

NATIONAL HUMANITIES EVALUATION

Julie Donofrio, AICP

Katie Levesque

with Paul Farber, PhD and A.M. McCollough



AUGUST 12, 2020

NATIONAL HUMANITIES EVALUATION

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

FINDINGS OVERVIEW

CALL TO ACTION

NEXT STEPS

PROJECT OBJECTIVES:

HUMANITIES' ROLE IN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

CASE STUDIES FROM PA +
NATIONWIDE, DIVERSE AUDIENCES

HIGHLIGHT GRASSROOTS ORGS.
(RATHER THAN TYPICAL "HOSTS")

NEXUS
COMMUNITY
PARTNERS

DETROIT CHIEF
STORYTELLER

ILLUMINATIVE

GREATER
CARLISLE HEART
& SOUL

QUEER
CULTURAL
CENTER

BARRIO
ALEGRIA

PHILADELPHIA LISC

PAN VALLEY
INSTITUTE

CHESTER
MADE

APPALSHOP

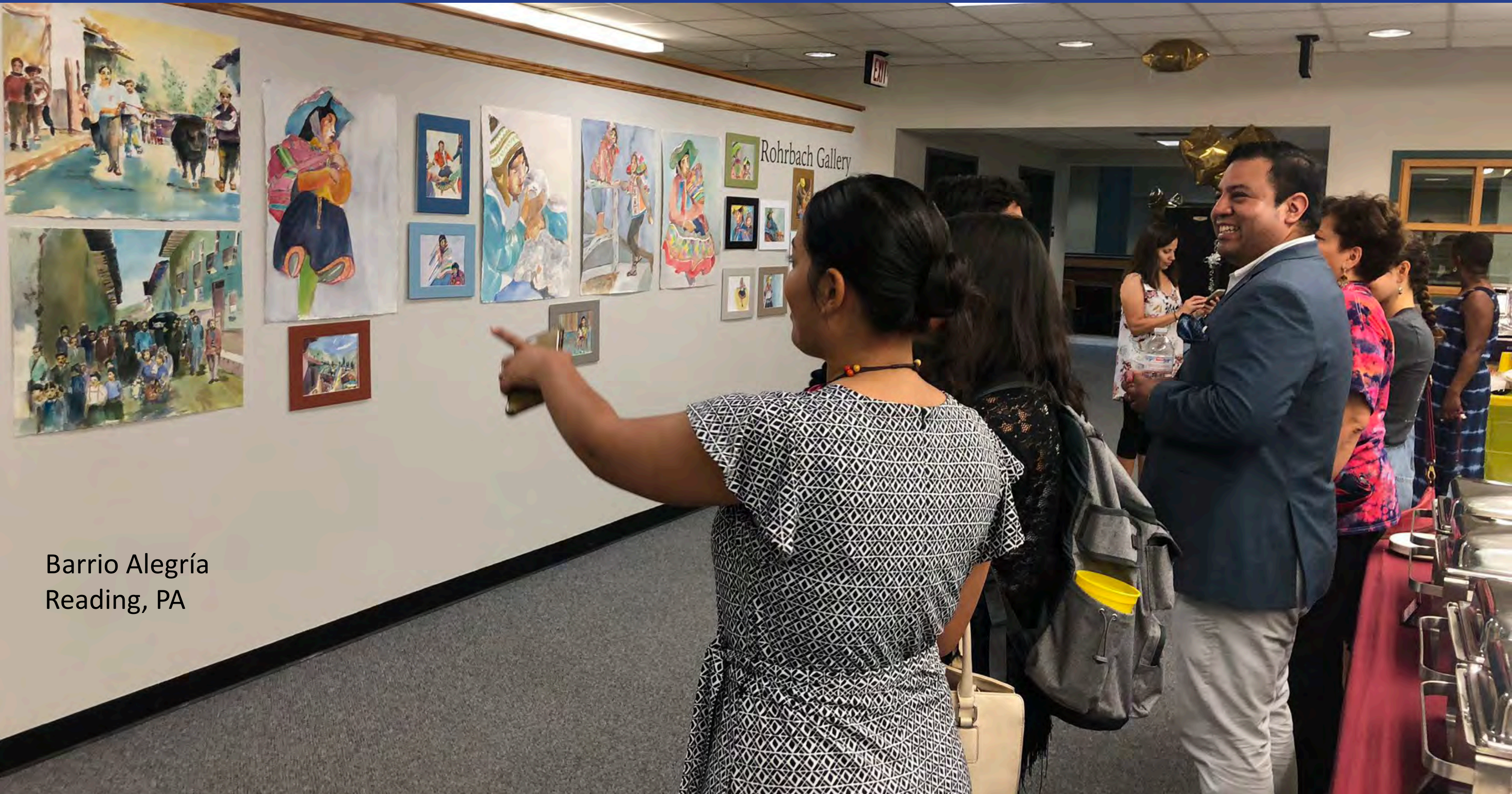
MISSISSIPPI FOR CULTURAL PRODUCTION

NATIONAL HUMANITIES EVALUATION

PROJECT OBJECTIVES
FINDINGS OVERVIEW
+ CALL TO ACTION

1 WHAT ARE THE
HUMANITIES AND
HOW ARE THEY
BEING DELPOYED?

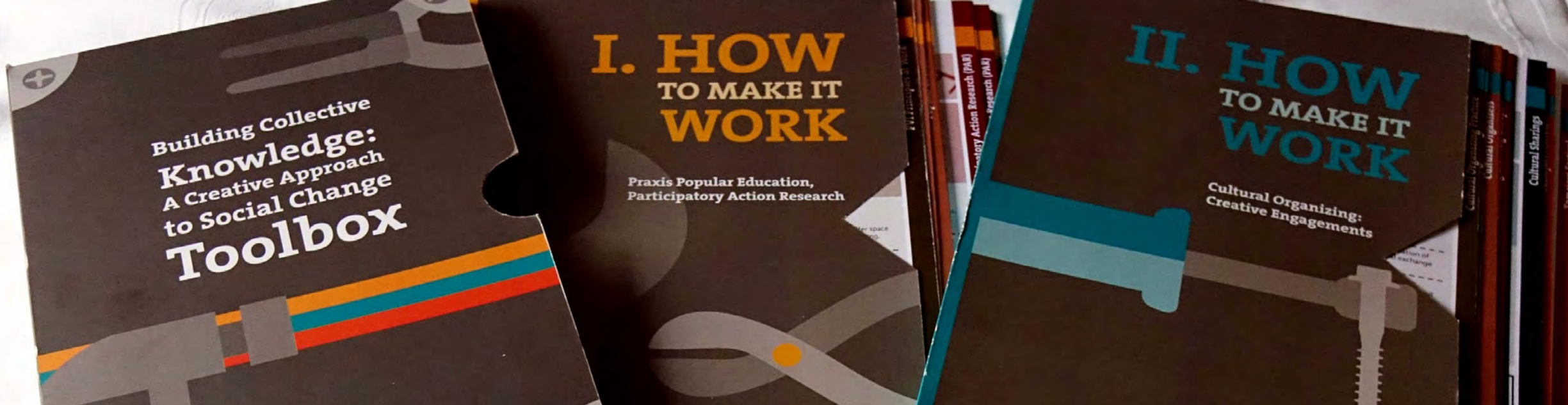
STORYTELLING



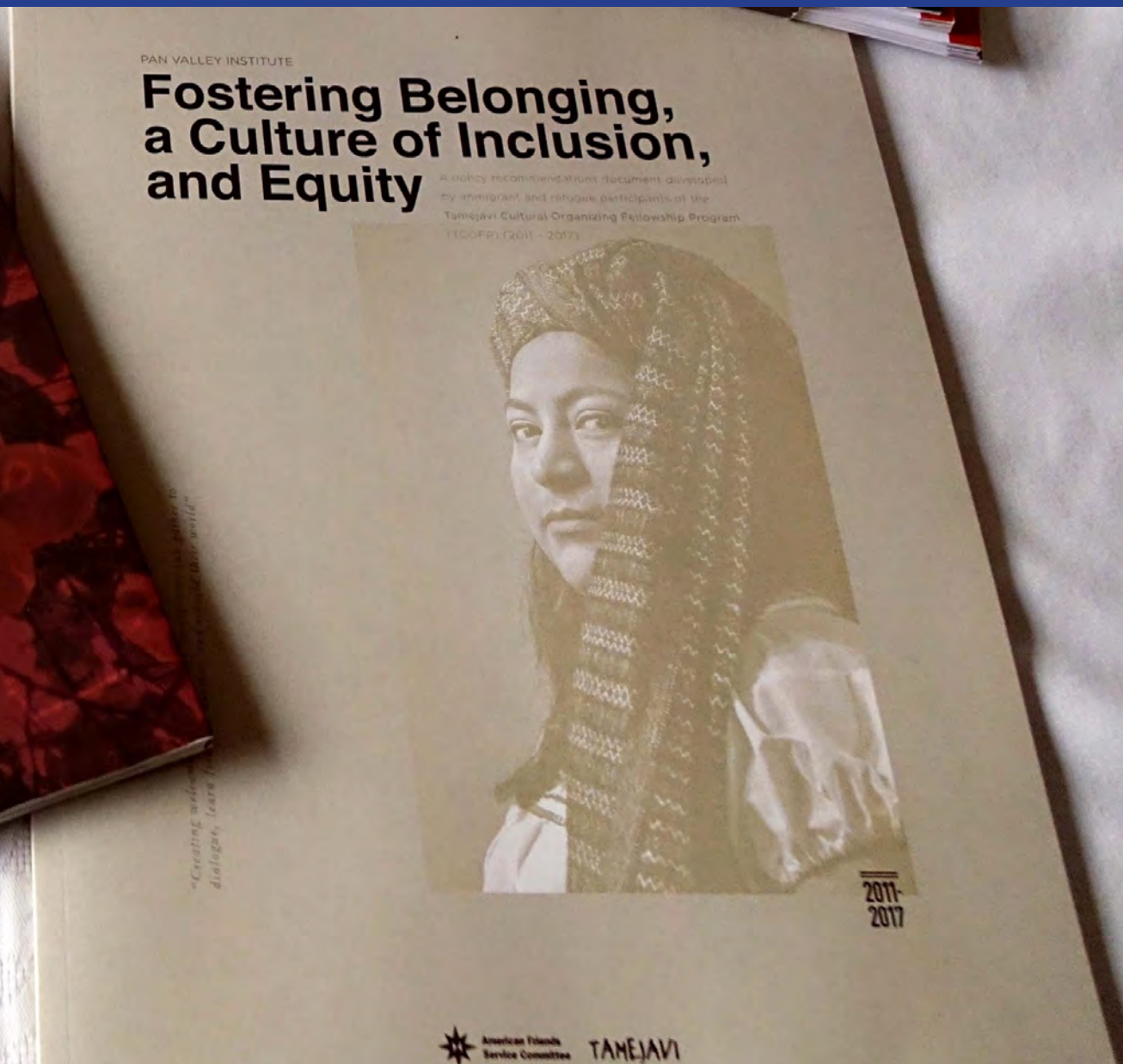
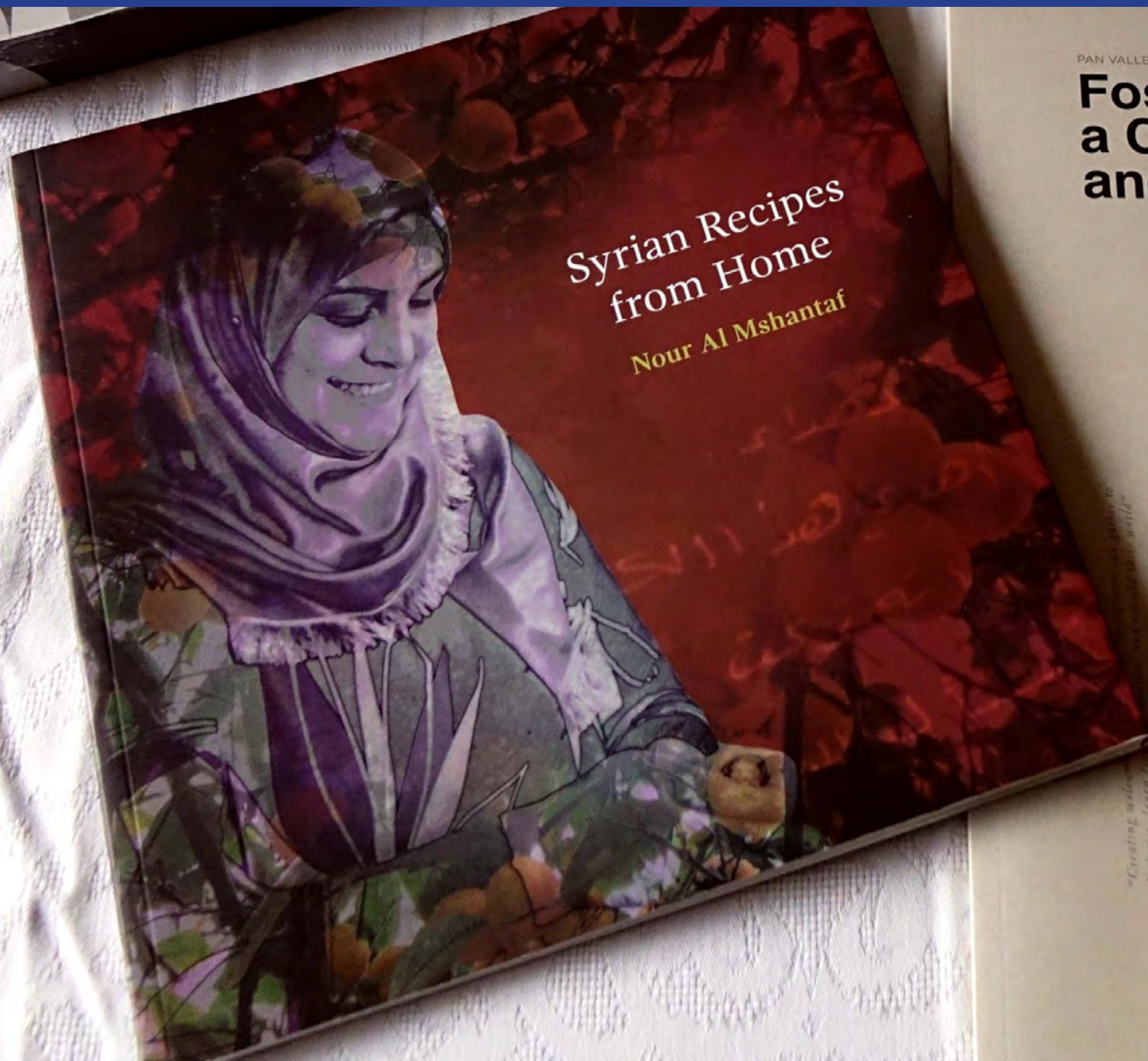
Barrio Alegría
Reading, PA

IDENTITY (AND OTHER TERMS)





CREATING EMPATHY & UNDERSTANDING



Pan Valley Institute
Fresno, CA

2 WHAT IS THIS
WORK TRYING TO
ACHIEVE?

2

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

“We say ‘build’ but it means really ‘recognizing’ power. Working in terms of social and human capital really means allowing people to see their own power in themselves.”

—Ari Viswanathan, Nexus Community Partners

2

TRANSFORMATION (OF PLACE, ORGANIZATIONS + PROCESSES)

“People don’t use the word transformation enough. There needs to be more transformational thinking in grant making, more imagination and possibility in human potential.”

— Melissa Kim, LISC Philadelphia

2

DECENTERING THE EXPERT/ NON-TRADITIONAL ACTORS

“Our work values the histories of the community, not just the narratives of us as trained historians.”

— Lindsay Varner, Greater Carlisle Heart & Soul

2

HEALING-CENTERED PRACTICES

“Storytelling is the most powerful instrument of freedom, justice, identity, and strength.”

— Pamela Peniston, Queer Cultural Center

2

CHANGING THE NARRATIVE AND OWNERSHIP

“We want to reclaim the image and reputation of a powerful, loving city. It’s important to take the worst of what’s been laid on us and transform it to show the city is alive and well.”

– Devon Walls, Chester Made

3 CURRENT REALITIES OF DOING THIS WORK

3

CURRENT REALITIES:

WHAT DO THE HUMANITIES
ACTUALLY FUND?

CODE SWITCHING & CULTURAL
SENSITIVITY

TRUST BUILDING

SHARING, MEDIA, AMPLIFICATION

4 CALL TO ACTION

4

SUPPORT STORYTELLING

INVEST IN COMMITMENT

INVEST IN NEW LEADERS

TALK ABOUT TRANSFORMATION

BUILD POWER VIA EXCHANGE

ACKNOWLEDGE TRAUMA +
PRIORITIZE HEALING