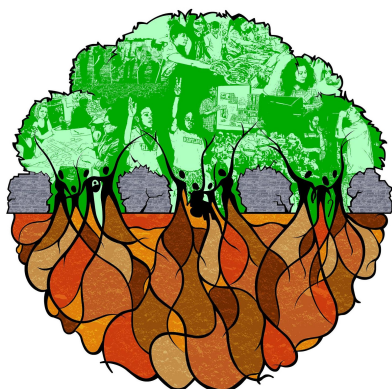




The Family Leadership Design Collaborative

W. K. Kellogg Foundation Funded 2015 - 2018

Who we are. We are a group of 40 family members, community leaders, educators, and researchers from across the United States, whose work centers racial equity in family engagement. The collaborative reflects a wide range of our cultural, ethnic, racial, gender, sexual orientations, ages, religions, and social class identities. We belong to and lead early childhood, K-12, and higher education institutions as well as community programs, cultural organizations, organizing groups, and national networks.

What we're addressing.

- Systemic racism that disempowers and diminishes communities, families, and students of color.
- Schools that limit the types of knowledge and learning that are valued and disregard histories of oppression as well as community-based wisdom and practices.
- Conventional research and practice *on* communities of color, as distinct from with communities of color, to understand problems of inequity.

What we're after.

- Thriving families and communities - in all their varied forms - where children grow to be healthy, stay rooted in their culture and traditions, and reach their desired futures.
- Educational justice - both in and out of schools - that halts the reproduction of inequities and ensures community self-determination, thriving and individuals chosen success.
- Research and practice *with* communities and families as thinkers, doers, and leaders to re-imagine and co-create education that affirms students' cultures and learning potential.

What we're doing.

- Convening collaborative members to co-develop a new agenda to shift our research and practice with families and communities toward realizing racial equity.
- Partnering with collaborative members and local communities to share experiences and codesign new practices, tools, and measures for achieving our individual and collective goals.
- Collectively learning how to build politicized trust and solidarities across multiple geographies, critical histories, communities, disciplines and roles. This includes honoring and recognizing Indigenous peoples and lands which we all live in.
- Building a strategic network to influence policy in order to sustain equity-centric educational transformation.

Our Core Principles

Cultivating Family & Community Wellbeing and Educational Justice

Beyond individual achievers who escape their communities to:

- whole, healthy children in thriving families & communities
- knowing and practicing culture, being in right relations with lands and waters, understanding power, and self-determination
- relational, communal, and collective approaches
- just institutions, policy, and practices

Beginning with Family & Community Ecologies

From the agendas and priorities of schools and other dominant institutions to:

- the knowledge, priorities, and agendas of nondominant families & communities
- histories of resistance *and* transformation
- diversity of familial relations
- communities as dynamic, multidimensional
- education as more than schooling

Creating On-Going Transformative Possibilities

Beyond naming and describing inequities to:

- envisioning change that recognizes inequities as shaped by history and power
- transforming power between communities and schools
- drawing across disciplines and theories
- evolving new language towards educational justice

Building Solidarities in Collective Change-Making

From objective research on communities to:

- “how can” questions to envision beyond our existing systems and structures
- “here and now” relationships that realize the change we wish to see in the world
- building solidarities across and with difference
- linking education to other systemic inequities
- enacting transformative and consequential forms of learning and activity