

# Resilience in Crisis:

Community Creative Arts for Promoting Social Justice

April 22nd, 2021

Spring Research Symposium

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Women's and Gender Studies

Community Partner: CIRCA-Pintig

Ginger Leopoldo (Executive Director)



# The Problem

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- The ambivalent role of US immigrants during COVID-19
  - Vulnerability: economic burden, health risk, lack of access to affordable healthcare
  - Involvement: immigrant healthcare workers play a vital part in fighting against the pandemic and providing culturally sensitive care (Tayaben and Younas, 2020)
- Under-representation in mainstream media narrative (Wright and Merritt, 2020)

# CIRCA-Pintig (CP)

- CIRCA stands for the Center for Immigrant Resources and Community Arts
- Pintig means “heartbeat”

# CP: Social Justice and Activism

- Fillipinx American community theatre arts group
- CP was founded by youth activists in Chicago in 1991
- Uses art to celebrate history and culture



Original cast in their first production: America is in the Heart, 1991

# CP During Covid-19



**CIRCA Pintig**  
PRESENTS OUR ANNUAL SERIES  
**Monthly Beats**

plays  
songs  
poetry  
theatre  
activism  
film & video  
spoken word  
entertainment

A global  
**QUEER  
FILIPINX**  
Open mic

Canada | US - Fri, Aug 21  
9 pm CDT | 7 pm PST | 10pm EST  
Philippines - Sat, Aug 22 @ 10 am



# Piglas:

## Freedom From Fear and Want

Artists' Broadcast for  
International Migrants' Day

**ALAYA** **Concerned Artists of the Philippines** **CIRCA-Pintig HISTORY THEATRE COMMUNITY** **KARAPATAN**



# Resilience in Crisis

- The significance
- How we started
- The approach
- The intended audience and outcome

# The Significance

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- Sparking public conversation
- Raising the voices of immigrants
- Advocating for immigrants

# How We Started

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- Cataloging
- Creating surveys
- StoryCore



## CIRCA Pintig 2021 Survey

With CP's 30th anniversary just around the corner, we are looking for feedback to celebrate and help make the next 30 years even better!

\* Required

Email address \*

Your email

What does the work of CIRCA Pintig Mean to you?

Your answer

What projects did you do with us?

Your answer

What was your experience? Most memorable moments?

Your answer

How has your time with CIRCA Pintig impact your life?

Your answer

# The Approach

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- Collaboration with CIRCA-Pintig
- This project provides immigrants with a voice for storytelling via theatre arts.
- Qualitative methods of oral history
  - Interviews with immigrants conducted via Zoom
  - Comfortable, safe, and accessible space for sharing of personal experiences, values, and ideas concerning social justice, identity, and minority cultural issues

# The Approach: Sample Questions

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- Questions about general immigrant experience
- Questions about specific COVID living conditions

# Preliminary Findings

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- Immigrants agency to overcome difficulties
- Oral history serves as an outlet

# The Intended Audience and Outcome

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- Immigrants and non-immigrants alike
- A verbatim theater piece and a Podcast

# Challenges

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- Insufficient responses
  - Storytellers were generally not responsive to invitations and appointments
  - Conversation-style interviews tend to be time-consuming and inflexible
- Our measure
  - Story-collecting Google Form
  - A one-stop, flexible approach

# Thank you!

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