



Finalists for \$20K: A Competition about Race

Opening Event of the 2013 Spirit & Place Festival, November 1, 7 PM, Indianapolis Museum of Art

Javier Barrera – Latino Youth Collective

Race: A Look Inside will create a comprehensive educational kit about race that will include a documentary, website, and public screenings. After a public request for questions to be explored in the documentary, a team of filmmakers from different backgrounds will collectively make decisions about the final product. Public screenings of the documentary will be paired with structured conversations led by trained facilitators. The interactive website will create space for continued sharing, full length interviews, as well as space for people to upload their own interviews. Javier writes, “By touching on topics often ignored we hope the documentary will spark and ignite deep and thoughtful conversations by challenging viewers to be self-critical. We believe there is no culture of self-improvement without self-reflection.”

Pete Hylton – IUPUI School of Engineering & Technology, Motorsports Engineering Program

A Competition about Race Using Racing will bring together young people and their families to participate in multi-racial teams that explore various aspects of the motorsports industry, which is typically viewed as a white, male sport. Participants will broaden their understanding of minorities in motorsports history, learn about of career opportunities in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM fields) while working together across racial and gender boundaries. Pete writes, “The combination of broadening perspectives and horizons regarding potential STEM careers, while simultaneously giving participants the chance to interact in a multi-racial team, has the potential to reshape the way they view their individual futures, as well as, how they view others of different backgrounds.”

Dancia Malone – Indianapolis Neighborhood Resource Center

The Lost Race will place interactive photo stations around Indianapolis, inviting passersby to take a snap shot while answering the query, “What race are you?” Individuals will receive a photo card print-out and their image will go into a rotating circulation of images that will be screened on three digital billboards. Eight small group discussions will be held around the city, posing similar questions with guided discussion. The public will then be invited to anonymously disclose their own interactions with race via booths around the city with installation-ready cards. Cards will be curated into a month-long exhibition. Dancia writes, “This project publicly challenges everyone to 1) think about race, 2) talk about race, 3) speak about internal fallacies we all carry about race and 4) begin the healing and building process away from race.”

DeShong Perry-Smitherman – A Girl’s Gift, Inc.

My Mentor, My Self is 6-week program that will match Indianapolis area preteen girls with mentors who don’t look like them. Matched pairs will spend time together, get to know each other in non-threatening environments, participate in group cultural experiences that explore other races/cultures, and share their experiences through a shared art project and presentation at a closing event. A post-program blog will provide a platform to continue sharing stories with wider audiences. DeShong writes, “...our mentors will help girls see the commonalities they share...emotions, fears, triumphs and failures ... they come to realize the world is small—and that a person’s race should not get in the way of building healthy, impactful and additive relationships.”