



**JUST
COMMUNITIES
ARIZONA**



COMMUNITY SAFETY INCUBATOR REPORT

Sacred Traditions
White Bison Recovery



August 21, 2025

hello@justcomaz.org

www.justcommunitiesarizona.org

ABOUT JCA

MISSION: To create, foster, and resource community-based models for safety and justice outside the punishment system.

We work with people impacted by the punishment system to promote a holistic view of safety that encompasses physical, emotional, and economic health and wellness; cultivate the next generation of community leaders; and build community-based solutions.

Community Safety Incubator Projects

Goal: To invest in projects or services identified by neighborhood residents as solutions to the problems they face in order to increase safety and wellbeing of all community members.



Incubator Projects are designed to:

1. Generate dialogue, engagement, and cohesion in neighborhoods.
2. Invest in interventions, projects, and programs that increase community safety for all.
3. Strengthen, expand, and replicate holistic approaches to community safety that already exist in our neighborhoods.
4. Increase the capacity and sustainability of community-based organizations and initiatives that represent and serve under-resourced communities that have experienced high rates of arrest and incarceration.



WELLBRIETY FACILITATION TRAINING

Location: Desert Diamond Casino

Community Safety Team Members: Dr. Johnny Chavez & Bruce Donahue

Project Consultant: Tammy Chavez

Project Duration: August, 2025

PROJECT COMPONENTS

- Outreach ensuring a great turnout from indigenous communities and service providers from all over the state of Arizona.
- Covering the cost of training materials, including printed copies of the Sacred Traditions Workbook and Facilitator Guides, as well as digital files and certificates of completion.
- Coordinating with indigenous vendors and the Desert Diamond Casino to ensure that the proceeds of the training went back to the community.
- Delivering a full day (8am-4pm) training for 32 participants to become certified facilitators of the Sacred Traditions program.



A DAY OF GROUNDING

Dr. Johnny Chavez combines over 20 years experience working with the Federal Bureau of Prisons, bringing his rich knowledge of indigenous sacred traditions to deliver healing circles that can offer an opportunity to heal from trauma, addiction, or incarceration.



The altar



Facilitators in training.

Sacred Traditions is an 8-session program designed to help individuals reconnect with their spirituality and sacred traditions to promote growth, healing, and balance. Its universal lessons are applicable to all age groups and community settings, and is not limited to Indigenous peoples. The program fosters individual growth, builds community connections, strengthens family ties, and creates safer environments for youth.

Aspiring facilitators learned hands-on by going through the lessons and discussions themselves. Our participants took turns both teaching and learning about how White Bison can have a positive impact.



Participants offered a sacred song



An important part of the event was honoring the spiritual connection that participants have to their Creator. To this end facilitator trainer Bruce Donahue blessed the days offering with a prayer and smudging.

BONDING, HEALING, AND LEARNING



Dr. Chavez, Tammy, Bruce, & Enrique



Inside look at the facilitation experience.



Participants admiring the wares of local vendors.



Eating a delicious lunch together!



At the end of the day participants received a certification for completion of this training.

IMPACT

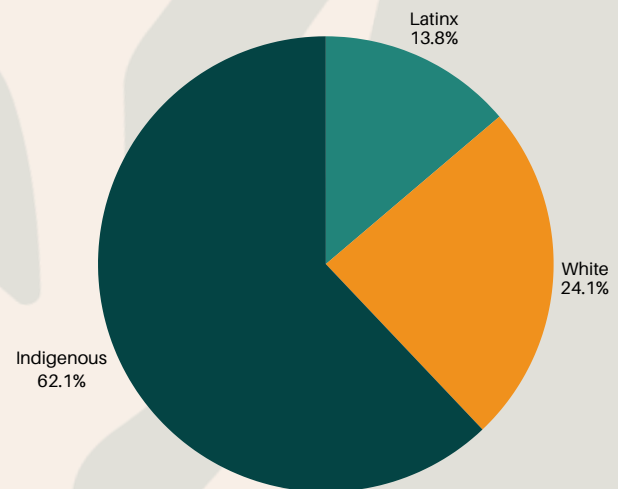
At each Incubator site we offer up a survey to participants--whether they are members of the Community Safety Team, volunteers who help with the project, or just neighbors who attend events.

The surveys are designed to capture a snapshot of who was served by the project and how they feel it impacted their safety, social connectedness, and wellbeing.

We collected a total of 32 surveys from participants at the event:

WHO WAS SERVED?

Survey responses confirm that participants in the incubator reflect the intended community. The **majority (78%) were BIPOC, with the majority of those (62%) identifying as Indigenous.**

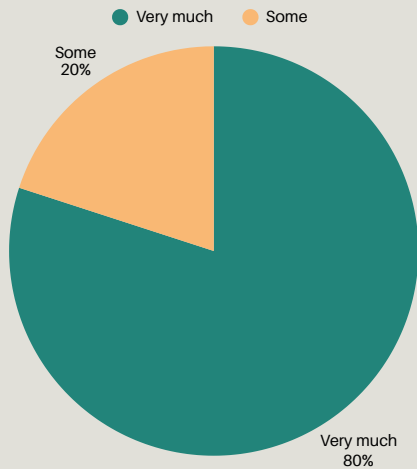


Nearly all respondents have been personally impacted by the criminal punishment system, with **72% reporting they themselves had been arrested.** Sacred Traditions is specifically geared toward helping currently and formerly incarcerated people in recovery. It is also a reflection of the unfortunate reality that indigenous people are disproportionately impacted by high rates of arrest and incarceration in Arizona.

IMPACT



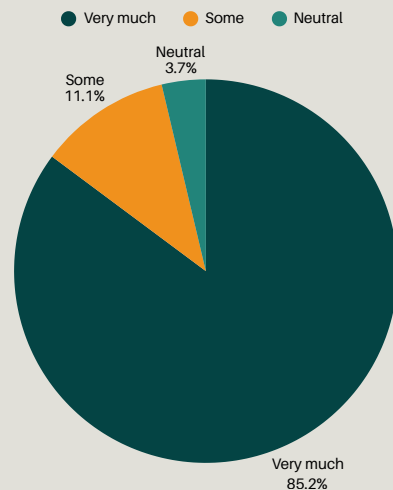
This project/activity made me feel safer in my neighborhood



SAFETY:

The majority (81%) of residents surveyed said **the project made them feel safer in their neighborhood.**

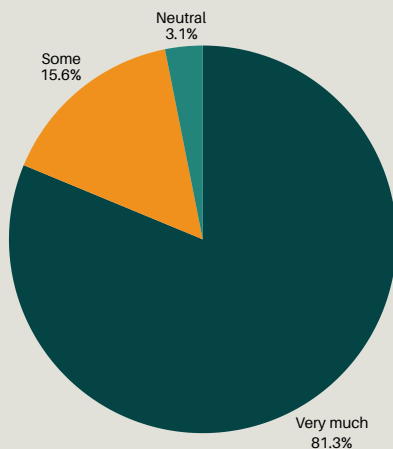
This project/activity helped me get to know my neighbors better



HEALTH AND WELLNESS:

The majority (81%) of respondents said that **the project will contribute to better health and wellness in their community.**

This project/event made me feel proud of my neighborhood



SENSE OF PRIDE:

Respondents overwhelmingly (96%) reported **that the project mad them feel proud of their community.**

FEEDBACK



“
Very healing and
encouraging to help
out more in my
community

“
This training was
incredibly helpful
and inspiring.
”

“
It has helped me gain
a better understanding
on myself and how to
navigate my challenges
in life and gain
practical tools to
utilize through my
challenges.
”

“
Made it feel safe
”

“
Very impactful and
profound. I feel that
my neighborhood
could benefit greatly
from these teachings.
”



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ARIZONA DEPARTMENT
OF HEALTH SERVICES

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