

Here with a lesson plan and a reflection from the 2019 (FYAAD 2018) presenter Dr. Charity F. Tatah-Mentan.

Reflection:

**Building an inclusive community in the US using African artistic forms: Songs, story telling, drumming and carving**

My reflection on *Fred Yiran - Yiran Arts Day June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2017*, African Arts day inspired me to explore the importance of building an inclusive community using African Arts. The diversity of the American society demands that inclusivity become an integral part of society. The African Philosophy of education “Ubuntu” adapted from South Africa emphasis that our humanity is better together.

Hence it emphasizes responsible pedagogy, using artistic tools, for example songs, poetry drumming carving to name a few. In addition, Arch Bishop Desmond Tutu stated that “My humanity is bound in yours, for we can only be better together.” From this perspective the *Yiran African Arts Day* is an opportunity to celebrate his legacy and expand his work. It is an acknowledgment of the funds of knowledge. (Moll & Gonzalez, 2005) connecting home and classroom culture.

Educators are encouraged to tailor their teaching to be culturally responsive. In her book *learning to be white*, Thandeka wrote that, “I often thought of my first Art lesson ( *in pottery emphasis added* ) as I wrestled with the research material...I look behind me and I see new travelers journeying forth. These sojourners are America’s children. The image fades as I offer a prayer “Let us walk together children.”

## **Building an inclusive community in the US using African Art forms: Songs, story telling, drumming and dressing**

### **Objective: To use forms of African art to build an inclusive community**

#### Introduction

#### Art forms of inclusion:

1. Song – What is the meaning of songs to/in the African tradition?  
Activity: Types of songs and context, and meaning
  - Songs to celebrate the birth of a child
  - Songs of mourning to celebrate the life of loved one
  - Leisure song. Songs of worship
2. Drumming – Why is drumming an artistic form  
Activity: An invitation to an important event in the community
  - Rallying the community to an event
  - Community festivals
  - For mourning
3. Story telling – What is the significance of story telling  
Activities; Sharing the past,
  - Sharing historical memories as a way of handing down the history of the society to other generations
  - Sharing societal wisdom through proverbs
  - For communal identity construction
4. Dressing: What is the significances of dressing in building an inclusive community  
Activity: Dressing depicting social status
  - Special regalia for kings and queens
  - Dressing for special occasions
  - Dressing for festivities
5. Shared humanity through artistic forms  
Ubuntu Arch Bishop Desmond Tutu stated that “My humanity is bound in yours, for we can only be better together.”