



Project on Civic Reflection

Civic Reflection for Leadership Development Alliance of Filipinos for Immigrant Rights and Empowerment

Program Description

The leadership of the Chicago-based Alliance of Filipinos for Immigrant Rights and Empowerment (AFIRE) decided to hold a civic reflection program after two of its five directors were convinced of the potential of using reflection as a way to consolidate its ranks. The program, entitled “**Knowing Who We Are in America: A New American Tale,**” was designed to help the leaders and volunteers of AFIRE reflect upon and think deeply about the meaning of the public forums they conduct, the cultural shows they perform, and the marches they join within the context of immigrant integration and civic participation.

Desired Impact

1. Civic reflection will empower the participants to be more understanding of the differences existing in our society.
2. The participants will be more committed to give flesh and spirit to AFIRE by organizing its structure and service programs.
3. AFIRE’s programs will align with its mission to treat every person as human being and not as a “labeled or marked” individual.

Signs of Success

1. Formalizing the organizational structure of AFIRE
2. Expanding AFIRE’s membership
3. Increasing the number of young Filipino Americans participating in AFIRE’s activities.
4. Increasing the number of community organizations integrating civic reflection in their organizational development activities.

The Plan

Create the space for open dialogue that promotes harmony and deeper understanding among participants. The group met once a month from December 2007 to May 2008 to talk about the immigration experience of Filipinos within the context of active civic participation.

Topics for Discussion and Reflection

1. **Associating**—*Fellowship* by Franz Kafka
 - **Goal:** Explore and interpret the meaning of inclusion and exclusion in the context of the tension built in the perspectives of new immigrants and native citizens.
2. **Serving**—*The Eleventh* by Henri Barbusse
 - **Goal:** Explore and interpret the difficulties attached to fair and just decision making.

3. **Giving**—*The Lamb and the Pinecone* by Pablo Neruda and *A Bed for the Night* by Bertolt Brecht.
 - **Goal:** Explore and interpret the meaning of giving within the context of social change and philanthropy.

4. **Leading**—*The Lesson* by Toni Cade Bambara
 - **Goal:** Explore and interpret the inherent meaning of leading and the issue of effective leading and teaching.