

# Flagstaff's Lived Black Experience

## A Forgotten People Forging a Path Forward

The Lived Black Experience CommUnity Coalition  
Coconino County African Diaspora Advisory Council • NAACP Flagstaff  
NAU Ethnic Studies Program • Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc  
Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc • Southside Community Association

# Land Acknowledgement

We recognize that this place we call home sits at the base of the Sacred Peaks, on homelands shepherded by more than 12 Tribal Nations and Indigenous Peoples throughout this region. We honor them, their legacies, their traditions, and their past, current, and future generations who will forever call this place home.

We recognize that this dream we carry of beloved community rests on the shoulders of Black women and men who populated the historic Southside Community of Flagstaff, who worked the lumberyards and various industries through which Flagstaff historically thrived, and who continue to toil for recognition, memory, and unity.

We recognize and acknowledge that the very foundation of the United States of America was built on the free and forced labor of Black people of the African Diaspora, and Black people indigenous of this land. This foundation has generational and exponential effects that continue to negatively impact Black communities today and remain uncompensated. The historical and contemporary contributions of the Black Diaspora continue to shape American culture and benefit all inhabitants of this land

# Introduction



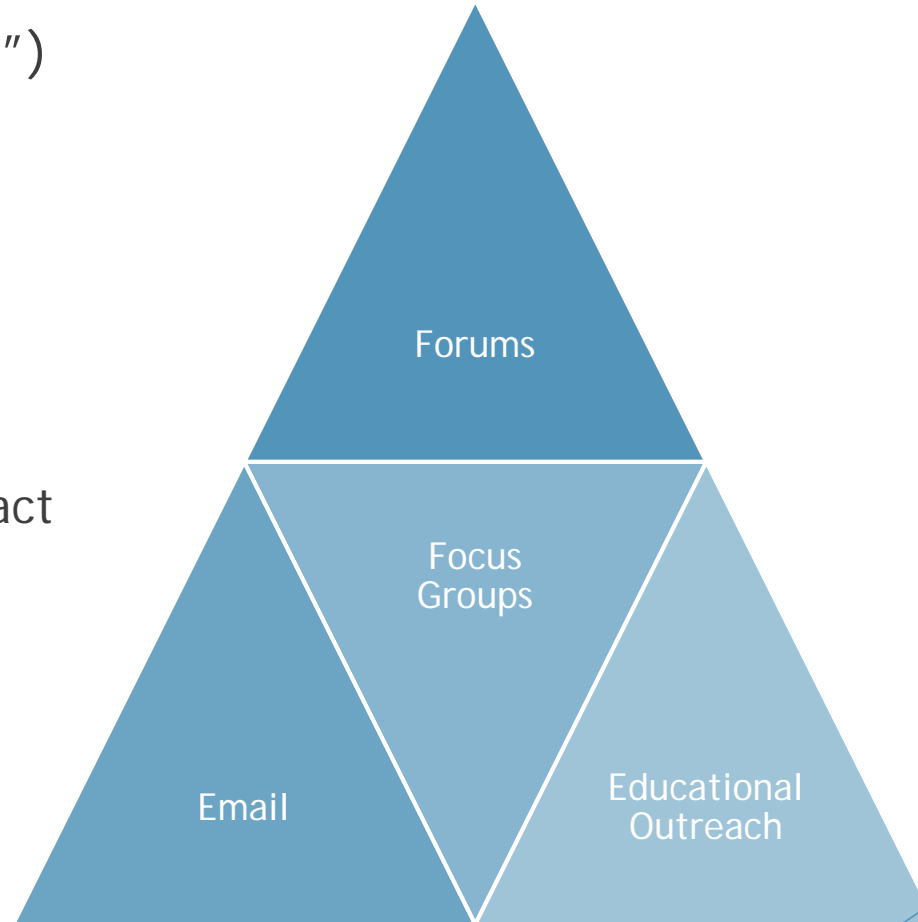
Program  
History

Program  
Purpose

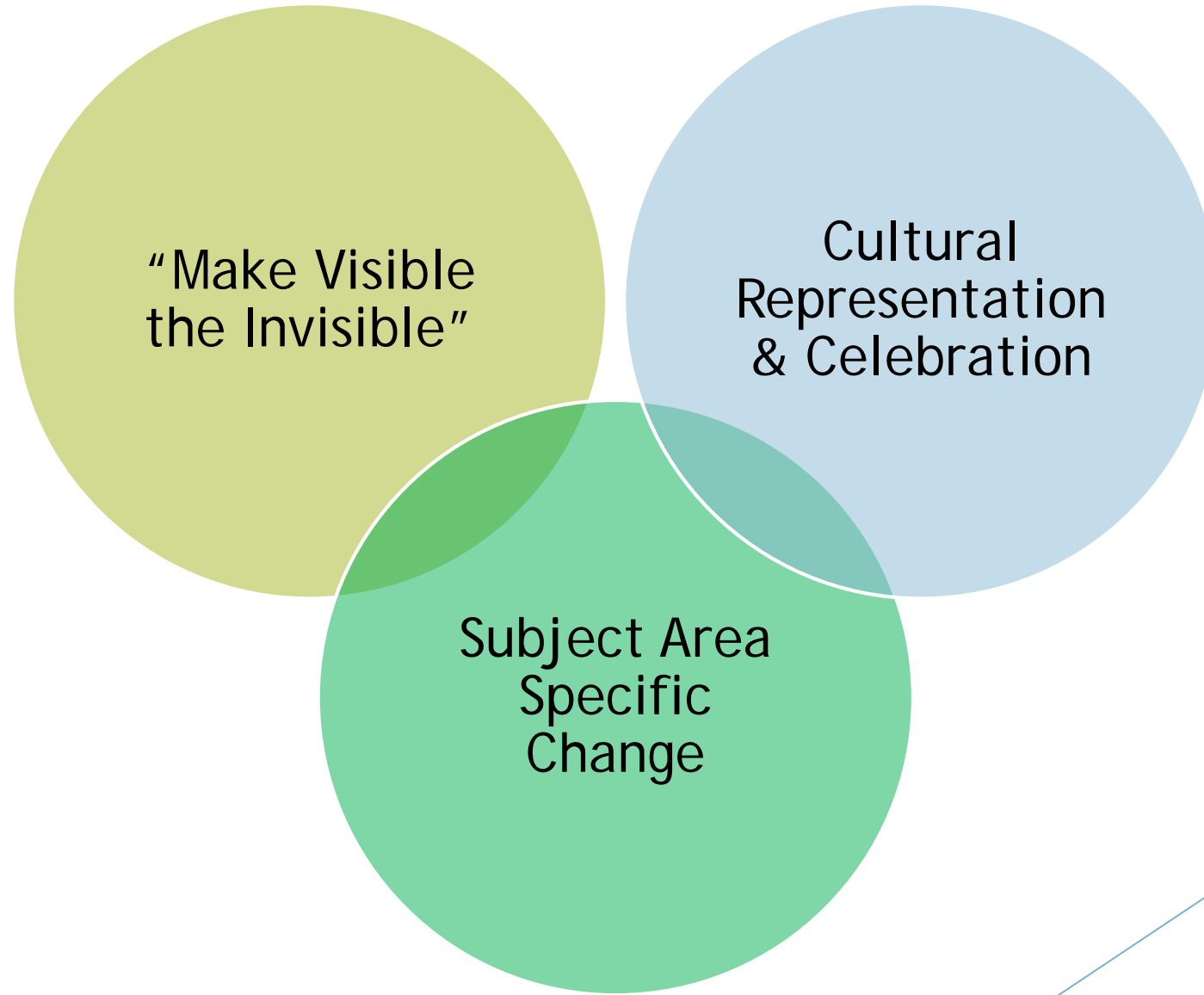
Program  
Partners

# Program Design

- ▶ Community Forums (“Town Halls”)
  - ▶ Social & Criminal Justice
  - ▶ Black Representation & Preservation
  - ▶ Black Youth Perspectives & Concerns
  - ▶ Black Economic Inclusion & Impact
  - ▶ Race, Space & Segregation
  - ▶ Mental & Behavioral Health
- ▶ Focus Groups
- ▶ Demographics



# Program Outcomes: What Did We Hear?



# Program Strategies



Goals

Policies

Strategies

# Goals

Community  
Development

Community  
Engagement

Community  
Infrastructure

Community  
Outreach

# Strategy Sample

## Goal III (Community Infrastructure)

Policy III.1

Policy III.2

Policy III.3

Policy III.4

### Strategy

“Creation of a Black Cultural Center, utilizing the preexisting space and programs of the historic Murdoch Center, and recognition of the Murdoch Center as an historic cultural center for the education, preservation, and celebration of Flagstaff’s Black cultural heritage”

# LBE Community Dialogues

- ▶ Part of the work of the initial Lived Black Experience CommUnity Coalition following Juneteenth was the creation of a biweekly series of educational seminars to prompt and promote engagement with the Black community of Flagstaff.
- ▶ An intended strategy of this plan is to continue that series, as a means of fulfilling the calls for action of, and an outcome of, the community forums and focus groups that developed this plan.

# Conclusions

- ▶ There is more work to be done, including possibilities such as a RARE assessment of the Black community, and ongoing opportunities to engage with and in the Black community of Flagstaff.
- ▶ We urge continued consideration of the ongoing impact of the Black community of Flagstaff to city development and economic growth.
- ▶ Consider the example of the Historic Green Book, a marker of places of safe haven. Few of the areas that historically existed for Blacks traveling through and to Flagstaff exist, and we see the impact of such loss to the community. Considering the call of so many within, and even beyond, the Flagstaff Black community for resources and means to engage with the Black community, the implications for failure to extend and expand such resources cannot be overlooked.
- ▶ This is a living work in progress, and a living work for progress, for the Black and broader community of Flagstaff.

# Questions?

# Thank You!

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