



UROC Trauma Recovery Project—June Happenings

The University of Minnesota Urban Research and Outreach-Engagement Center's (UROC) Trauma Recovery Project (TRP) is a community-driven partnership that aims to build thriving communities by reducing and preventing childhood trauma. Building on the strength of community expertise and University scholarship in the area of healing and historical trauma, UROC is hosting workgroup sessions of residents and community stakeholders, health and wellness practitioners, University researchers and representatives from the faith and educational community to identify trauma-related issues of importance to the North Minneapolis community.

Open invitation to the Community

Culture, Families and Learning's Community Dinner and Truth Telling Ceremony

The Culture, Families, and Learning Workgroup of the Trauma Recovery Project is hosting a special community dinner and truth telling ceremony at 5 p.m. Monday, June 30 at UROC. The team's leader Elder Atum Azzahir, executive director of the Cultural Wellness Center, has gathered a highly transformative team of Northside residents who themselves know healing strategies and who will speak their truth at the gathering. The team has been preparing for six months to lead and release a wave of healing circles in the community by sharing with others the healing power of truth telling through spoken word, rhythm and blues, gospel, jazz, conscience rap, and call and response. The event will explore ideas of healing and inaugurate a movement that puts truth-telling—speaking candidly from the heart about pain and loss that creates a channel for healing—at the center of the TRP conversation. “All members of the community are invited to this event, particularly those walking with pain or seeking to support others who are filled with unresolved pain passed down from previous generations,” says Azzahir. “At this event, we will seek to release an authentic vibe of healing and truth telling to assure that we have a future with persons and community filled with peace and harmony.” The event is free and open to the public. [Registration](#) is requested. Contact [Wokie Freeman](#) at [612-626-8953](tel:612-626-8953) for details.

Update on TRP's Workgroups

Behavioral Health Practitioners: Members of TRP's Behavioral Health Practitioners Workgroup have compiled a list of common themes that emerged from their March meeting to be used as reference points for future meetings.

Culture, Families, and Learning: TRP's Culture, Families and Learning Workgroup is hosting a special Community Dinner and Truth Telling Ceremony at 5 p.m. Monday, June 30. See details above.

Faith Leaders: The Faith Leaders Workgroup recently held two trainings titled "Let's Go Deeper" designed to give faith leaders tools to talk with their congregations on the subject of trauma and faith.

University Researchers: The University Researchers Workgroup met on Tuesday, May 6 to discuss key reflection questions in preparation for the June community gathering. [Read a profile](#) of University Researchers Workgroup co-lead Professor Megan Gunnar.

Follow up

A panel of artists and healing professionals met on April 10 at a UROC Critical Conversation on the healing power of art moderated by Robyne Robinson, director of arts and culture for the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport Foundation. [View the conversation online](#). The event sparked a conversation among UROC staffers and community artists about ongoing artist involvement in the TRP.

Contact [Wokie Freeman](#) at 612-626-8953, if you're interested in being a part of the TRP.

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