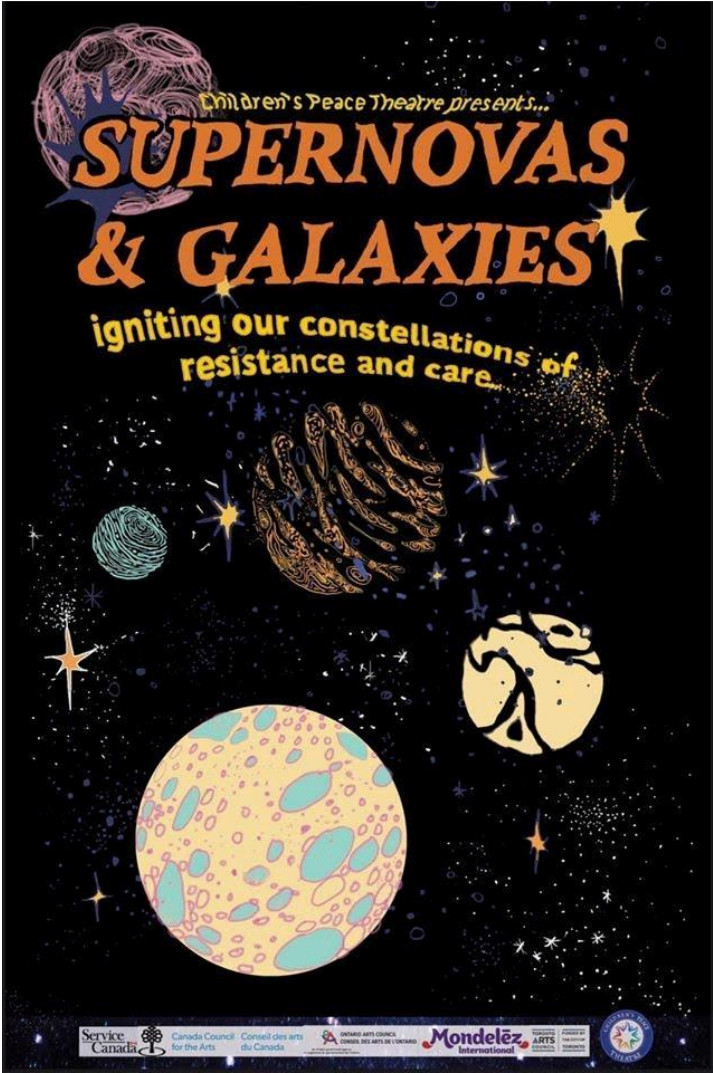


# PEACE CAMP 2020

## TEAM PACKAGE



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

*WELCOME TO THE CHILDREN'S PEACE THEATRE!* 1 蜂

## **Orientation Agenda**2

### **About Peace Theatre**4

DISH WITH ONE SPOON TREATY5

SANKOFA IN MY UBUNTU5

Land acknowledgement and Statement of Indigenous Solidarity6

Commitment to Anti-Racism and Anti-Oppression6

### **About peace Camp**7

SUPERNOVAS AND GALAXIES: IGNITING OUR CONSTELLATIONS OF RESISTANCE AND CARE7

Peace camp team 20209

### **HOW peace Camp WILL RUN THIS YEAR**9

CORE BELIEFS AND PRINCIPLES:10

PEACE:10

CONFLICT TRANSFORMATION11

Peace Camp RITUALS and TOOLS to facilitate Conflict Transformation12

THE THREE C'S COURAGE, COMPASSION AND CREATIVITY12

DIRECTOR AND YOUTH GUIDE ROLES13

### **Community Commitments**13

### **Day-to-day Guide responsibilities:**14

### **As ART Development Begins:**14

ARTISTIC EXCELLENCE & COLLABORATION15

POWER AND LEADERSHIP16

RISK, FEAR & TRUST17

PARTICIPATION & INCLUSIVENESS18

GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES & CRITICAL THINKING19

# WELCOME

*Welcome to the Children's Peace Theatre!*

*We would like to first say thank you, for joining the team. You are now a part the family!*

*The work that Children's Peace Theatre does is the result of amazing and creative people like you. Welcome to the CPT community, welcome to new and exciting opportunities ahead.*

*As the staff and Community Council, we are your teammates, and are looking forward to working with you to create and expand a culture of peace, celebrating Courage, Creativity and Compassion.*

***We, the Directors of Peace Camp want to ensure that you are safe and well – this includes both physically, emotionally and spiritually. If you are having any problems at Peace Camp or would like to discuss issues that may arise please feel free to approach Karen Emerson, Artistic Director or Sedina Fiati, Director***

*With Thanks,*

Children's Peace Theatre

CPT Social Media Connect

Please don't forget to check out our website and follow us on Social Media!

Website: [www.childrenspeacetheatre.org](http://www.childrenspeacetheatre.org)

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Childrens-Peace-Theatre/312293472172843>

Twitter: [www.twitter.com/PeaceTheatre/](http://www.twitter.com/PeaceTheatre/)

Instagram: ChildrensPeaceTheatre

Blog: <http://www.childrenspeacetheatre.org/blog.html>

## **ORIENTATION AGENDA**

### **DAY ONE WED JULY 8**

#### **Morning 10-12 AM**

Opening-Land acknowledgement- Dish with One Spoon  
Team Introductions and opening question  
Introduction to the Peace Theatre and Peace Camp  
Community Agreements and personal goals

#### **BREAK**

Intro to Anti- Racism/Anti-Oppression Power and Privilege

#### **LUNCH**

#### **Afternoon 1:00-3:00 PM**

Intro to theatre Games on line - Sedina  
Peace Camp Philosophies  
Conflict Transformation-three C's Exploring CONFLICT Brainstorm in groups  
The Breath of Peace

#### **BREAK**

Conflict Quadrant- exploring personal conflict relationships  
Closing 30 minutes

### **DAY TWO THURSDAY JULY 9TH**

#### **Morning 10:00 AM -12:00 PM**

Opening Circle

Introduce Constellations of Resistance and Care and themes

Introduce roles and relationships and Sankofa principles  
Introduce Dish with One Spoon- Kaya  
Ruben introduces Music on line 30 minutes

## **BREAK**

Typical First week and theme 1 hour

- Review a Typical Day and the Collaboration Process
- Music and Art Directors
- Creative Day SATURDAY July 18-REMEMBER TO TAKE GOOD NOTES ALL WEEK FOR SATURDAY.

## **LUNCH**

### **Afternoon 1-3:00 PM**

Movement-30 minutes with Shameka  
Leadership-Focus on our roles at camp 30 minutes  
Power, Love and Leadership  
Risk, Fear and Trust  
Participation and Inclusiveness  
Stepping In/ Stepping Back

Assisting Artist Guides with campers- AND Mentorship plan with Lilian, Farah and Sav

## **BREAK**

Justice Circles at Camp 30 minutes

## **Questions**

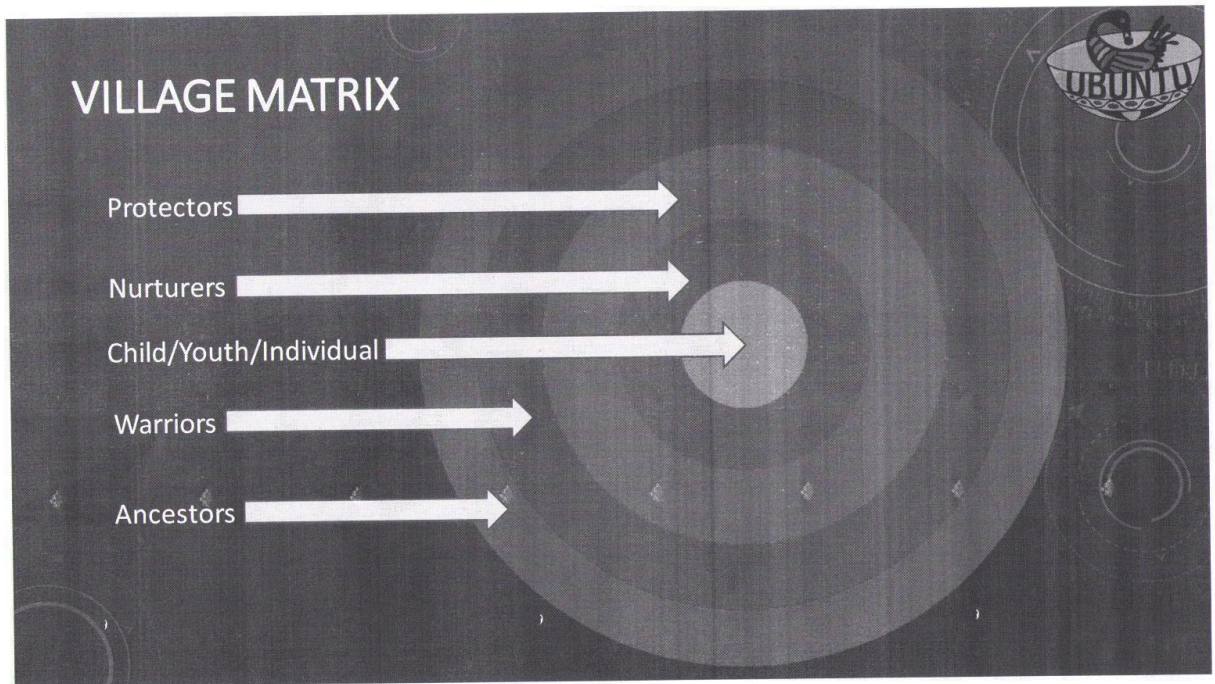
**Closing Circle 30 minutes**

## **ABOUT PEACE THEATRE**

Children's Peace Theatre uses the arts and artistic creativity as critical tools for personal and social transformation. Our mandate is to co-create a culture of peace using an arts based, intergenerational and holistic approach that cultivates ecological, social and spiritual resilience with the individual and the community.

We centre the voices of BIPOC communities to co-create imaginative solutions for equitable and fair futures for all. We hold space and acknowledge our deep connections to the Natural World and our Ancestors, on the traditional lands of the Wendat, Haudenosaunee, and Anishinaabe Peoples.

As part of our work to create a decolonized land based artist hub we are manifesting the "Village Matrix" build upon principles of Indigenous and African paradigms to nurture the organizational, social, spiritual, political, and economic unity (umoya) of Children's Peace Theatre Community.



## **DISH WITH ONE SPOON TREATY**

Decolonial Praxis requires us to challenge colonial models of staffing, leadership and governance that lead to unsustainable and inequitable practices. We want to provide young people with opportunities to think critically about ways to address complex ecological, social, economic, and cultural issues including climate change and resource scarcity within the cultural landscape.

Foundational to this shift is the Dish with One Spoon Treaty, a local covenant made between Nations to steward shared territories ("the dish"). CPT regards the teachings

within the Treaty as integral to our learning how to nurture relationships to self, others and the land.

## **SANKOFA IN MY UBUNTU**

**SANKOFA “GO BACK AND GET IT”**

**UBUNTU “I AM BECAUSE WE ARE”**

**NGUZO NANE (8 PRINCIPLES)**

**Umoja (unity)**

**Kujichagulia (Self Determination)**

**Ujima (Collective Work and Responsibility)**

**Ujamaa (Cooperative Economics)**

**Nia (Purpose)**

**Kuumba (Creativity)**

**Imani (Faith)**

**Kujistahi (Self Respect)**

**LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND STATEMENT OF INDIGENOUS  
SOLIDARITY**

We believe our work must honour the sacred land and the ancestors who shared wisdom about the importance of each human's role and relationships to others and to the land.

The Children's Peace Theatre supports the struggles of Indigenous peoples across Turtle Island and the Globe to assert their cultural autonomy and territorial sovereignty. We stand in solidarity with those who have endured the seizure of their land and repeated attempts to obliterate their culture through multiple forces of colonization.

The Children's Peace Theatre is located on the traditional overlapping territories of many Indigenous peoples, and was once a thriving Wendat village. While we do not know all of the nations that travelled this land, the Anishnabe and Haudenosonee people were among the many. Tkoronto is built on Dish with One Spoon Treaty Territory. A wampum between the Anishanaabe and Haudenosonee based on caring and sharing the land in peace.

Children's Peace Theatre is dedicated to supporting Indigenous participants, volunteers, staff, community organizations and individuals in the resistance to oppression and continual colonization. We will continue to work as an organization to be active allies to Indigenous communities and individuals by ensuring our programming, policy, board and staff reflect and include Indigenous participation and leadership.

## **COMMITMENT TO ANTI-RACISM AND ANTI-OPPRESSION**

The Children's Peace Theatre understands that the diverse and often marginalized communities served by the organization contribute to the growth, enrichment and strength of our work and look to provide safer space for these communities to access programming and be involved in decision making. We acknowledge the fact that certain groups in our communities often encounter barriers to full access and participation because of racism and oppression.

Children's Peace Theatre believes that every employee, volunteer, student, member and visitor has the right to work, volunteer, access services and enjoy an environment that is free from all forms of oppression. Children's Peace Theatre will not tolerate and will address any intentional or unintentional acts of oppression towards an individual or a group of people that creates barriers to access or inclusion on the basis of race/colour,

ethnicity, ancestry, religion/creed, socio-economic class, gender, sexual orientation, gender orientation, receipt of public assistance, political affiliation, record of offences, level of literacy, citizenship/immigration status, country of origin, mental health status, age, type of housing, neighbourhood of residence, language, family status, health status, ability or any other personal characteristics in all aspects of its operation and at all levels of the organization. Related violations will be resolved through conflict transformation strategies, education, and accountability.

Children's Peace Theatre is committed to ensuring that our mission and operations embrace our entire communities. We will make every effort to see that our structure, policies and system reflect all aspects of the total community and to promote equitable access to all, and create safer space for systemically and socially oppressed communities to address systems change.

## **ABOUT PEACE CAMP**

Our flagship program [Peace Camp](#) provides opportunities for children and youth to work with professional artists to create public presentations that speak to the issues impacting their lives, while learning skills in [Conflict Transformation](#).

Every July, Children's Peace Theatre runs a three-week Peace Camp where 12 accomplished professional artists and 12 youth and junior guides work with 40 children aged 8-13 in a collaborative process to create an original production complete with original musical score and visual production pieces, based on explorations of relevant social issues and the children's visions of peace. Each year the work poses questions for the children to explore, and invites them to examine and question the world they live in, a world that often celebrates acts of violence, yet at the same time produces acts of heart stopping courage, kindness and humility.

## **SUPERNOVAS AND GALAXIES: IGNITING OUR CONSTELLATIONS OF RESISTANCE AND CARE**

This year in the midst of a pandemic and a global uprising for justice, Peace Camp will explore the question, *What does it mean to Instigate Constellations of Resistance and Care?*

This theme is inspired by Black and Indigenous knowledge systems and traditions, and by the incredible care for community that springs from their wisdom teachings.

We are living in a time of great suffering. Yet this moment is charged with the potential for transformation. What knowledge, wisdom and actions will guide us to create a world that is more equitable, more loving, and more livable?

*Supernovas and Galaxies* is inspired by Nishnaabeg understanding that Constellations hold knowledge and remembering. That they offer flight paths out of darkness, out of colonialism.

“Constellations exist only in the context of relationships: otherwise they are just individual stars”, **Leanne Betasamosake Simpson**

*Supernovas and Galaxies* will honour, and engage with these concepts as a way to reflect on our relationships with ourselves, our communities and our responsibilities to each other, the land we live on and the Constellations above us.

Everyday over the past several weeks my heart aches for the children, the Supernovas amongst us. I worry how the lockdown, and the increase of violence against Black and Indigenous people by police across Canada and the US is impacting their spirits.

*What kind of constellations do they need to hold them through this time of transformation? How can we nurture them to live not as Individual stars but to know they exist only in relationships?*

**Supernovas and Galaxies** invites the Supernovas to the unique galaxy we call Peace Camp. We hope this will be a place they can artistically express the struggles they have been experiencing, create new constellations of care, and share their brilliant visions of a better world with their communities.

## **PEACE CAMP TEAM 2020**

### **Directors**

Sedina Fiati, Director..... sfiati@gmail.com  
 Ruben Esguerra, Musical Director.....newtraditionmusic@gmail.com  
 Kaya Joan, Visual Arts Director..... kay.dacosta97@gmail.com  
 Shameka, Dance Director.....aimdancecompany@gmail.com  
 Taymah Armatrading, Documentary Director..... taymaha@hotmail.com

### **Camp Coordinators**

Farah Talaat, Peace Camp  
 Coordinator.....peacecamp@childrenspeacetheatre.orgSavroop Shergill,  
 Communications.....communications@childrenspeacetheatre.orgLily Obeng, Youth  
 Coordinator.....connector@childrenspeacetheatre.org

### **Youth Apprentices**

Jamalia Son	<a href="mailto:jamiliason@gmail.com">jamiliason@gmail.com</a>	647-850-7389
Ramneek Sunner	<a href="mailto:sunnerramneek@gmail.com">sunnerramneek@gmail.com</a>	647-518-2672
Mursal Ali Mohammed	<a href="mailto:mursalali22@gmail.com">mursalali22@gmail.com</a>	289-698-0401
Alexa Yanette Esguerra-Carranza	<a href="mailto:Lexcreate12@gmail.com">Lexcreate12@gmail.com</a>	437-788-7473
Kira Doxtator	<a href="mailto:kiradoxtator@gmail.com">kiradoxtator@gmail.com</a>	613-915-4638

### **Youth Guides**

<b>Jahvon Son</b>	jahvonwillam14@gmail.com	(416) 910-2598
Raven Keonna Patrois-Holding	ravenkeonna@gmail.com	289 260 6496
Mikhail Jama	mikhailjama43@gmail.com	6473765659
Cocoheart	cocoheart17@gmail.com	416-854-7630
Karen Guan	karenguanracheal@gmail.com	6477039388

## **HOW PEACE CAMP WILL RUN THIS YEAR**

### [DAILY SCHEDULE](#)

#### **WEEK ONE: EXPLORATION**

The Five directors will be paired with a Youth Apprentice and one on mentorship will be provided. Youth Apprentices will be asked to take on a role in the lessons of each Director

Youth Guides will support in the usual Youth Guide role of supporting campers and Artists, in this years case the Directors.

#### **Camp will run on Zoom and be recorded**

2 sessions a day Monday to Friday July 13 to July 31

Rehearsals August 5 and 6

#### **Show times:**

Matinee Friday August 7 1pm

Gala Saturday August 8 4pm

Each Director will work with guides and approximately 20 campers to explore artistically our themes of care in week one. The exploration includes: theatre, music, visual arts, meditation/journaling and Global Perspectives.

At the end of the week on Saturday July 17 we will meet as team to review what has come from the children during the explorations.

Taymah the lead documentarian will have reviewed the sessions and archived highlights to help us form a story line and decide on a plan for recording in week two.

Sedina will lead the formation of the camp into 5 groups and give each director a group of 2 youth, 4-5 campers, and a sub theme to further explore in week two.

**The questions all directors and guides want to be paying attention to at all times:**

*What are the children saying?*

*How can we incorporate all of their voices?*

*What direction can the final project take?*

*How as artists we can achieve artistic excellence in a collaborative process*

*How can we actively ensure that inequities and oppressions are challenged through an integrated anti-oppression framework?*

## **WEEK TWO and THREE: DEVELOPMENT**

The camp is divided into 5 groups each with one Director, two Youth and 5 or 6 children to develop art, music, dance and theatre.

The sessions will continue to be recorded and archived so that Taymah can edit for the final show.

**WEEK FOUR:** Rehearsals and Final Performances

## **CORE BELIEFS AND PRINCIPLES:**

### **PEACE:**

As part of our belief that children and youth be the instigators of change we encourage them to define peace for themselves.

**We believe the following things about Peace to be true:**

Peace is Possible

There can be no Peace without Justice

Peace is more than the absence of war

Peace is a verb. It is the choices we make everyday.

Peace is the hardest activity of the human heart, mind, and soul.

The process of Peace camp is to allow children and youth to explore peace and conflict through theatre, music and art. They will naturally experience conflict on the personal and communal level within the experience of camp. The goal is for them to then express what they learn and work to create a safer space for them to do so.

## **CONFLICT TRANSFORMATION**

Conflict is the tension that holds the cosmos in balance, and it is at the heart of compelling theatre and art. It is the essence of life, opportunity, and growth.

At CPT we do not strive to avoid, abolish, or resolve conflict, but rather to promote “conflict transformation”, which is creative, compassionate, engagement in conflict.

***CONFLICT TRANSFORMATION IS BASED ON The belief that conflicts can be viewed as windows through which you can see POWER AND PRIVILEGE dynamics at all levels of personal, structural and systems of oppression.***

The process of the work of CPT is to ‘set the stage’ for people who will inevitably find themselves in situations of conflict to engage in the conflict rather than attempt to “resolve it or have it resolved externally.” This is done with the belief that that all parties engaged in the conflict can mutually benefit or “transform.”

***We focus attention beyond the individual role in conflict, to the daily reality of injustice and oppression. We view conflict as a window to explore dynamics of power and privilege. We explore personal accountability as well as the structural and systemic racism, and oppressions.***

**The Peace Theatre first gives children a safe and welcoming space to freely think, feel, and BE.** We establish daily rhythms and rituals which promote peaceful awareness, leading to respect of ourselves, each other and the environment. When we experience interconnectedness, we understand that violence against others is truly violence against ourselves.

When children are cared for and listened to, they are response-able, able to recognize the consequences of their actions on others. This leads them to take responsibility for themselves. Once children learn to take responsibility for their emotions, actions and reactions, we equip them with strategies on how to transform difficult feelings such as

anger and fear into positive and compassionate responses. This is the essence of personal conflict transformation.

## **CONFLICT POWER AND PRIVILEGE**

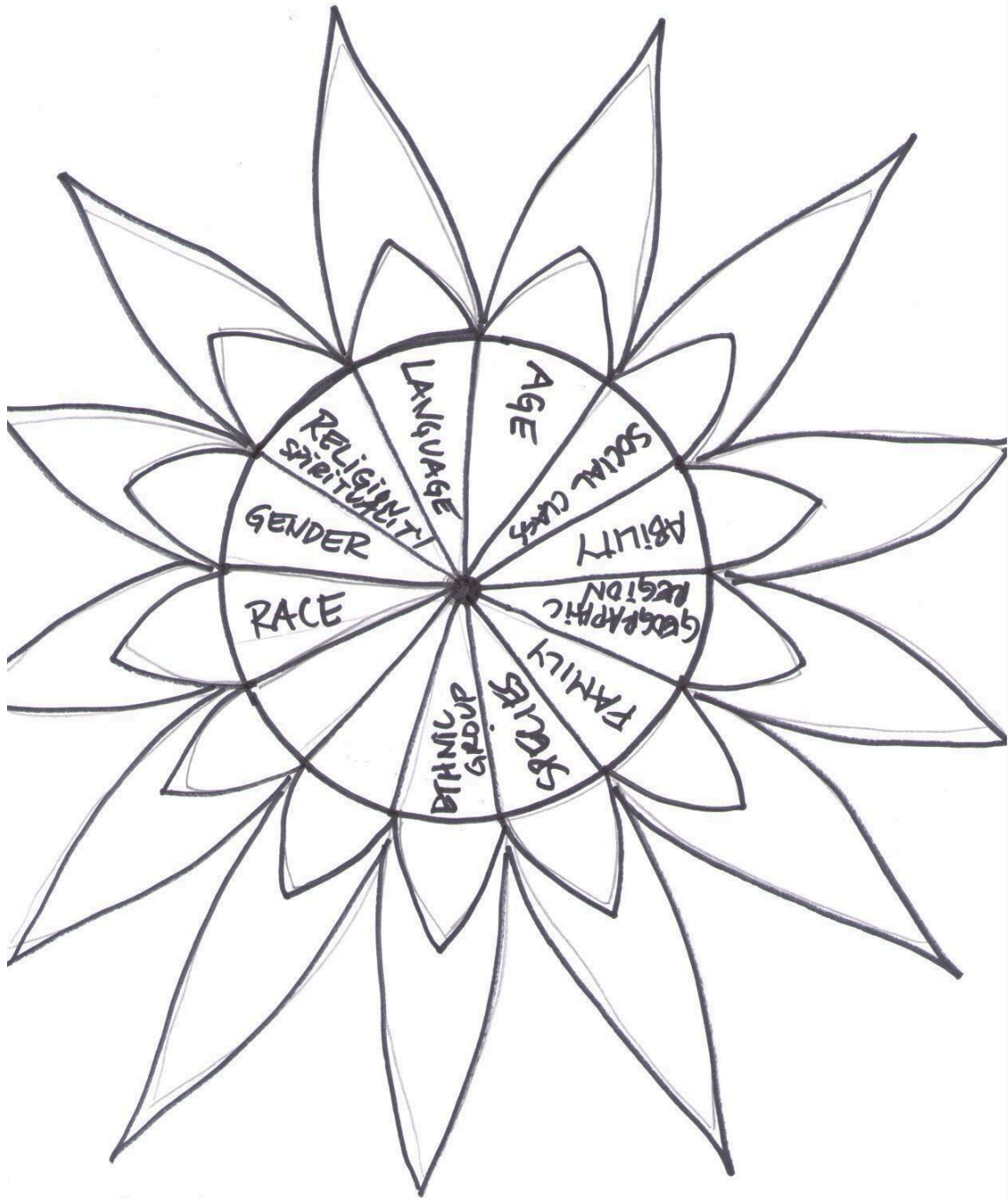
### **The Power Flower: Adapted from Educating for Change. Arnold Rick: and others**

The Power Flower is a tool we use for looking at how we are in relation to those who wield power in society.

Each petal of the flower represents- or names an aspect of social identity. The blank petals encourage of you to think of other elements or aspects left out. Of course we have identities from many petals the intersections of those identities can often be erased and misrepresented.

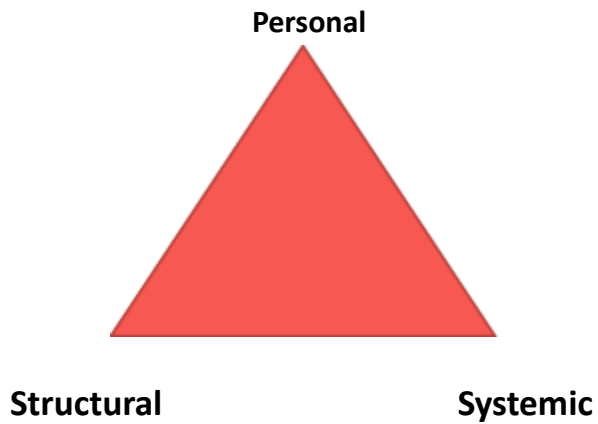
The outer petals are discussed as a group to describe the dominant social identity but not intended to reinforce those power dynamics or binary mentalities or representations.

The inner petals are for each of us to fill out for ourselves to reflect on our own relative power within various contexts.

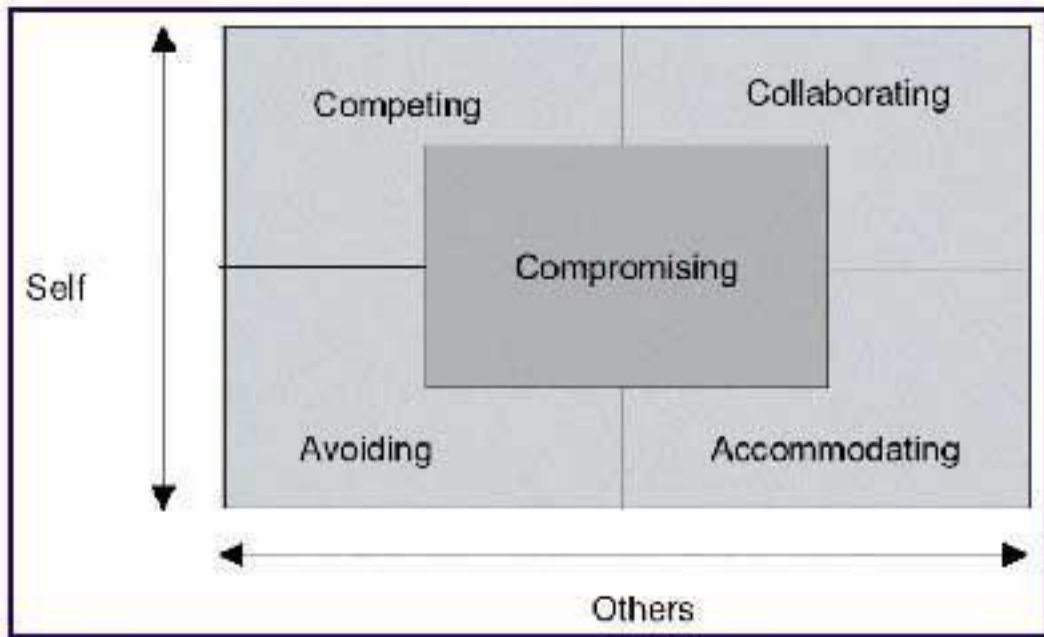


## **The Iceberg Model: adapted from Dancing on Live Embers, Tina Lopes and Barb Thomas**

This model helps us to frame conflict and look at power on the personal, structural and systemic levels to address it. When we experience conflict we sometimes only see the interpersonal and not the structural or Systemic.



**The Conflict Quadrant helps us to understand our own relationship with Conflict**



## Peace Camp RITUALS and TOOLS to facilitate Conflict Transformation

**BOP BREATH OF PEACE:** -- take a **BOP** to avoid a quick (angry) reaction/explosion of emotion, to contain and become aware of the emotions bubbling in our stomach, so we can transform them responsibly and compassionately.

At the beginning and end of the day we gather together in a circle, we put our hands on our bellies, push out into our hands as we breathe in deeply through the nose, breathe out slowly –take turns leading, get the children to lead everyone, directing when to breathe in and out. This helps the children become aware of their centre and especially what feelings lie down in their stomachs. All of our feelings, such as fear, excitement, sadness, joy, have a strong effect on our stomachs/bellies, and that is the “place” where we encourage the children to “go” (pay attention to) when they search for their stories of conflict in their lives.

***Use the BOP in your individual group when things get tense or just to build group cohesion.***

**TOPS TONE OF PEACE** (We BOP 'til we TOP) —someone begins to sing a tone on the vowel “Ahhhh”, others join in—they may match this tone, or find a harmonizing tone. The children actually love to take this time to settle and centre themselves, enjoy the quietness, and concentrate on simple deep breathing. We use BOPs to start and end the day, before a performance, or to calm them down.

**PIP PEACE IS POSSIBLE MOMENT:** When conflict arises, make the disputants, and ideally the whole group, aware that it is a **PIP moment (Peace Is Possible)**, and search for creative solutions which affirm the dignity of everyone involved. Sometimes it is appropriate to bring the real life situation into the play.

## **THE THREE C'S COURAGE, COMPASSION AND CREATIVITY**

These are the touchstones of **Conflict Transformation**. Whenever possible use these words as a way to help guide participants in conflict by looking for ways to use the three 3's.

**Creativity:** We must allow ourselves to be creative; that is how we are by nature. Each person's creativity is unique. Just as true leaders successfully see and call forth the leadership of each person, in a similar way our job as guides will be to witness and enable each person's creativity during Peace Camp. How we attempt to do this will be the focus of our meetings at the beginning and end of each day.

**Courage:** We must have the courage to think in new ways. Daily it becomes more obvious that many of the ways we have all been brought up (thinking, believing and doing) have not served ourselves, others or the planet at all well. Courageous new thinking is crucial if we are to evolve past the pervasive culture of war and the egotism that lies at the heart of colonialism and white supremacy. It is no longer truthful or adequate to allow courage to be defined by retaliatory thought or action. Courage will be redefined by those who are able to enter the heart of conflict with compassion and return with fragments of a new understanding of peace.

**Compassion:** Much of the work of The Children's Peace Theatre concerns empowering children and youth to become “compassionate leaders.” Many of the concepts were derived from the belief that ‘violence’ is the act of moving away from relationship. If we stay in relationship, and aware of our interconnectedness, we naturally tend to become compassionate and much less likely to act violently. If we realize our interconnectedness, any act of violence that we perpetrate is perpetrated against ourselves.

*Help the children be aware of the triggers and links between emotions such as anger and fear. Anger is often expressed by those too fearful to feel OTHER EMOTIONS.*

*Theatre is the perfect medium for trying to imagine how another person feels or understand another point of view, and acting this out in role play supports developing new responses.*

## **DIRECTOR AND YOUTH GUIDE ROLES**

### **Community Commitments**

*Peace Camp rules exist for the safety and enjoyment of all members of Peace Camp.*

***Together as a team USING THE PRINCIPLES OF NGUZO NENE AND DISH WITH ONE SPOON we will create our own community commitments***

*We encourage the campers to create their own list of Community Commitments based on the three basic guidelines: **Respect Yourself; Respect Others; Respect the house and the Environment** and using the three C's **Courage, Compassion, Creativity***

### **Day-to-day Guide responsibilities:**

- Arrive ON TIME and ALERT every day for sessions
- If an emergency arises and you will be late, you MUST let the camp coordinators know as soon as possible.
- This job requires high energy, so you need to get a good sleep every night. It's not enough to just arrive at Peace Camp, we need your energy and alertness for the camp to be a success
  
- Participate in daily activities (morning warm-up, theatre class, art class, music class and all other activities).
- Help the campers with their activities.
- Encourage the campers to try new things, encourage them to listen.
- **\*\*Ask other guides or directors if they need help with anything. One of the most important jobs at camp for Guides is to be the connecting link between**

**the children and the artists/directors. If you see something happening at camp that you think is important for us to know (either creatively OR a serious concern) please let us know.**

- Report any accidents that involve campers to the Artistic Director Karen Emerson
- Be supportive and kind to other peace camp members – reach out to others who might need a helping hand, kind word, or even just a smile
  
- Set a positive example for campers by:
  - paying attention to directors
  - listening attentively when others are talking
  - taking the work seriously
  - keep a positive attitude at all times
  - encourage others to participate
  - be honest and open during discussions
  
- Look for ways in which you can offer support. Don't just wait to be asked.
- Participate in closing meeting with honesty and good attitude. Provide input on the events of the day. We encourage your feedback!
- As conflicts emerge, seek peaceful ways to resolve them: courageously, compassionately, and creatively.

#### **As ART Development Begins:**

1. You will be a support for the Director facilitating your group's creative exploration.
2. Work closely with your group. Encourage their ideas. Try to get everyone involved in commenting on the play ideas for your group.
3. Ask questions – when needed -- from the Directors and Artist Guides to help with theatrical ideas.
4. You will also be in the show!

## **ARTISTIC EXCELLENCE & COLLABORATION**

***Philosophy of the process:*** One of the core objectives of Peace camp is to honour and find balance between process and product. It is our hope that all artists, and guides will be complicit

in the both the process and the product. No one is above the process, which means no one is hired simply to direct or facilitate, but everyone is to participate fully. In doing so, we will all encounter our own challenges and inevitable conflicts.

Creating an excellent play does not depend on the individual expertise of any one director, guide, star actor, etc. It springs from an empowering *process* in which all participants honour each other's unique creative gifts, and are committed to channeling these diverse ideas into a common project.

Because we believe that the well being of all children should become the primary motivating force behind all levels of decision making, children inform all of our activities—with both their needs and their wisdom. The guides' job is to listen, watch, assess and respond or choose not to respond to everything they do. It is not enough to 'act interested' for the children's sake. Older people can learn a tremendous amount by really listening to a child's perspective, and children are especially attuned to conflict.

Children are not just the leaders of tomorrow, but the leaders of today in establishing a culture of peace. We can help them to be seen *and* heard, by giving them both the language skills and the theatrical skills to articulate their visions and creative ideas to friends, family, and the broader community. The whole CPT community forms a supportive cast and stage crew, but our goal is always to put children "centre stage".

***What it means for the children:*** First and foremost, the children are asked to make a commitment to the group, and to adopt values of respect and patience. We create activities that will challenge them to develop their ability to listen and to express themselves effectively. The children also acquire technical skills relevant to music, theatre and visual art. We encourage children to meet the challenge of collaborative creation with hard work and self-discipline, so they may reap the rewards of enhanced confidence, lasting friendships, and pride in the group's accomplishment.

### **How do we balance the task of producing an excellent play with the need to honour everyone's creative input?**

- Minimize the divide between the guides/leaders and the children—stress that everyone's ideas have equal value.
- Make it clear that it will not be logistically possible to include every idea, but this does not degrade the *value* of each idea.
- As much as possible, the children should be actively engaged, not passively listening.

### **How do you balance a child-centred focus with the need to teach and be directive?**

- Always listen first, before you tell.

--Our philosophy of sharing power with the children (“power with”) means that while everyone deserves the same degree of *respect*, **not** everyone holds the same degree of **authority**.

Directors may hold more authority than Artist Guides, and Artist Guides may hold more authority than Guides who hold more authority than younger campers. We need to be aware of these power inequalities, so those with more authority can be especially careful to exercise their power with responsibility and compassion.

## **POWER AND LEADERSHIP**

**Philosophy:** Those who seek peace too often think of power as only negative and dangerous. We need children, as peace-makers, to be powerful, and we must help them to reclaim the notion of power, first by teaching new language/terms.

We must distinguish between “**power over**”, which destroys relationships and leads to violence, and the alternative *stronger* forms of power based in love. The children become aware of “**power within**”—strength of character and dignity—when they speak their names loudly and clearly to the community circle. In learning to perform, the children are literally and figuratively finding their voice. “**Power with**” is exemplified in the process of collaborative creation, which demands shared responsibility and leadership.

Leadership is an opportunity available to each member of the Peace Theatre, regardless of age, skill, or experience—it takes place on many levels and involves the encouragement of another. The ultimate gift we offer the children is “**power to**”; by teaching language and artistic skills for self-expression and strategies on how to transform anger, fear, and conflict into positive growth. In doing this, the children are empowered to become compassionate leaders.

### **How do we deal with power struggles between/among guides and children?**

- Remember that we must always make the children aware of their freedom to choose—this is fundamental to helping them develop “power within”. They must agree on a solution out of their own free will.
- Never impose a solution or coerce one party into agreement.
- Try to articulate the forms of power being used and misused, and bring awareness to the common goal of “power with”.

--Encourage the children's desire to be powerful (don't try to 'put them in their place'), as long as they become powerful peace-makers, rather than powerful little dictators and bullies. Make the difference clear, through role play, etc.

In the CPT context, leadership involves learning when to lead and when to allow others to lead, in order to develop an inclusive community where everyone's opinion is important. Our programs emphasize the concept that each individual has unique talents and gifts that can be used in a leadership capacity. This is particularly powerful for those participants who have been scarred by a variety of labels that tell them in one way or another that they are "less-than" and will never become leaders. For children and youth who have experienced violence and upheaval, this type of experience is exactly the kind of programming they need.

## **RISK, FEAR & TRUST**

**Philosophy:** Creating means taking risks in order to grow, and creating collaboratively within a community means risking ridicule and failure—making us feel vulnerable. Performing—being 'beheld' by an audience/community—is terrifying for us all. Too often, fear makes us wish to control others, but if we see fear as a valuable and instructive emotion, we can transform it into awe and the thrill of discovery. We can then surrender control in favour of nurturing creativity. Surrounded by trust and compassion, children can learn not to fear being afraid, and to transform 'stage fright' into the enjoyable feeling of being 'beheld' by a supportive community.

### ***How do we help children deal with fear?***

--Leaders must take risks and make mistakes themselves!!! (eg. try participating in improvisation) When leaders are good-humoured about their own failures, they can help the children to deal with their fears in a positive way—through experimentation, play, and humour.

**Trusting the children.** If through the process we can enable the children to portray themselves and their conscious and unconscious concerns about conflict and peace honestly on stage, the creation cannot fail.

**Trusting each other.** It is how we can call forth each other's gifts. It is how we will become true leaders together. To trust each other is to actually enable each other's gifts to flourish. Each person has unique gifts and characteristics to bring to the Peace Camp; we must trust that. With mutual trust, potentially hurtful expressions can be addressed honestly and with compassion. Then our behaviour and the way we express ourselves can at best either be adjusted accordingly, or at least understood by others.

**Trusting the process.** Working hard together on any project will unite people no matter how diverse their beliefs. Working together to create a play that is an accurate reflection of real conflict in our lives and in our world will unite us in a particularly intimate way... and intimacy is demanding terrain. The process of excavating together personal experiences or understandings of conflict is to enter a space that we must treat as sacred. The wisdom of the ages of all traditions tells us that it is in sacred space that we come the closest to mystery. It is the mystery of peace that we are hoping the children will stand before. If they do, I believe it will be with tremendous awe that we will observe their reflections of the experience.

## **PARTICIPATION & INCLUSIVENESS**

**Philosophy:** We are a community in which each person has a unique and important role to play, from the youngest child to the eldest participant. In our society, it is trendy to use 'inclusiveness' as a magic remedy, by simply assembling members of disadvantaged or 'at risk' groups; but at the Peace Theatre, everyone is included for a *purpose*. It is empowering for the children to become aware of their own unique gifts and to locate themselves in the group. For each child to feel important, to feel belonging, to gain self-confidence and self-esteem, s/he *must* participate, in a way that is meaningful to him/her.

### ***What do we do when children consistently refuse to participate?***

#### **DON'T**

- coerce or threaten (eg. "If you refuse to cooperate, I'll tell your mom or send you home") –it may work in the short-term, but teaches them to manipulate and rely on external motivation to act positively.
- Instead of one authority figure dealing with the situation, use a team approach (without ganging up)—try to avoid one-on-one power struggles

#### **DO**

- LISTEN> try to understand the reason for their reluctance: fear of ridicule
- many children have been labelled with some disorder or 'at risk' category—they feel incapable of participating 'adequately'
- the child may have a completely separate area of interest
- try to point out the consequences on the whole community of non-participation (we *all* lose out) –maybe get the whole group's input
- Make the child aware they are free to choose, while encouraging **self-responsibility**
- Try to diversify the options for how to participate
- encourage the children to transcend perceived limitations or labels
- Openly and creatively address stereotypes
- Let them be

--Bring it to the team at the end of the day. Perhaps someone else has some insight into the child's reluctance or needs.

## GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES & CRITICAL THINKING

**Philosophy:** We believe that Peace Is Possible at every level, even from a global perspective. This is a bold vision which requires the commitment and courage to think critically and creatively. Too often, we dismiss children's dreams of peace as naïve, when it is this hope and unencumbered creativity that we most need if we will ever transform our culture of war into a culture of peace.

In addition to the creation of a production, the participants are encouraged to contemplate issues outside of their usual domain. Through our *Global Perspectives* program at Peace Camp, CPT invites artists, activists and facilitators to discuss and facilitate workshops on issues of conflict that enrich the experience at camp, and deepen the learning around the theme being explored.

By developing awareness of personal, communal and Global issues, we encourage children to make a positive change in the world by starting with themselves, with a sense of social responsibility. We need to take the practice of being highly attuned and attentive beyond our little community, since it is desperately needed on a global scale.

In order to be attentive on a global scale, we need to increase our knowledge about justice issues, our own complicity in systems of oppression, particularly White supremacy and Colonialism. We must explore the effects of colonial violence and inequity on Black, Indigenous, 2 Spirit, Trans, Queer, and People of Colour, and encourage critical thinking about the messages in mainstream media. By inviting guests to come and share their stories, we link the children with inspiring role models and opportunities for further activism.