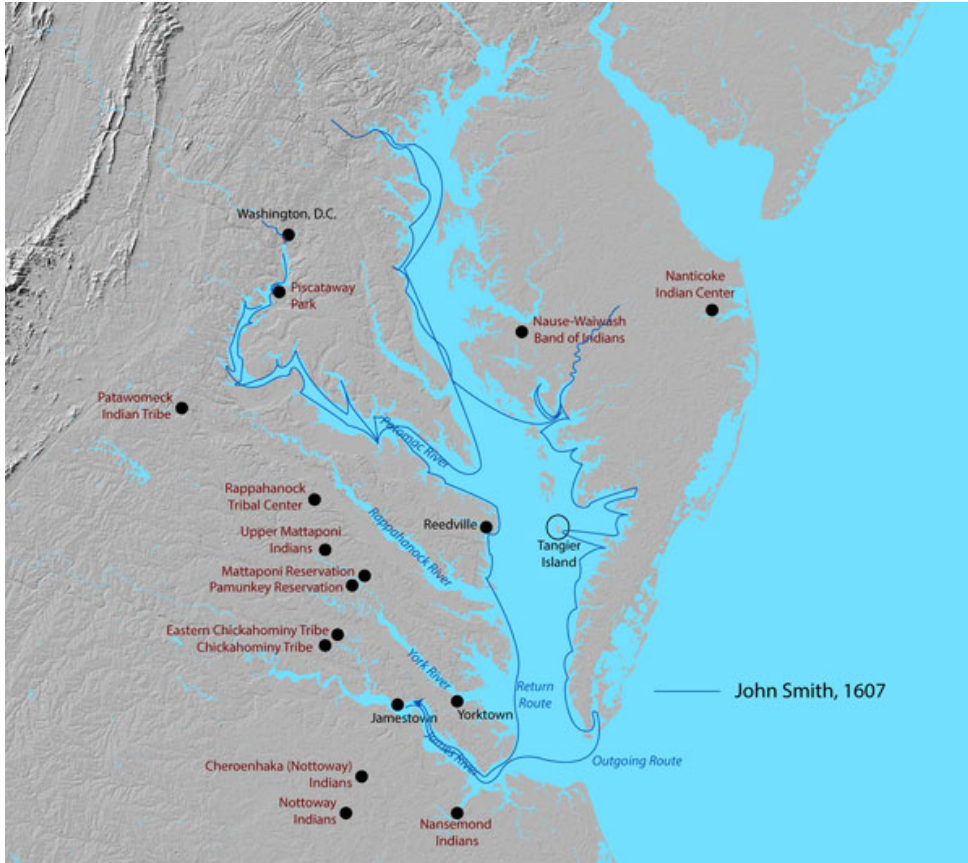


Two Spirit Healing, Activism, HIV and Complex Trauma

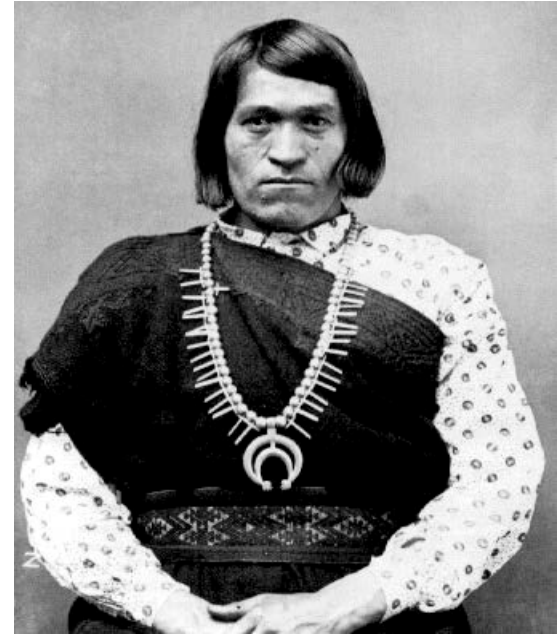


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“I believe in the greatness of love.” –Cahuilla Red Elk

Two-Spirit Culture & Genders

- Two-Spirit: to transcend gender or to express both female and male spirits in one person.
- Alternative gender roles are traditionally respected and honored as part of the sacred web of life and society.
- Two Spirit people may identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, queer or transgender- possessing a gender identity not associated with birth sex
- Transgender people may also identify as heterosexual or LGBTQ (gender ID is not a sexual orientation)



We-Wah
Zuni Leader (Transgender)
[Thanks to Elton Naswood for slide]

Tribal Language & Two Spirit Terminology

Tribe	Term	Gender
Nahua	maxochitl	male
	patlache	female
Navajo	nádleehí	male (and female)
Lakota	winkte	male
Ute	tuwusuwi-ci	male
Tongva	Wehee' ahiiken	male and female
	Kuuyat	transgender (MTF)

Genocide/Gendercide in “Colonial Spain” 1500s



- Ancient Two-Spirits (not Berdaches/boy prostitutes) murdered by Balboa and his men and dogs in Panama in 1513. To abolish “sodomy and cannibalism” were main reasons Spaniards gave for colonizing the Indian “race”. (middle, De Vry)
- Rise of the Great Chain of Being Western demonization of Mother Earth (left, Petrucci) and Nahua conversion (right Diego de Valadéz)

Native Transgender Individuals

- *Injustice at Every Turn: A National Transgender Discrimination Survey (Grant 2011)*

American Indian Transgender people reported:

36% Job Loss

24% Unemployment rate

47% “I was denied a home/apartment”

Abuse by police:

24% Harrassed

12% Physically Assaulted

2% Sexually Assaulted

K-12 Education Harassment and Assault:

21% Sexual Assault

28% Left due to Harassment

40% Left due to Financial Reasons due to Transition

33% Financial Aid/Scholarship Discrimination

AI/NA Diagnosis Disparities

- From 2005 to 2014 the number of HIV diagnoses in AI/ANs **increased** while most other groups decreased.
- In 2013, of the 3,600 AI/AN estimated to be living with HIV **18% were undiagnosed**.
- 13% of all persons living with HIV in the United States were undiagnosed.

Source: CDC, 2016b; CDC, 2017b

HIV Prevention and Treatment Challenges

- Sexually transmitted infections (STIs)
- Lack of awareness of HIV and HIV status
- Stigma
- Cultural diversity
- Socioeconomic issues
- Mistrust of health care facilities
- Limited resources in tribal areas
- Alcohol and drug use
- Data limitations
- Comorbidities

Source: CDC, 2017b

Two-Spirit Complex Trauma

- After European contact, cis-heterosexism was enforced via Christian colonization, and missionization and boarding schools, which lead to embodied environmentally-linked historical trauma for Two-Spirit peoples. (Walters et al. 2011 & 2011)
- Native American Historical trauma (Karina Walters 2007) and current traumatic events such as Indigenous discrimination, HIV stigma, and micro-aggressions (Town, Walters & Orellana 2018) can lead to complex trauma
- Post-Traumatic Stress Syndrome (PTSD) occur in 13-64% of HIV+ people Theuninck (2010) with correlation with medication non-compliance

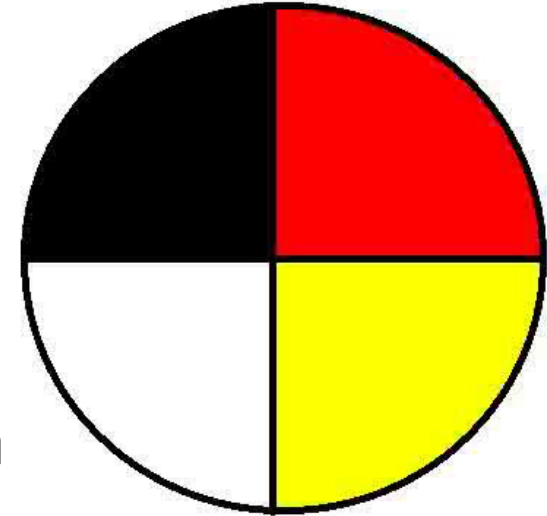
Strategies & Recommendations

Elton Naswood (Navajo)

- Acknowledge the history and trauma of Native people
- Cultural accountability establishes trust and strengthens relationships
- Promote greater sensitivity among advocates and leadership
- Produce health information relevant to Native people – language, images, etc.
- Recognize the strengths and positive capabilities of Native populations experiencing disparities – health, cultural, & social.

General Cultural World Views

- Circle represents all relationships in the spirit world and on the earth
- Good health is represented by a balance of spiritual, mental, emotional and physical well-being.
- If one element is unwell, every element is affected
- Balance is necessary for individual, family, community health and wellness



Two-Spirit Health and Community Activism



- Two-Spirit Societies, Gatherings, and HIV/health programs like APLA Red Circle Project can educate about PREP, Undetectable = Untransmittable (U=U), HIV medications, and two-spirit heritage and healing

**INDIGENOUS
PRIDE
LA**



10/6/2018
(save the date)



**City of Angels
Two-Spirit Society**

*Two-Spirit Media Rising: Circling Nepantla Trans*Indigenous Spaces*

- *L. Frank Manriques* (2012) – Tongva/Acjachemen/Rarámuri/Los Angeles
decolonizing genocide narrative by hearing the raven voices of ancestors
- *Her Giveaway: A Spiritual Journey with AIDS* (1988) – Ojibwe/Mississippi
healing 4 directions E/enlightenment, S/innocence, W/introspection, N/elders
- *Mele Kū Ha'aheo e Ku'u Hawai'i ma ka Mauna o Wākea* (2015) – Mauna Kea
mele to malama the kūpuna piko (chant to care for ancestor mountain navel)
- *Drunktown's Finest* (2014)- Navajo/Gallup
-running east at the kinaaldá puberty ceremony towards dawn
- *Injunuity: Two Spirited* (2013) – Mexica/Valley of Mexico
encouraging at risk youth to identify as two-spirit in chimalxochitl (sunflowers)
- *Ke Kulana He Mahu: Remembering a Sense of Place* (2001)– Kānaka Maoli/Honolulu
to mālama the four mahu stones and healing legacy at Waikiki with Kumu Hina
- *My Own Private Lower Post* (2008) – Teslin Tlingit/Yukon
transforming raven and releasing historical trauma/residential school stories

Resources

- Indian Health Services www.ihs.gov
- National Indian Health Board www.nihb.org
- National Council of Urban Indian Health www.ncuih.org
- National Urban Indian Family Coalition www.nuifc.org
- National Congress of American Indian www.ncia.org
- US Census Bureau www.census.gov/aian
- A local Two-Spirit Society near you, like the East Coast Two-Spirit Society at <https://www.facebook.com/ec2ss/>