

**TACOMA
REFUGEE
CHOIR**



Presents

FROM WELCOMING TO COOPERATION

A SYMPOSIUM ON BUILDING A
CROSS-CULTURAL COMMUNITY



WELCOME

TRC's first symposium, "From Welcoming to Cooperation," gathers our accumulated lessons and knowledge about creating a cross-cultural community through the arts. Throughout today's event, we hope you will learn, discuss, and share ideas that build on TRC's own experiences to foster a stronger, cross-cultural community.

We often hear from within and outside our choir that we are creating something special with our music. It is a spirit of welcoming that our community wishes for everyone. We also foster this spirit within our TRC team and our "choir family." It has taken much action and intentionality to get to this point, and we are still learning. Part of that learning is finding ways to share what we have learned to spark cooperation.

As part of this participatory event, we will be collecting participant input to co-create a toolkit that aids in this work. If you work in the space of arts programming, nonprofit, community-building, mental health research, public health, any kind of institutional decision-making, or if you just love what TRC does, we hope you will find today's topics inspiring and energizing. Thank you for being here with us today.

**TACOMA
REFUGEE
CHOR**



Presents

FROM WELCOMING TO COOPERATION

A SYMPOSIUM ON BUILDING A
CROSS-CULTURAL COMMUNITY

EVENT SCHEDULE

8:30-9:00	Check-In
9:00-9:05	Welcome
9:05-9:35	Kick-off Session - Erin Guinup and Aimee Khuu
9:35-9:45	What is Welcoming?
9:45-10:25	Group discussions: What is Welcoming?
10:25-10:40	<i>Break</i>
10:40-11:00	Keynote Address by Gadine Niyotwizeye-Boutin
11:00-11:30	The Role of Arts and Arts-based Organizations
11:30-12:00	Group discussions on Arts and Cooperation
12:00-12:45	<i>Lunch</i>
12:50-1:30	Group discussions on leadership and outreach
1:30-2:15	Panel: Actions to Build an Inclusive, Welcoming Space Aimee Khuu, Tacoma Community House Liesl Santkuyl, City of Tacoma Tony Gomez, Tacoma Arts Live
2:15-2:30	Thank you and Goodbye

In addition to adding your thoughts in-person, you can also contribute to today's discussion via social media (Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter). Your input will be valuable pieces of the relationship-building "toolkit" that we hope to distribute to participants after the event. We will look for participant input or questions that use the tag **#TRCSymposium2024**.

**TACOMA
REFUGEE
CHOIR**



Presents

FROM WELCOMING TO COOPERATION

A SYMPOSIUM ON BUILDING A
CROSS-CULTURAL COMMUNITY

FEATURED SPEAKERS AND PANELISTS



Gadine Niyotwizeye is originally from Rwanda and has lived in many places including South Africa. Born during a difficult time in Rwandan history and as a survivor of war, her experiences have taught her to not take life for granted and to appreciate peace and freedom. She is passionate about people and helping others and has a great appreciation for travel and experiencing culture from different parts of the world. Gadine is an avid hiker, a talented dancer, and enjoys bringing people together. She recently graduated from Tacoma Community College with her Associate's degree and is planning to continue to a 4 year college. Her dream is to make a difference and

impact the lives of others. "We are here to love and be loved and that is what we all want in life." Gadine will deliver the Keynote Address for the Symposium.



Aimee Khuu is a passionate advocate for immigrant and human rights. She is the Executive Director of Tacoma Community House, a nonprofit in Tacoma with 113 year history of serving immigrants and refugees. She served in leadership roles at Providence Health and Services as executive director of international programs for 8 years and chief of health equity for home and community care programs where she both designed and implemented programs to serve underserved populations and led systems change. She holds a Master's Degree in Public Affairs, Nonprofit Management from University of Washington. She serves on the Board of Directors for Southwest

Youth and Family Services for the past 6 years, an organization committed to providing resources for low-income families and youth. She is also a mother of two wonderful toddlers and likes to dance any time that she has the opportunity.



Erin Guinup is the founding Executive and Artistic Director of the Tacoma Refugee Choir. She has spoken at TEDx Seattle, Starbucks, and national conferences for NATS, ACDA, and Chorus America. Erin is a classically-trained soprano and has been featured with groups including Symphony Tacoma, Ensign Symphony and Tacoma Concert Band singing Puccini's La Bohème, Handel's Messiah, Carmina Burana, and Disney's Frozen. She performed her one-woman show about female musical theatre composers internationally, is a contributing author for three books, including "So

You Want to Sing Music by Women," and a composer of choral and solo works that have been featured on PBS and network television. Other career highlights include performing as Mary Poppins; conducting Rob Gardner's Lamb of God; singing with the Silkroad Ensemble's Global Musicians Workshop and Israeli-Palestinian choir Common Ground Voices in Jerusalem and Europe. Erin is an American Leadership Forum fellow and was recognized as an OL Reign Legend and one of five Women to Watch by South Sound Magazine. She recently completed an MBA in Arts Innovation from the Global Leaders Institute.

**TACOMA
REFUGEE
CHOIR**



Presents

FROM WELCOMING TO COOPERATION

A SYMPOSIUM ON BUILDING A
CROSS-CULTURAL COMMUNITY

FEATURED SPEAKERS AND PANELISTS



Antonio M. Gómez works across education, the arts and public media. As Director of Community Engagement & Extended Learning at Tacoma Arts Live, Tony focuses on creating economically and culturally accessible experiences for all ages. A former K12 teacher, he's designed curricula for PBS and arts nonprofits, and has been a guest educator at universities, conferences and school districts. Tony addresses arts ecosystems as president of the Western Arts Alliance, is an Associate Folklorist at the Center for Washington Cultural Traditions, has been a speaker on arts and culture for Humanities Washington and helped launch La Sala Latinx Artist Network. A working percussionist, he co-founded Trío Guadaleví, whose NEA-funded partnership with Washington State Parks explores music and memory in Latine communities. He collaborates with various West Coast ensembles including Orquesta Northwest, Movimiento Afrolatino Seattle, Tacoma Refugee Choir, Pacific MusicWorks, and Tango del Cielo. Tony curates Deep Roots, New Branches for Early Music Seattle and has received awards from Artist Trust, the Tacoma Artist Initiative Program and the Jubilation Foundation. His exhibition on music and culture, LINEAJES, premiered at the Frye Art Museum in 2023. Tony completed his MA in Education at UC Berkeley and has studied music and culture in Latin America, North Africa and Southern Europe.



Liesl Santkuyl has been living and working in Tacoma, Washington for twenty-five years advocating for social justice issues within health, education, and workforce development that support inclusion and belonging of the Latine, immigrant and other marginalized communities. Liesl works to support grassroots efforts to increase education, social, economic, and health equity not only in her career but also in many volunteer positions and organizations. Her current work as Participatory Budgeting Analyst with the City of Tacoma encourages community civic engagement and voice through a process that places citizens in charge of spending a portion of the City's budget. Born in Venezuela, she immigrated with her family to the United States as an infant but lived in Mexico and Guatemala during her childhood and early twenties. She received the Latinx Education Award from UW-Tacoma in 2021 as part of Celebrando Comunidad's Inaugural celebration of Latine Leadership and Community. Liesl earned a Master's Degree in Public Health from the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse.

**TACOMA
REFUGEE
CHOIR**



Presents

FROM WELCOMING TO COOPERATION

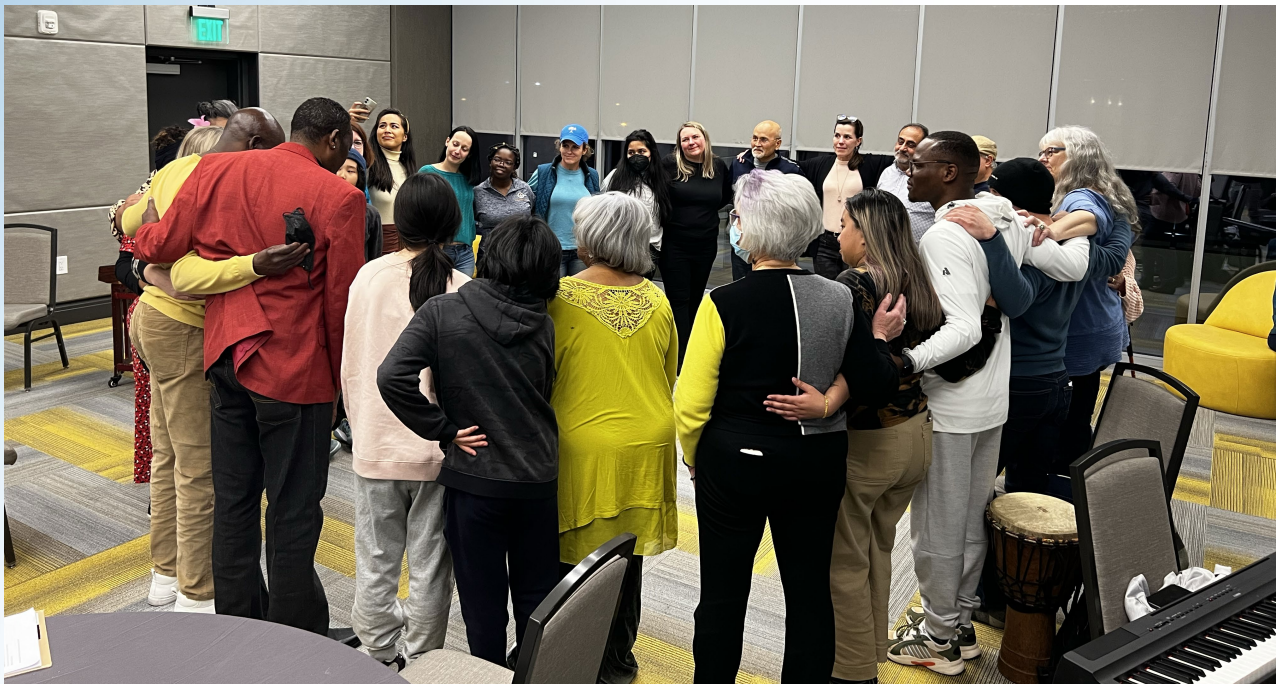
A SYMPOSIUM ON BUILDING A
CROSS-CULTURAL COMMUNITY

THANK YOU

Tacoma Refugee Choir (TRC) is a nonprofit music ensemble that brings together refugees, immigrants, and friends, to collectively create spaces that foster a sense of community through new connections and music. We believe these spaces promote artistic expression that fulfills a need nearly as essential as food and shelter. While we continue to learn how to carry out our mission better, we know this work cannot be done by individuals or one organization alone. Let's stay in touch and find new opportunities to cooperate!

Visit our website for more info about events and activities: www.refugeechoir.org

You can support TRC's work by making a tax-deductible donation at: www.refugeechoir.org/donate



**TACOMA
REFUGEE
CHOIR**

