



# **Transformative/Restorative Justice from an Indigenous Perspective**

**Walking in Balance with All Our Relations**

Strong Oak Lefebvre

Visioning B.E.A.R. Circle Intertribal Coalition

# Visioning B.E.A.R. Circle Intertribal Coalition

“The dominant culture creates scarcity and promotes abuse of power. We are taught that there is always someone who has control over you and your needs. But if we value and practice interdependence—if we do not objectify anything or anyone—we will not objectify children or commit violence. Every person has the same value and worth. If we believe this—if we teach our children to see their value and importance to the larger community and the world—they will learn harmony and respect, and violence against human beings and Mother Earth will disappear.” *Strong Oak Lefebvre*

Historical trauma is entirely different than consciously holding onto the past when it resides in your ancestral memory and DNA. It results in numerous defense mechanisms, developmental malfunctions, and behavioral issues. This is scientific and is supported in studies.

~Tony Ten Fingers/Wanbli Nata'u, Oglala Lakota

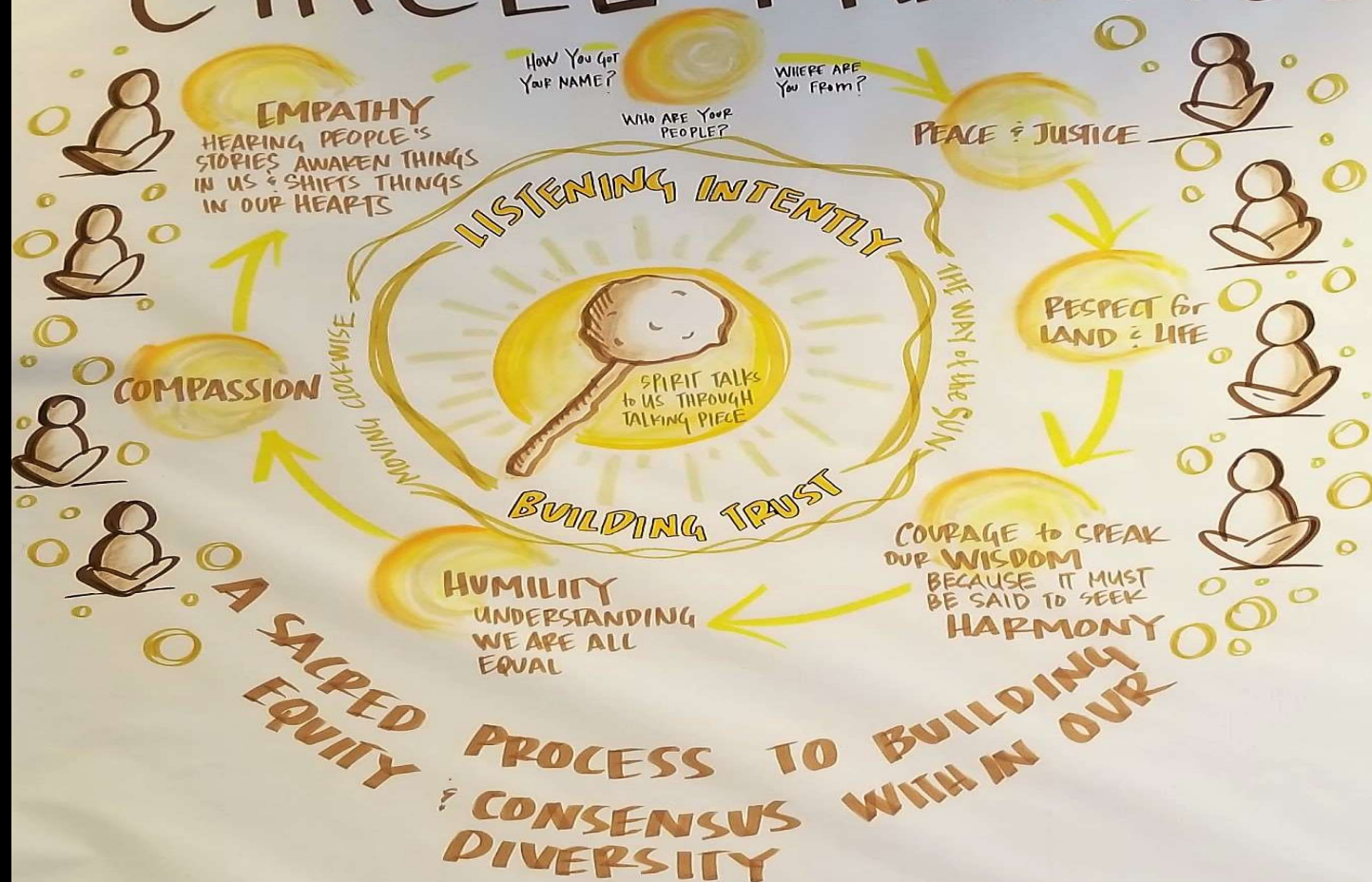


# Building Cultural Bridges

Undoing the historical trauma of the past



# CIRCLE PRACTICE





# Prevention and Intervention

✈ **Culturally designed primary prevention curriculum**

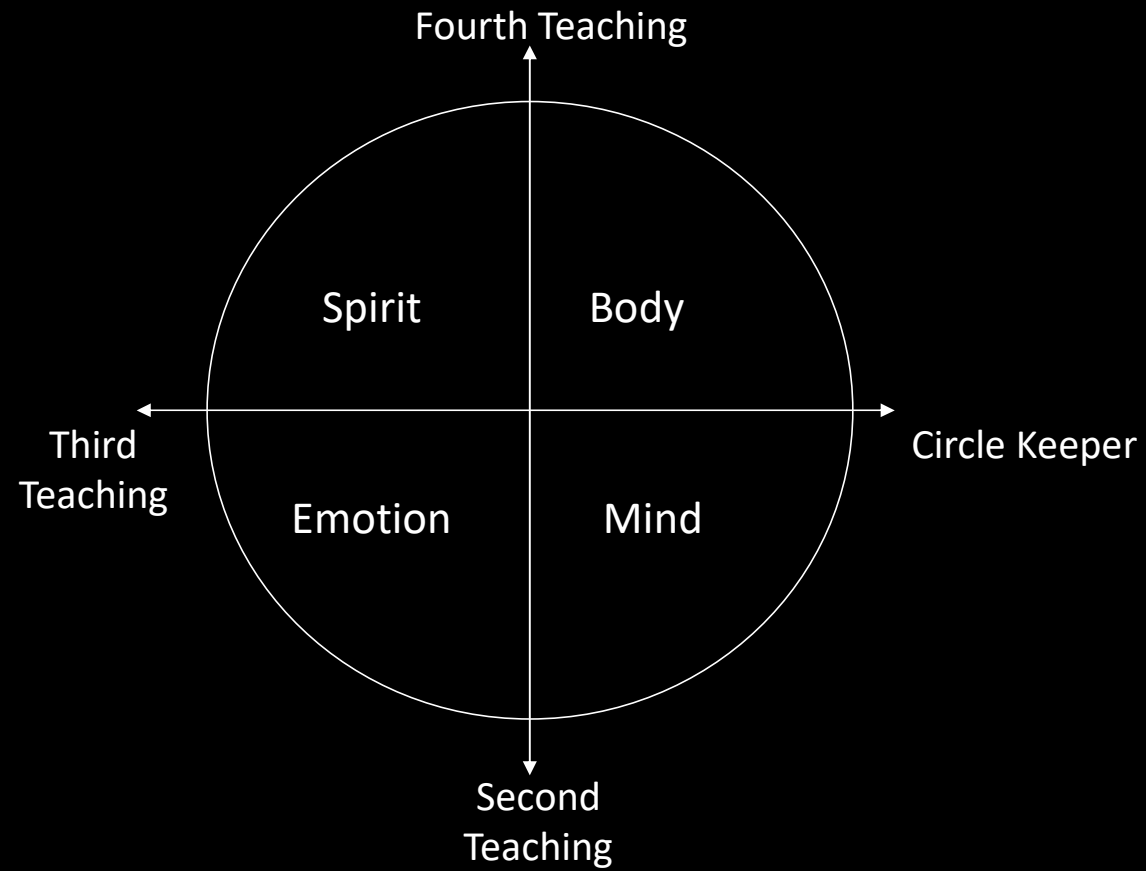


✈ **Circles of support for restoring community to wholeness**

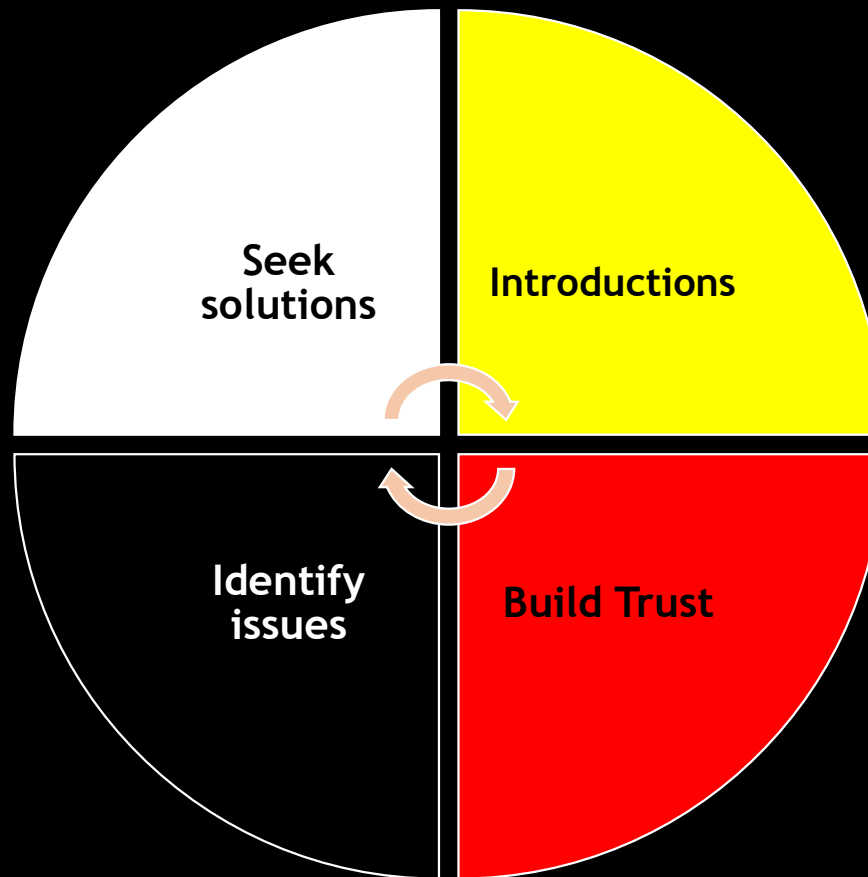
# Circle Process

- Democratic
- Non-hierarchical
  - Listening
  - Healing
- Transformative
- Decolonizing
- Way of life

# Medicine Wheel







# Walking in Balance Teaching Modules

- Peace and Justice: true democracy, environmental justice, economic justice and gender equity
- Respect
- Balance
- Courage
- Humility
- Compassion
- Empathy
- Wisdom
- Sacredness/prayer/vision quest/reverence/faith
- Connection to the land
- Generosity
- Gratitude



# General Flow of Circles

## Welcome

Opening  
Introduce Talking Piece  
Check in/Reflection Round

## Closing Question

What, if anything, moved you,  
surprised you, transformed  
you?

## Topic Introduction

## Teaching Rounds

# It's All About Relationships



**Musica Franklin after school program Leyden Woods, Greenfield, MA**

# Community Circles to Promote Safety

**Training Youth Leaders in Circle Process**

**Community Circles to address drug abuse, presence of gangs, school suspensions**

**Circle to address conflicts between residents and to address incidents of harm**

**Youth and caregiver community garden plots**

**Community leaders involved in curriculum development of prevention curriculum**

- Treat Mother Earth, plants, and animals like they have the same rights as human beings
- Engage in relationships based on reciprocity with all beings.
- Relate to others based on empathy and compassion

**Cultivate**  
compassion,  
empathy,  
reciprocity, and  
respect in all our  
relations to Mother  
Earth and all beings

- *Frame harm and violence in ways that account for their systemic aspects*
- *Issue broad invitations for participation in the program*
- *Engage in community, relationships, and program development in ways intended to prevent violence*

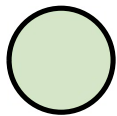
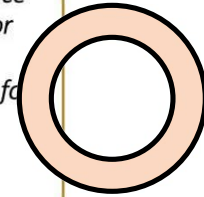
**Uphold** the  
perspective that  
harm can be healed  
and prevented, that  
it is not inevitable  
or [irreparable]

- Interrupt harm with healing intent for all involved
- Work through conflicts with courage and honesty
- Listen to others without interrupting or judging them
- *Create spaces and opportunities to decrease isolation of people from each other and other beings*

**Facilitate**  
connection  
between people  
and among people,  
Mother Earth, and  
all other beings.

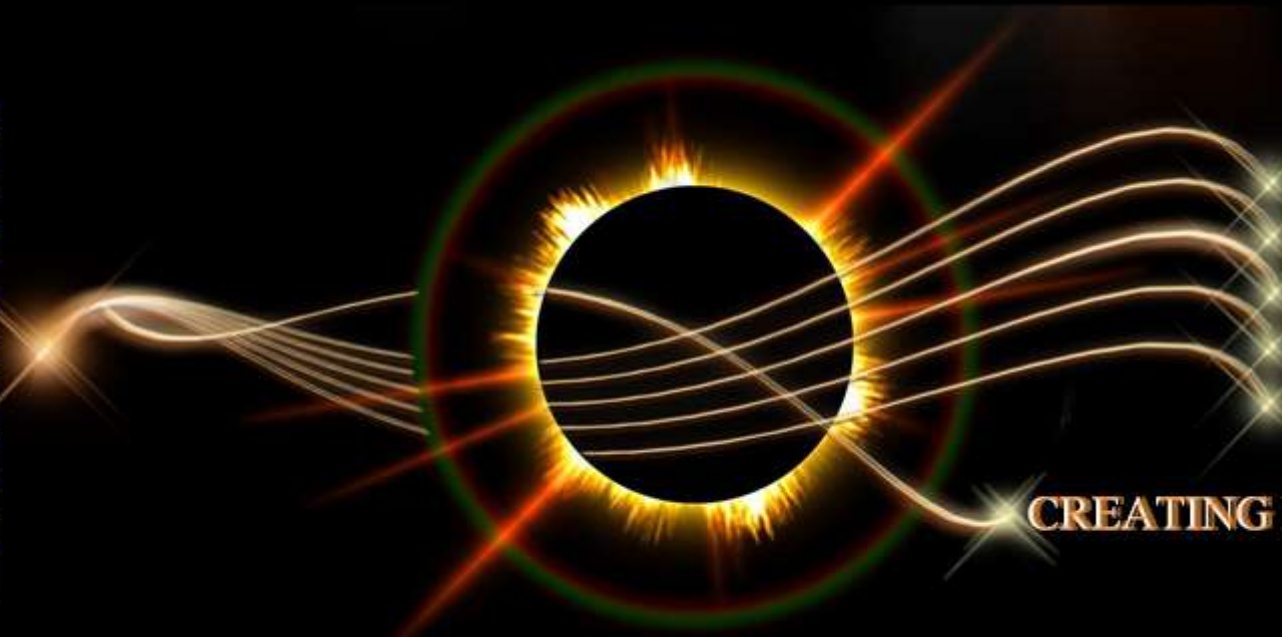
**Support** others to  
identify their truths  
and have a voice in  
decisions that  
affect their lives

- Communicate needs and desires around intimacy and other interpersonal activities or encounters
- Make space for the most marginalized voices to be heard





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FAIRNESS  
EQUALITY  
COOPERATION  
CONTRIBUTION  
COLLABORATION

**CREATING LEADERS**



