

Restorative Cultural Arts

APPROACHES | PRINCIPLES | PARAMETERS | PRACTICES



Restorative Cultural Arts

Restorative cultural arts praxis conceptualizes art in Communities of Color as a pathway to address, repair, and transform colonial wounds. It provides parameters, approaches, practices and principles that hold space for collective decolonial healing.

RESTORATIVE CULTURAL ARTS

APPROACHES

Conscious & Subconscious
intent

PRINCIPLES

Rooting & grounding concepts,
methods, and projects.

PARAMETERS

Structure for meaningful
engagement, collaboration, and
participation.

PRACTICES

identifying tools, materials, and
process to share artistic work.





APPROACHES

SUBCONSCIOUS & CONSCIOUS INTENT

Restorative Cultural Arts Approaches

Address | Repair | Restore | Transform

Restorative Cultural Arts is a term created to define the approaches and principles embedded in Communities of Color whose cultural arts processes produce outcomes that are deeply rooted in the inter-connectivity of culture, aesthetics, restoration, and transformational knowledge.

1 | Responding to Colonialism **Erasure, displacement, & marginalization of non-western dominant culture**

Explore through cultural practices the root causes of colonial wounds.

2 | Addressing Colonial Wounds **Identifying the wounds of colonization and conquest**

Centering Non-Western cultural practices and experiences.

3 | Repairing the Impact **Examining the historical, inter-generational, & individual impact of colonialism**

Disrupting colonial practices by reclaiming community cultural practices.

4 | Restoring Individual & Community Agency **Whose experiences benefit from the legacy of Colonialism?**

Resisting erasure, Challenging Displacement, and Centering Marginalized experiences.

5 | Transforming Through Decolonial Healing **What does it take for internal & external transformation?**

Transformation can happen within the spaces in Communities of Color live, work, and play in to undo the Internal & external impact of the colonialism and colonial wounds.

A microscopic image of plant tissue, likely a stem or root, showing multiple rows of rectangular cells. The cells are arranged in a regular, repeating pattern, with some showing distinct cell walls and internal structures. The lighting is warm, highlighting the texture and structure of the cells.

Principles

ROOTING & GROUNDING CONCEPTS, METHODS, & PROJECTS.

Restorative Cultural Arts Principles

COMMUNITY | STORYTELLING | CULTURE | AGENCY

Restorative Cultural Arts principles center the lived experience, inter-generational knowledge, and ancestral wisdom of Communities of Color in the US.

1 | Cultural production for wellness

What community cultural practices center, and embrace wellness and healing?

Embraces the ideas, concepts, and values from Communities of Color that cultivate restoration and transformation.

2 | Experiential knowledge as agency

How do we see, experience and feel agency?

Centers the identities, aesthetics, knowledge, and experiences of People of Color in the process of community cultural projects.

3 | Storytelling as Cultural Aesthetics

How do we disrupt the impact of colonialism?

Engages participants in critical thinking, fostering community, sharing personal stories, and restoring connections to traditional practice, knowledge, and wisdom.

4 | Centering our ancestors & inheritance

Why reclaiming our inheritance fosters courage and is a tool for restoring agency?

Reconnect, center, and build on the practices inherited and carried through the epigenetic layers of the DNA.

The background of the slide is a microscopic image of plant tissue, likely a stem or root, showing several vertical columns of cells. The cells are arranged in a regular, repeating pattern, with some showing distinct internal structures like nuclei and cell walls. The entire image is tinted with a warm, orange-brown color, creating a textured, organic feel. The text is overlaid on the central part of the image.

Parameters

STRUCTURES FOR MEANINGFUL ENGAGEMENT, PARTICIPATION, & COLLABORATION

Restorative Cultural Arts Parameters

SITE | COMMUNITY | CONTEXT

Restorative Cultural Arts parameters are collaborative procedures and provide necessary structure to cultural art production.

1 | Site

Incorporate the participants' surroundings

Acknowledging mutual accountability and obligations between artist and participants foster transformation and restoration.

2 | Community

Applying meaningful community & cultural methods

Critical participation occurs when cultural production provides access to community members to be integrated into the decision making process.

3 | Context

Address historical, inter-generational, and personal experiences connected to spaces.

repair the wounds of colonialism in communities by centering traditionally erased, displaced, and marginalized experiences.



Practices

IDENTIFYING TOOLS, MATERIALS & PROCESS TO SHARE ARTISTIC WORK

Restorative Cultural Arts Practices

REACTIONARY | CO-OPTIVE | CONFORMIST | TRANSFORMATIONAL | SELF-DEFEATING RESISTANCE ART

Restorative Cultural Arts provides a framework to identify artist tools, methods, and process challenge oppressive conditions and restate art as a tool of decolonization.

1 | Reactionary Resistance Art

Artistic practice that generates a personalized reaction to external experiences without connecting them to the inter-generational, historical, and lived experiences of people of color.

2 | Self-defeating resistance art

Artists who utilize their discipline as a tool to express a critique of their oppressive conditions.

3 | Co-optive Resistance Art

artists provide a substantive critique of the oppressive conditions burdening communities of color co-opting capitalist markets to change their condition.

4 | Conformist Resistance Art

Their approach to art practices holds no critique of the systems of oppression. They intentionally utilize art to engage other community members of color, yet the results of their work uphold traditional notions of white liberalism.

5 | Transformational resistance Art.

Art, process, methods, tools, concepts, and approaches that are motivated and intended both as a critique of oppression and a desire to establish a process of transformation.