federally funded work with Early Education Empowerment Zones. Specifically, over a 5-month period, we worked with their department to integrate principles related to Community Based Participatory Research (CBPR) into their local Birth to Eight teams' agendas and work plans. CBPR has its roots and foundation in a social justice agenda. Our work with Georgia's Empowerment Zones will continue into fall 2015.

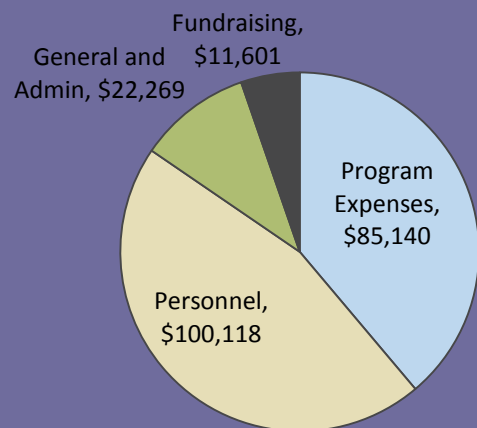
In June 2015, Indigo was represented at the National Alliance of Black School Educators: Teacher Leadership Summit. We partnered with our 'brother' organization, [Calvin Terrell/Social Centric Institute](#) and presented a workshop on racial equity in early childhood education. Our session was well attended, and generated encouraging response from teachers and administrators who



# Our Financials<sup>1</sup>

**Operating Revenue = \$208,919**

**Operating Expenses = \$219,128**



*Indigo Cultural Center is registered with the IRS as a tax-exempt 501(c) (3) organization. Contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.*

<sup>1</sup> Indigo Cultural Center is appreciative of the support provided by our partners. The financial data shared above is based on audited statements for the fiscal year ended on June 30, 2014. Indigo Cultural Center is audited by Sechler, C.P.A., P.C.



## Featured Indigo Team Members

### Katie Greisiger, *Co-Director*



Katie Greisiger began working with Indigo in 2013 as a data entry specialist. Since then her work has varied from project management to organizational support, and most recently in 2015 to Co-Director. As Indigo's Co-Director, Katie's role ranges from supporting the expansion of Indigo's infrastructure, to supporting various research projects through project management and data analysis. Katie believes that her work is greatly influenced by Indigo's values of co-leadership, community building, collaboration, and equity work within systems. What resonates most with Indigo's work and Katie's personal philosophy is the study of oneself as an individual and leader, and how that lifelong self-study and acceptance intersects with one's race, identity, voice and community.

### Patricia Goubeaux, *Ph.D., Research Consultant*

Dr. Patricia Goubeaux is the founder and Senior Partner of DCG Enterprises, LLC, a consulting group focused on strength-based evaluation and capacity building for individuals, organizations, and communities. Dr. Goubeaux has engaged in several of Indigo's evaluation projects over the past five years. She also served as the lead facilitator for Indigo's participation in a First Things First funded statewide capacity building initiative. What she values about Indigo: Its passion for and commitment to social justice, equity, and client-centered participatory practices; and its team of committed, creative professionals who strive always to serve with integrity, honesty, and openness, who work tirelessly while always remembering to laugh and value one another.



### Flora Farago, *Project Manager, Kith and Kin Project Manager*



Flora felt drawn to Indigo as soon as she saw that promoting and supporting culturally and racially just, and relevant child development was at the core of its mission. Flora has worked as the Project Manager for the Kith and Kin Project evaluation and is seeking her Ph.D. from ASU's School of Social and Family Dynamics. She is personally and professionally passionate about work that seeks to eliminate or reduce racial injustice and disparities in our society. She is incredibly proud of presenting findings from the Arizona Kith and Kin Project at the 2014 First Things First Early Childhood Summit and at the 2015 Society for Research in Child Development Biennial Meeting.

## Future Directions

In the fall of 2014, Indigo Cultural Center was selected to receive capacity-building technical assistance from the Alliance of Arizona Nonprofits through a grant from First Things First. We worked with our very own Dr. Patricia Goubeaux on a needs assessment to determine where our strengths and challenges were. With Dr. Goubeaux's gentle and effective guidance, we formed a core group of Indigo team members (comprised of leadership and board members) to revise our vision and mission statements, strengthen our board policies and procedures, and design an improved process for recruiting and training a diversified board of directors.

This next fiscal year we hope to continue to strengthen our board's capacity and usher in a new phase in our organization's development as we nurture a new partnership with our new board chair, Sandy LaCava. Under Sandy's leadership, and together with our board, we will create a strategic plan that will integrate our racial equity vision and will bolster our aggressive fundraising agenda for our *Indigo Arts for Social Justice* division.

### Expansion of Indigo Arts for Social Justice

In the fall of 2015, we will start working with our new director of Indigo Arts for Social Change, Dr. Jenna Delgado, to develop a vision and detailed framework for this division. This next year we hope to secure funding for several flagship Indigo Arts projects, develop new partnerships with other community arts organizations, and deliver arts leadership programming directly to our community.

### Racial Equity: Front and Center

This next year promises to bring an intensified focus on our racial equity vision and mission as we strengthen our organization's capacity (at all levels of our organization) to become more grounded and confident in our racial justice efforts. Our team members are looking forward to receiving more professional development in this area, and Indigo leadership is eagerly negotiating a partnership with World Trust to receive organizational and leadership technical assistance.

We are anticipating the formation of a new division in Indigo: Racial Equity Training and Consultation. In this new division, we will continue to expand our capacity to deliver training, technical assistance, and facilitation on racial equity in the context of early childhood development and education, as well as in the context of community arts for social justice. As we build capacity and grow this division of Indigo, we are looking forward to expanding our list of partners and collaborators that include: local agencies; state departments; school districts; and national organizations.





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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.

[www.indigoculturalcenter.org](http://www.indigoculturalcenter.org)