

# CULTURAL COLLABORATION IN TVR



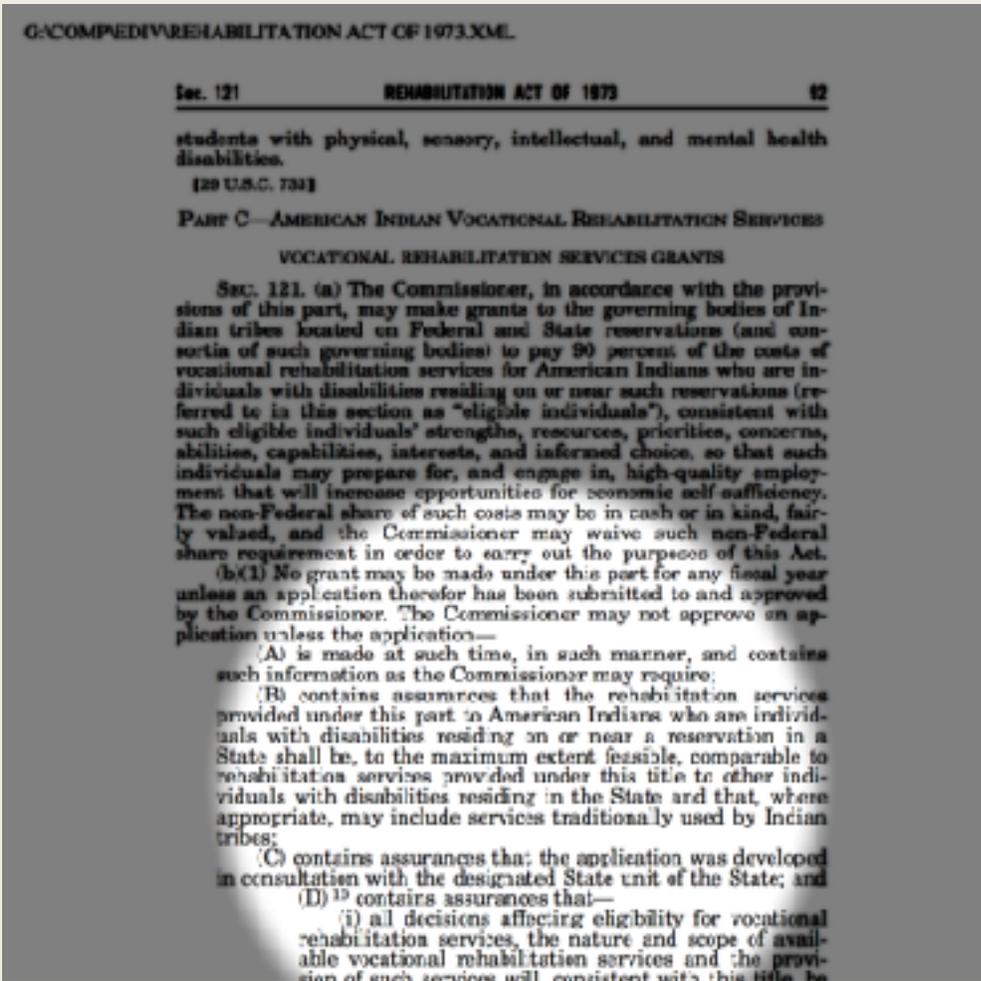
Presented by Silvermoon LaRose  
& Samantha Cullen-Fry

# Learning Goals

- Expand Perceptions of Culturally Relevant Services
- Identify Collaborative Opportunities that benefit both Consumers and Staff Through Cultural Organizations
- Building & Managing Effective Partnerships



# Culturally Relevant Services



- Section 121 of Rehabilitation Act permits TVR to include services traditionally used by Indian tribes
- consistent with the individuals' strengths, resources, priorities, concerns, abilities, capabilities, interests, and informed choice, so that such individuals may prepare for and engage in, high-quality employment that will increase opportunities for economic self-sufficiency
- ALL decisions affecting eligibility for VR services, the nature and scope of available vocational rehabilitation services, and the provision of such services will, consistent with this title, be made by a representative of the tribal vocational rehabilitation program funded through grant and such decisions will not be delegated to another agency or individual



# What are Culturally Relevant Services?

- Capacity to provide VR services in a culturally relevant manner
  - Services provided by other tribal members
  - Language
  - Cultural Competent Staff
- Traditional Healing
  - Ceremony
  - Medicine Man or Woman
  - Traditional Medicines



# Questions to ask yourself

- Do you assume consumers know their tribal history, traditional values, cultural practices?
- Do you assume consumers will know or feel comfortable identifying what traditional services they want/need and asking for them?
- If not, how prepared are you to teach these things?
- What resources do you have available for consumers who want to learn more about their history/cultural ways?
- How do you help consumers become more involved with their community?
- Do you assume your staff is culturally competent if they are Native?



# What can cultural organizations provide to TVR services?



# Talking Circles

- Educational and Healing Group Discussions for consumers and/or staff
- Led in collaboration with cultural organizations
- May include participation of mental health counselors or have them on call
- May include Medicine Men/Women
- Topic areas:
  - Historical Trauma
  - Identity Trauma
  - Healing Medicines
  - Traditional Spirituality Practices
- Staff Development & Cultural Competency



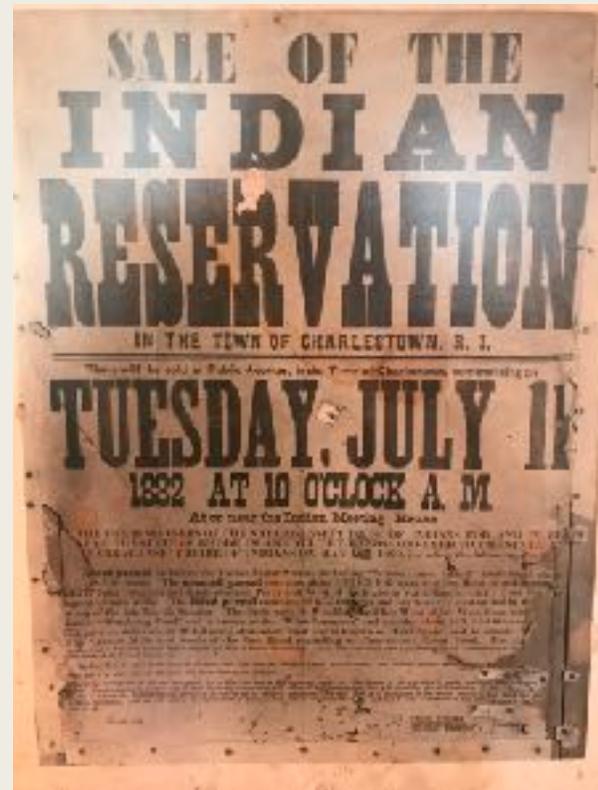


Boarding Schools & Indentured Servitude

Introduction of Alcohol & Substance Abuse



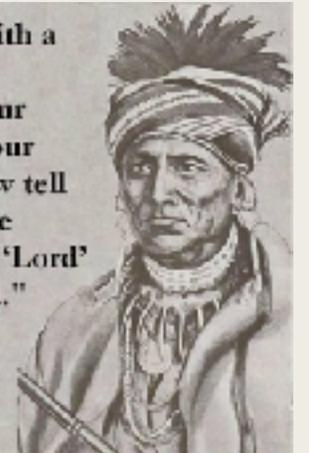
Adoption Practices & ICWA



Stolen Lands

Outlawed Ceremony

"They came with a Bible and their religion stole our land, crushed our spirit... and now tell us we should be thankful to the 'Lord' for being saved."



Chief Pontiac (d. 1769)

Forced or Illegal Sterilization



# Educational Workshops

- Cultural Knowledge Workshops
  - Builds Self-Esteem
  - Empowerment
  - Self-Advocacy
- Traditional Uses of Indigenous Plants
  - Homeopathic Treatment
- Storytelling Traditions
  - Expression
- Traditional Foodways
  - Health/Wellness
- Indigenous Games
  - Spirituality
  - Community Building
- Traditional Arts
  - Introduction to new techniques
  - Opportunity for in-depth mentorship



# Other Culturally Relevant Services

- Cultural Event Planning
  - Recruitment
  - Informational
  - Community Building
- Art Shops & Exhibitions
- Art Sales
- Community Engagement



# Other TVR Services

- Business Development Workshops for consumers
  - Business Photography
  - Social Media Marketing
  - From Arts to Education
  - Writing for Artist Grants and Exhibit Proposals
- Situation Assessments
- On-the-Job training
- Internships/Apprenticeships
- Volunteer Opportunity



# Tomaquag Museum's Indigenous Empowerment Network (IEN)



# IEN ADVOCACY

*Advocacy through IEN seeks to ensure that people, particularly the Native community of Rhode Island, are able to: Have their voice heard on issues that are important to them. Defend and safeguard their rights. Have their views and wishes genuinely considered when decisions are being made in various settings in private, public and non-profit spaces.*

- \* Providence Arts and Culture Fellowship Review Panel
- \* Rhode Island State Council For The Arts Grant Review Panels
- \* SistaFire Education On Policy Making and Women's Reproductive Rights
- \* University of Rhode Island Diversity Board
- \* University of Rhode Island College of Nursing Diversity Board
- \* Policy change through Secretary of State's Office to allow Federally Recognized Tribal ID's for voting
- \* Supported Standing Rock Movement with school supply donations
- \* Talks on American Indian Movement, Black/Indigenous Erasure, Standing Rock and more
- \* Congressman Langevin's Arts, Culture & Tourism Board
- \* South County Tourism Board
- \* New England Museum Association Board
- \* Metropolitan Regional Career and Technical Center Board of Directors
- \* Rhode Island College President's Commission, Inclusive Excellence
- \* Political Activism:
  - Standing Rock March on Washington
  - Invenegy Power Plant - RI
  - Railroad Expansion - RI
- \* RI Historical Records Advisory Board
- \* RIDE Cultural Responsive Practice & pedagogy Stakeholders Group
- \* RI Census Complete Count - 2020 Committee
- \* American Indian Advisory Committee, URI
- \* Secretary of State's Civics Coalition
- \* John Nicholas Brown Center for the Public Humanities Advisory Board
- \* Rhode Island State Council on the Arts, Board of Directors
- \* Salve Regina University's Pell Center, Story In The Public Square Board
- \* Northeast Indigenous Arts Alliance Board
- \* Native Opinion
- \* South Kingstown Parade Float

Being at the table matters!

# Building & Managing Effective Partnerships

- Networking
- Creating Partnerships
- Maintenance



# Networking



- Vital to building partnerships and expanding community
- There are people out there who want to collaborate with you, you just haven't met them yet
- Network beyond the workplace; sporting events, community events, wherever you go is an opportunity for networking
- Be prepared
  - Carry business card and pamphlets everywhere and hand them out freely
  - When someone gives you their business card, write notes on the back, i.e. where you met, how you plan to partner; next steps
  - Create an “elevator pitch”
- After the initial contact, follow up as soon as you can to solidify the connection and next steps
- Building advocates outside of your organization that will speak of the positive work you do will increase your partnering potential
- Don't give up, if one partnership doesn't pan out, there's plenty more that will!



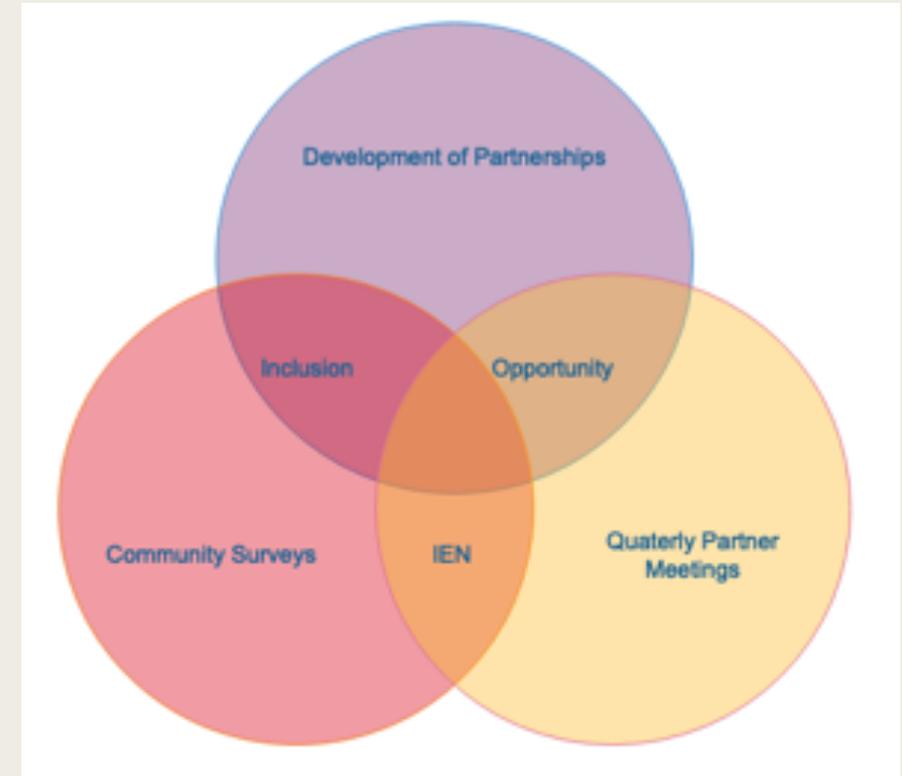
# Creating Partnerships

- Begin cultivating relationships with a series of discussion forums with potential partners
- Get everyone in the same room
- Explore what each participant can bring to the table and what they hope to get back in return
- Collect your data - what opportunities have been unearthed?
- Survey your community - Of the potential partnership ideas, what ones connect? Are there any barriers to address?
- Match the partners to the community
- Create a means of sharing opportunities with community members - Facebook groups, Email Networks, Website, Etc.



# Maintaining Productive Partnerships

- Communication
- Clearly explained goals and objectives
- Clear articulation of funding
- Check-in and Follow-up; Keep everyone engaged of progress and in the loop
- Documentation
  - Track connections made - keep a running spreadsheet
  - Create collaboration agreements
- Evaluate
  - Check back in with partners and community members to see how things are working and what can be improved



# Designing Forms

PROJECT COLLABORATION AGREEMENT	
ENTITY NAME:	
LEAD CONTACT PERSON: (PHONE AND EMAIL)	
DATE(S)/TIME(S) REQUESTED:	
MAILING ADDRESS:	
ACTUAL PROJECT LOCATION:	
DETAILS:	
EQUIPMENT NEEDED:	
TOMAQUAG'S RESPONSIBILITIES:	
COLLABORATOR'S RESPONSIBILITIES:	
COST AGREEMENT:	

By signing this confirmation document, I acknowledge that I have read and understand the terms of this agreement and consent to the conditions herein.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

- Who are you partnering with?
- Who will be the lead contact?
- When will this take place?
- What is the time frame for the collaboration?
- What is happening where?
- What are the goals? Activities? Projected Timeline? Predicted Outcomes?
- What will you need to achieve? Where will it come from?
- Fully detail who is doing what, Who is contributing what, Timelines and Deadlines
- What are the costs and who is paying what?
- Their signature confirms that everyone is on the same page and in full agreement.



# TOMAQUAG MUSEUM

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

