FOLK EDUCATION NETWORK: FOLK MEANS PEOPLE

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Bridging and Bonding

African American Craft Alliance
John C Campbell Folk School

Southern Appalachia

Singing in Community

Center for Belonging Folk School
Folk School Alliance

Upper Midwest

Living Traditions Corps

ServeWA
Washington State Parks Folklore Program
LifeSchoolHouse

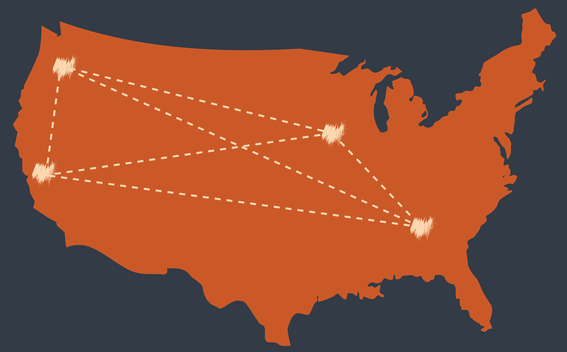
Pacific Northwest

BACKGROUND

In the last three decades, the US has seen a dramatic increase in the number of "folk schools", from nine to over 100. These are unassociated folk schools initiated by ordinary people and sustained by local resources and fueled by civic engagement.

RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

- Create long-term, strategic collaborations between folk schools and the African American Craft Alliance
- Scale the use of Community Singing, a social cohesion methodology, through US based folk schools
- Develop and test a model for scaling folk schooling through an AmeriCorps State program



FIELDING GRADUATE UNIVERSITY

Folk EDUCATION ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
Education for Life

Scaling Folk Education methodologies and practice to strengthen community cohesion and collective agency across difference.

"You can start wherever you are even across a kitchen table...start creating a folk school and changing people's lives!" Bridging and Bonding Participant

"You are showing me a way of creating community through song that I didn't know existed and it is filling my soul." Singing in Community Participant

"...from a feminist lens, scaling isn't always like, take your exact idea and replicate it like a McDonald's hamburger up and up and up vertically all the time." Living Traditions Corps Planning Grant Participant

Scan to download the research materials

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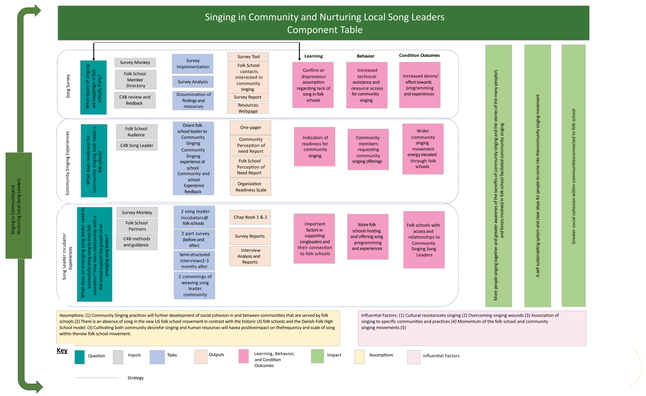
RESEARCH DESIGN

Community-based Participatory Action Research
Stage One: Community and university researcher team formation
Stage Two: Team dialogue and action research planning
Stage Three: Community-based research implementation
Stage Four: Analysis, interpretation and results, findings dissemination and planning for long-term action.

- Community-based Participatory Action Research approach investigating three folk schooling contexts implementing differing folk education methodologies.
- The two main vehicles for sampling and data collection are two "Dialogue Conferences" (Gustavsen, Hansson, Qvale, 2008) and a network of three CBPAR hubs hosted by folk schools in the Upper Midwest, Pacific Northwest, and Southern Appalachia.
- Targeted sample participants for the study are community partner leaders and folklife-folk education practitioners.
- Logic model component tables document planned strategies, community generated research questions, data collection, methods, and intended impact.