

Institute for Sustainable Diversity and Inclusion (ISDI)
NW Diversity Learning Series

Inclusion Provocateur: Bridging the Human Divides



Session 6

▀ *Native Americans:
Undoing the Last Acceptable Racism*

Presented by Jay LaPlante and Barbara Aragon

November 14, 2018

Seattle, Washington



Perhaps the World Ends Here

by Joy Harjo, Mvskoke (Muscogee)

*Remember that you are all
people and that all people are
you.*

Objectives

- Identify your own source of oral tradition (such as storytelling) to transmit information, communicate, and lead
- Practice ceremony as a vehicle for undoing racism, promoting inclusion, and fostering healing
- Identify behaviors and actions that make you a warrior for change in your workplace and community

Visiting and Talking Story





Just get over it ...

*"The past is not dead. It's not
even the past."* ~ William Faulkner

Ceremony



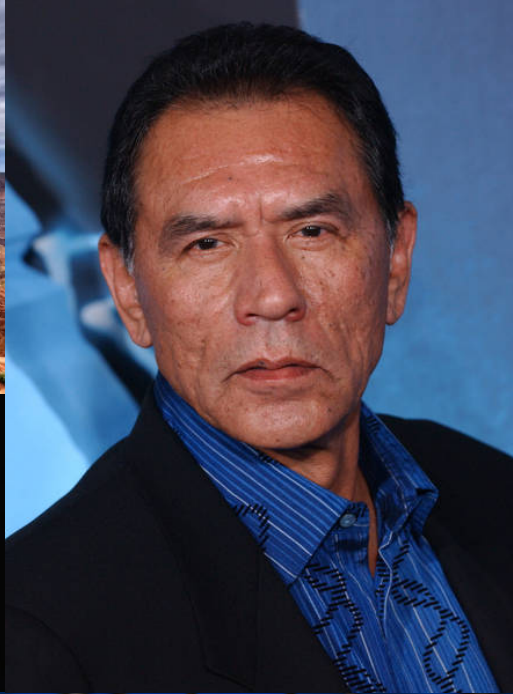
Man in the Maze

Ceremony

All is connected. There are no polarities. It's all one journey.

- Ceremony of birth and rebirth
- Ceremony of life's seasons
- Ceremony of commitment
- Ceremony of struggle
- Ceremony of death
- Ceremony of letting go
- Ceremony of ...
- The commonality is struggle.
- We move from one set of experience and responsibility to another
- We see the world differently in our new life
- We see others differently than we did before





Traditional Containers



About Containers

- Native people used containers created and decorated by immediate resources
- Native containers were flexible
- Those in power use privilege and power to create containers that disempower the indigenous people of the area
- The polarities and privilege are seeded in our containers

A Comparison of Native and Mainstream American Values

American Indian/Intact

Group Life is primary

Extended family is important

Present and past orientation

Pragmatic, accepts “what is”

Spirituality pervades life

Mainstream/Diffused

The Individual is primary

Nuclear family is usual focus

Orientation to the future

Must change or fix problems

Religion is a segment of life



*Remember the plants,
trees, animal life who
all have their families,
their histories too.
Talk to them, listen to
them. They are alive
poems.*

Joy Harjo