

## Welcome to the Webinar!

# Engaging Students with Culture and Community: Learning from the Success of Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School

We will be starting soon.

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National Charter School  
**Resource Center**

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at American Institutes for Research

# Engaging Students with Culture and Community: Learning from the Success of Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School

May 23, 2012



**ED.gov**

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# About the Resource Center

The **U.S. Department of Education** is committed to promoting effective practices, providing technical assistance, and disseminating the resources critical to ensuring the success of charter schools across the country. To that end, the Education Department, under a contract with American Institutes for Research, has developed the **National Charter School Resource Center**.

# Presenter

**Pheng Lim**

ESL Program Coordinator/ESL Instructor  
Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School



**FACTS**  
Folk Arts • Cultural Treasures  
**Charter School**

# Engaging Students with Culture and Community

Kathy Brody, Annie Huynh,

Pheng Lim, Mayuko Iwaki-Perkins, Erin Whitney

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1. Who we are
2. Transformation vs. Tolerance Model of Multicultural Education
3. Collaboration at FACTS
4. Q&A



# Agenda

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- K-8 public charter located in Chinatown-North
- Founded by Asian Americans United and the Philadelphia Folklore Project
- 450 students from all over Philadelphia
  - 70% Asian/Asian American, 20% African American; 72% qualify for free or reduced lunch; 78% with immigrant roots
- Realizes an alternative vision of education rooted in community and folk arts as vehicles for academic learning and social change.
- Achieved AYP for 4 consecutive years.

# **Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School**

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- **What are folk arts?**
  - They are arts that come out of peoples' experiences.
  - They are shared within a community. (They are not just one person's invention).
  - They are ways that we keep a connection to the past, to people who came before.
  - And they are ways that we stay, here and now, who we are and who we want to be.
- **Who are our cultural treasures?**

**Folk Arts Cultural Treasures Charter School  
(FACTS)**

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- Many Points of View Day
- Lunar New Year Concert
- Peace Concert
- Founder's Day
- Morning Meeting
- Lunch Song
- School Pledge
- Buddies
- Move-Up Day
- Play Day
- Folk Arts Showcase

## **Intentionality: School Rituals**

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- Annual ESL evaluation
- High standards and expectations
- Flexible program model
- Engaging families as valuable resources
- Affirmation of students' cultures
- Collaboration

# **ESL Program**

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1. Write your name on top
2. Draw three columns
3. 1<sup>st</sup> column: Make a list of identities you hold.
4. 2<sup>nd</sup> column: Make a list of organizations you belong to.
5. 3<sup>rd</sup> column: Make a list of memorable events in your life.



# Identity

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- An inquiry-based exploration of a local community to learn about how historical, economic, and social powers affect the lives of residents; studying neighborhoods with a view
- Engages students in fieldwork and in becoming agents of social change

# **Community-Based Investigations**

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- Why do you think we should study locally instead of another culture?
  - Social scientist skills
  - Affirms local culture
  - Transformation vs. Tolerance



# Why do it? Why local?

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- Make community connections early
- Visit/Investigate the neighborhoods yourself
- Talk to community members who have contacts/leaders and interview leaders
- Structured investigation (interviews onsite, off-site research, recording notes)
- Involve parents and local university as much as possible
- Be intentional about the neighborhoods you choose to study.

# Best Practices

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- Co-planning
- Flexible model
- Contracts
- Videotaping
- Organization
- Mutual respect
- Reflection
- Shared philosophy
- Trust
- Humility
- Art of listening

# **Collaboration at FACTS**

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## Contact Information

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# Questions?

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Raise your hand or enter your question in the chat box  
on the left side of your screen.

# Thank you for participating.

- Learn more about future webinars in the ELL series hosted by the National Charter School Resource Center:  
<http://registration.airprojects.org/NCSRCELL/register.aspx>
- This webinar will be archived at the following website:  
<http://www.charterschoolcenter.org/webinars/>
- Please share your feedback with us through the evaluation.

# National Charter School Resource Center

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at American Institutes for Research

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