

# 2020-2021 Annual Report



**JUNIO - JUNE**  
3-4 / 11-12 / 17-18

**ARNA2021**  
CONFERENCIA VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

**PUERTO VALLARTA**  
JALISCO · MEXICO



**Co-Creando Conocimiento,  
Empoderando Comunidades**  
Co-Creating Knowledge, Empowering Communities

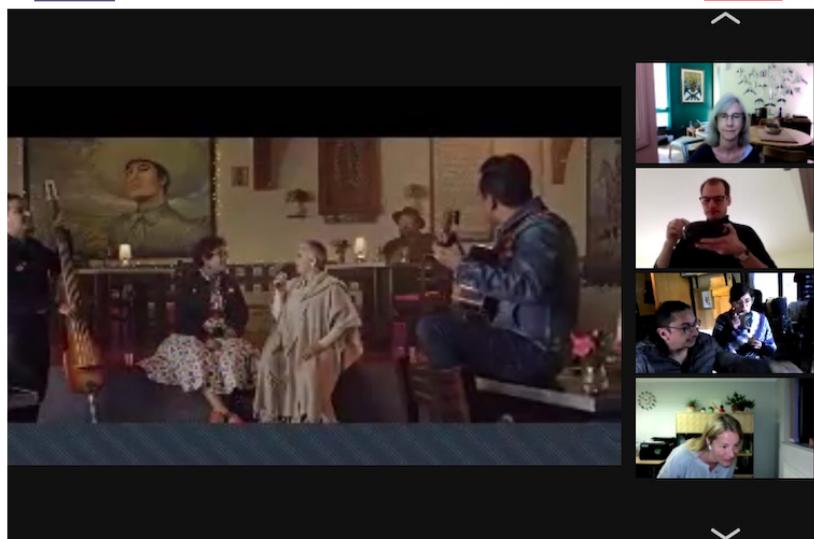
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Recuerde que todos los horarios son horario de verano central (CDT)

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Available for Download at  
<http://arnawebsite.org/reports/>

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## Message from the ARNA Chair

As I reflect on all that ARNA has accomplished in this year where nearly everything has been impacted by the Covid 19 pandemic, I am immediately sobered by the enormity of our loss, with 225,893,613 confirmed cases worldwide and 4,651,193 global deaths at the time of publication of this report in mid-September, 2021.<sup>1</sup> Today the *New York Times* reports that nine months after the first vaccine was approved, the majority of the world's people have not yet received even a single dose of any of the approved vaccines. The year ahead will be crucial to dissemination efforts as we seek to overcome the unconscionable inequities that have resulted in 80% of the 5.76 million doses administered to date going to residents in *high* and *upper* middle-income countries.<sup>2</sup>

Despite the enormous challenges posed by Covid in a highly stratified world, ARNA members working in both the global north and south have supported community-based problem solving and knowledge democracy as they have continued their work within the leading action research organization of the western hemisphere. This report provides a brief glimpse into their efforts throughout the 2020-2021 academic year, and I applaud the contributors for their many successes despite the enormous challenges they faced.

Just three months ago, ARNA held its first virtual conference with leadership team based in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, entitled "Co-Creating Knowledge and Empowering Communities." From the interactive CARN Study Day hosted by Fundación Punta de Mita; to inspiring keynotes by Laura Rendón, Patti Ruiz Corzo, and Nina Wallerstein; to more than 70 presentations over three weeks delivered by action researchers from throughout the Americas and around the world, ARNA 2021 was a resounding success. Special thanks to Conference Chair Adriana Garcia and Program Chair Candace Kaye, whose summary of the conference follows. Kudos, too, to the incredible team who made it all possible technologically, including chair Rich McPherson and colleagues Diego Lozano, Ana Espinosa, Claire Collins, and Minerva Zamora.

Joel Judd, Chair of the ARNA 2022 hybrid conference based at Southern Utah University, welcomes participants to reflect on ARNA's ten-year journey in a conference titled *Expanding the Frontiers of ARNA: Action Research across Cultures, Languages, and Histories*. Please review the ARNA website for the Call for Proposals and additional conference information at <https://arnawebsite.org/conferences/>.

Following the conference reports, Lonnie Rowell, chair of the ARNA Knowledge Democracy Initiative, highlights the significant progress made during the pandemic, and Victor Manuel Rubio Carrillo, shares an update on Latin American dialogues that have transpired throughout the year. We then provide brief profiles of key ARNA knowledge democracy partners, including the AR Podcast, the Center for Collaborative Action Research, the Collaborative Action Research Network (CARN), Fundación Punta de Mita, Participatory Action Research Center for Education and Organizing (PARCEO), Participatory Research in Asia (PRIA), Social Publishers Foundation (SPF), and Yellowhead Tribal College (YTC).

Action Research Community (ARC) co-chairs Suzy Thomas and Aubrey Uresti present an exciting update on the progress made this year, beginning with their needs assessment, followed by the redesign of the ARC web site, and culminating in the complete integration of the ARC concept into the 2021 virtual conference experience. In the reports that follow, ARC chairs Donna Benson (Addressing Food Insecurity), Mina Kim (Early Childhood Education), Yanik Müller (Graduate Students), Nancy Murphy (Health Equity), Víctor Manuel Rubio Carrillo (Musical Learning), Margaret Riel (Supporting the Teaching of Action Research), and Chris Buttimer (Youth Participatory Action Research) provide a brief overview of their work and an invitation to join.

Concluding her third consecutive two-year term, Memberships and Sponsorships Chair Holly Marich shares an overview of ARNA progress in achieving its goal of 250 active members by 2025 and also reports on the conference and institutional sponsors of the 2020-2021 academic year. Bilingual reports from ARNA Francophone representative Audrey Rousseau and ARNA En Español Chair Karina Cruz invite still wider participation in the organization. ARNA seeks nominations to elected office to replace Marich in 2021 and to fill multiple roles in 2022, including Web & Technology Chair, Treasurer, Executive Committee Chair, Francophone Liaison, and ARNA en Español Chair.

The Annual Report continues with biographies of our 2021 award recipients: Adriana Garcia (Special ARNA Virtual Conference Development Award), Candace Kaye (Eduardo Flores Leadership Award), Donna Benson (Promising Action Researcher Award), Holly Marich (ARNA Community Development Award), and Fundación Punta de Mita (ARNA Social Justice Award). ARNA Treasurer Nathan Snyder presents a spreadsheet documenting the organization's receipts and expenditures and highlighting the modest surplus of the 2020-2021 year. Finally, Rich McPherson provides an informative Web Development and Social Media Report in the context of ARNA's first-ever virtual conference.

I hope you'll join me in thanking our contributors and consider making your own contributions throughout the year ahead. When I was so excited to receive my own second dose of the Moderna Covid-19 vaccine by the Ides of March, I wondered aloud if ARNA might meet physically on site in Puerto Vallarta, and the team there promptly and wisely reminded me that most Mexicans had not yet been vaccinated. Today, three months later, 25% of Latin American and Caribbean residents, 31% of Mexicans, 55% of US Americans, and 71% of Canadians are fully vaccinated. May we find the strength to conquer Covid together with as little future loss of life as possible, continuing to battle inequities and to learn from the experiences of all.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> <https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/09/14/opinion/vaccine-covid-pandemic-covax.html>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.paho.org/en/news/1-9-2021-paho-warns-only-one-four-people-latin-america-and-caribbean-has-been-fully-vaccinated>



General correspondence about ARNA should be directed to Joseph Shosh at [shoshjm01@gmail.com](mailto:shoshjm01@gmail.com).



Sumérjase en los programas y la cultura de una organización mexicana sin fines de lucro cuyo modelo de acción e intervención se centra en la participación comunitaria y el desarrollo liderado por la comunidad.

**Miércoles 2 Junio - Día de Estudio \* Study Day - Wednesday June 2nd.**

Immerse yourselves in the programs and culture of a Mexican non-profit organization whose action and intervention model is centered around community participation and community-led development.



# Puerto Vallarta Team Hosts ARNA's First Virtual Conference



After having to postpone the site-based 2020 conference in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico due to the Covid-19 pandemic, ARNA hosted its first virtual conference throughout the first three weeks of June 2021. The Conference Planning Committee would like to thank the more than 120 individuals who submitted over 70 conference proposals addressing themes of community development and the co-creation of knowledge. Presenters hailed from Ecuador, Colombia, Canada, India, Argentina, Chile, Spain, the United States, South Africa, Brazil, Mongolia, India, and Mexico, among many others.

In preparation for the conference, ARNA worked with the Puerto Vallarta community-based organization Fundación Punta de Mita, to share a CARN pre-conference Study Day entitled "Community Based Action Research, in Action!"



Presentations during the first week focused on education, sustainability, and society with a focus on social justice, development & political movements through the lens of community based participatory action research. Laura Rendón, education theorist, activist and researcher, delivered the opening keynote address, emphasizing the harmonic, complementary relationship between the sentir of intuition and the inner life and the pensar of intellectualism and the pursuit of scholarship, formal knowledge and wisdom; and between Western and non-Western ways of knowing. Born in Laredo, Texas, Rendón developed a passion for helping students who, like her, grew up in poverty with hopes and dreams, but not knowing how to make them come true.

The second week of the conference focused on challenging & preserving culture through community based participatory action research. Leading the conversation was Mexican

activist Patricia Ruiz Corzo, recipient of the "Heroína de México" award for her defense of the Sierra Gorda de Querétaro. In 1987 with the help of local citizens, she co-founded the Sierra Gorda IAP Ecological Group, with the aim of raising awareness and protecting biodiversity, through a grassroots movement to build a regenerative future in the region. Its work has been manifested in a wide range of actions in the defense of nature, environmental education, sustainability, and leadership from the social base through the work of civil society.

During the third week of the conference, attendees examined knowledge creation, preservation and access through community based participatory action research. Professor of Public Health at the University of New Mexico School of Population Health and Director of the Center for Participatory Research, Dr. Nina Wallerstein provided an overview of her community-based participatory research (CBPR) and Freirean empowerment efforts that have spanned more than thirty years. In collaboration with Latin American colleagues, Wallerstein has produced a training-of-trainers curriculum on empowerment, participatory research, and health promotion (initially sponsored by the Pan American Health Organization), available in Spanish, Portuguese, and English.

The 2021 Conference and CARN Study Day videos are accessible at <https://arnawebsite.org/conferences/puerto-vallarta-mexico/>.



Correspondence about ARNA 2020/2021 in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico should be directed to Conference Chair Adriana Garcia ([arna2020comite@gmail.com](mailto:arna2020comite@gmail.com)) and Program Chair Candace Kaye ([arna2020ck@gmail.com](mailto:arna2020ck@gmail.com)).

# 2022 Hybrid Conference Marks Ten Year Anniversary



ARNA's 2022 Conference Planning Team is pleased to announce that ARNA 2022 will be presented in a hybrid format with site-based activities taking place in Cedar City, UT from June 28 to June 30. Southern Utah University will be the host institution, and sessions along with whole conference gatherings will take place on campus. We plan to build on the success of online participation at ARNA's 2021 conference to offer both face-to-face and virtual presentations and participation. The theme for the conference is *Expanding the Frontiers of ARNA: Action Research across Cultures, Languages, and Histories*. The conference will complete a ten-year cycle that began in San Francisco, CA in 2013 with the theme *The Invention and Reinvention of Knowledge: Action Research across the Americas*.

As we plan for the first face-to-face meeting in three years, we want to honor ARNA's past, while looking ahead to the role action research can play in confronting the political, social, cultural, and environmental challenges of our time. We are extending a special invitation to educators in the region to come and share their experiences with practitioner research in schools. In addition, we want the conference to serve as a catalyst to expand online efforts to democratize knowledge. Finally, we intend for the conference to provide a venue for and support the ongoing work of our Action Research Communities (ARCs).

Details about participating in and presenting at ARNA 2022 are forthcoming. To share your talents with the Conference Planning Committee, or for questions about the Conference, please contact Joel Judd ([joeljudd@suu.edu](mailto:joeljudd@suu.edu)). Additional conference information and welcome video may be accessed online at <https://arnawebsite.org/conferences/>.



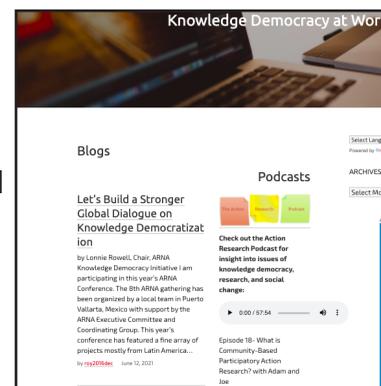
Correspondence about ARNA 2022 at Southern Utah University should be directed to Conference Chair Joel Judd at [joeljudd@suu.edu](mailto:joeljudd@suu.edu).

# The Knowledge Democracy Initiative – KDI/IDC - la Iniciativa Democracia del Conocimiento: Progress in a Pandemic

KDI/IDC has made progress over the past year, which might be considered somewhat of a surprise given that we all have been living in the face of a global pandemic. Nevertheless, our small tribe of people from the US, the UK, Australia, and Latin America has kept the initiative moving forward. This brief report addresses highlights of the year's journey.

The Initiative's team now includes (in alphabetical order): Ruth Balogh, Victor Rubio Carrillo, Melissa Hauber-Özer, Matthew Moors, Jose Ramos, Sharon Ravitch, and Lonnie Rowell. My thanks to them all for their support and their contributions to keeping KDI/IDC moving forward.

**Maintaining Knowledge-democracy.org.** We have maintained the website and done our best to update it. There is much more to do, and we will report on our progress at ARNA 2022 in Cedar City, Utah.



**Building on the Initial Assembly for Knowledge Democracy.** The experience of the interactions at our innovative gathering the day following the ARNA 2017 Conference in Cartagena, Colombia have been on the minds of many of the more than 300 participants who came together that day. A major question lingering from the first day after the Assembly has been 'what follow up is desirable and possible in service to global knowledge democracy?' Prof. Necla Tschirgi of USD's Joan Kroc School of Peace Studies, one of the ARNA 2018 Conference's keynote speakers, provided a helpful framework to guide our efforts. She asserted in her keynote that action research has "a particularly critical role" to play in the current global crisis, and examined this role in relation to "two interrelated functions": 1) democratizing knowledge as a basis for public discourse and public policy; 2) shaping a progressive political agenda that is inclusive and humanistic. As Chair of IDC/KDI I have sought to start us on a path lit by the idea of this critical role and have encouraged the development of ARNA strategy and tactics for knowledge democratization that are aligned with this path, while continuing to embrace in every way possible the spirit of encounter, convergence, empathy, and struggle that infused the Cartagena Assembly.

**Bending with the wind.** The initiative has had a number of transitions in the people involved, often in the context of the challenges posed by the pandemic. Yet we also have seen no letup in the number of people who are interested in the work and would like to become active members. A particularly noteworthy transition has been with our CARN Liaison. Mary McAteer is now one of CARN's co-coordinators and has stepped down as KDI/IDC Liaison. She has been replaced by Ruth Balogh, like Mary a close friend of ARNA and the now former CARN lead coordinator. I anticipate the addition of more members to the KDI/IDC team in the coming year.

**Dialoguing.** One of the most significant developments during the past year has been the conceptualization and launching of a Dialogue component to the initiative. In the section below, IDC/KDI team member Victor Manuel Rubio Carrillo writes about this development.



## Latin American Dialogues

### Background

From the meeting of the Knowledge Democracy Initiative (KDI) in August 2020, the call to coordinate a series of Latin American dialogues arose. Víctor Manuel Rubio Carrillo and Karina Cruz responded to this call and began planning in October. During the first meetings, a guide document with objectives and actions was designed, which was then

socialized with other members of the Latin American community and ARNA. After feedback processes, Miguel Ángel López Montoya also integrated to the coordinating team, as well as the CIEJUS teams from Chile and CIAP Uma Kiwe from Colombia. Constant work was done until the *First Encounter* of the *Latin American Dialogues* which occurred in May 2021.

### First Encounter

After a four-week call through social networks and ARNA email lists, 54 participants representing 15 nations were registered. From them, 28 from six different countries participated. The dynamic of the event consisted of working groups resulting from a previous analysis on each participant's interests, followed by a collective reflection in a plenary session.

With a duration of more than two hours, the event culminated leaving reflections based on four main themes: (1) participatory action research as dialogic pedagogy, (2) teacher education processes, (3) cases as vehicles to understand systems of inequity, (4) the territory as a living force.

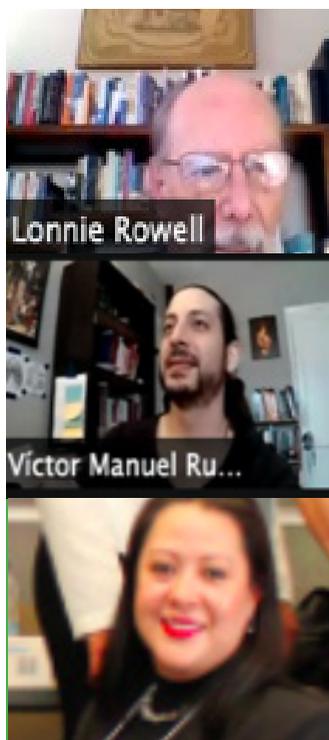
For now, linking the dialogues with both the ARNA and the KDI platforms is still pending. A more in-depth analysis from the information collected in the first encounter is also pending. A meeting of each working group was agreed for the end of July 2021 and a new meeting of an extended coordinating team is expected in August 2021. These pending actions will be the vehicle through which the next steps of this community-generating process, promoter of social change, action research and transcontinental solidarity will occur.

**Looking towards the horizon.** Two items will conclude this report. A committee of five people representing four countries has begun work on a second dialogue component. With an anticipated Fall 2021 launch, this component will be a primarily English language free webinar series on 'Knowledge, Democracy, and Action Research' co-sponsored by ARNA, CARN, and the Swedish Action Research Network and hosted by KDI/IDC. The committee members include me, Victor Manuel, Ruth Balogh (UK), Olav Eikeland (Norway), and Erik Lindhult (Sweden). Conceptualized as "An educational experience of imminent critique and apprenticeship learning hosted by [knowledgedemocracy.org](https://www.knowledgedemocracy.org)," this event is being designed for people now engaged in action research, in particular people who have at least a few years' experience with action research and/or participatory action research.

The second item is the continued planning for the addition of a Knowledge Democracy Virtual Community Center feature to [knowledgedemocracy.org](https://www.knowledgedemocracy.org). This web-based platform for sharing, announcements, community-building and advocacy related to democratizing knowledge as a basis for public

discourse and public policy and shaping a progressive political agenda that is inclusive and humanistic is taking shape slowly, as time and interest allow. An interested colleague asserted some months back that this project “will require at least a couple of hundred thousand dollars” and when I responded that we have no money for the effort, the colleagues reply of “well, good luck with that project” was yet another reminder of how challenging our work is. I hope to have made at least some significant progress on this project by the time we all gather in Cedar City in 2022 and then again in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada in 2023.

**Concluding Thought.** In June 2019 I submitted a brief position paper to the Executive Committee and Coordinating Group titled “Action Research, Knowledge Democracy, & Alternative Globalization: What’s ARNA to do?” In hindsight, I think I was attempting to lay out the initial vision by which I wanted my leadership of KDI to guide us. In this 3-page paper I wrote as much about the “spirit” I believe ARNA needs to adopt (“boost the spirit of rebellion and increase the pulse of activism in the network”) as I did about the specifics of strategy and tactics. In the coming months I will revisit this paper and challenge myself to better elucidate and to add to my thinking about what I have called ARNA’s “call to conscience” for the coming years. Again, I want to thank ARNA leadership for all you have done in the past year and for your continued convictions and determination to support the network as it grows and evolves.



To learn more or volunteer to participate in ARNA’s Knowledge Democracy Initiative, contact Lonnie Rowell ([lrowell8881@gmail.com](mailto:lrowell8881@gmail.com)). For additional information on the Latin American Dialogues, contact Victor Manuel Rubio Carrillo ([vmr64@miami.edu](mailto:vmr64@miami.edu)) and Karina Cruz ([cruzaleka@gmail.com](mailto:cruzaleka@gmail.com)).

## ARNA Partners Democratize Knowledge Production

### AR Podcast

In 2021, the Action Research Podcast (AR Pod) partnered with ARNA to promote the value and necessity of Action Research, Participatory Action Research, Community-Based Participatory Action Research, Knowledge Democratization, and Practitioner Research to address global challenges. The AR Pod’s season 1 has 21



episodes discussing topics like ethics, collaboration, methods, and the varieties and definitions of Action Research with some of the most respected names in the field. In season 2, the AR Pod will be introducing a new format, in addition to maintaining the engaging conversations and interviews with experienced and emerging Action Researchers. We do not shy away from controversies or difficulties with Action Research. Each episode explores, in a light-hearted, and critical way, important topics. You can find the Action research podcast at <https://the-action-research-pod.captivate.fm/> or on Apple Podcasts, Google, Spotify or most online streaming services.



### Center for Collaborative Action Research

ARNA’s 2021 conference was sponsored, in part, by the Center for Collaborative Action Research directed by Margaret Riel. The Center for Collaborative Action Research (CCAR) links together educators, researchers, and community organizers. The Center’s aim is to create deep understanding of important social problems in a range of different contexts including, but not limited to schools, and to encourage evidence-based reasoning to solve these problems. The Center shares collaborative action research projects and supports the development of ‘knowledge-building’ communities making use of innovative technology tools. The goal is to share what others are doing to reinvigorate their workplace

with the capacity to reflect and adapt to evolving needs. Additional information, including resources and Action Research Tutorials, may be accessed at <https://www.ccarweb.org/>.



### Collaborative Action Research Network (CARN)

CARN was founded in 1976 in order to continue the development work of the Ford Teaching Project in UK primary and secondary schools. Since that time it has grown to become an international network drawing its members from educational, health, social care, commercial, and public services settings. CARN is committed to supporting and improving the quality of professional practice, through systematic, critical, and creative inquiry into the goals, processes and contexts of professional work. ARNA is pleased to continue the tradition of hosting a CARN Study Day in advance of each annual conference. Most recently, this took place at Fundación Punta de Mita in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico. More information about CARN is available at <https://www.carn.org.uk/>.



### Fundación Punta de Mita

A community foundation that formally began operations in December 2007, Fundación Punta de Mita is committed to supporting the communities of the Bahía de Banderas region of Mexico through projects that improve the quality of life of its inhabitants. They do so with educational programs, as well as with material resources that give other non-profit organizations the possibility of growing in their management work and providing them with financial support when their objectives are compatible. To learn more in English, visit <https://www.fundacionpuntademita.org/en/home/> or in Spanish, visit <https://www.fundacionpuntademita.org/>.



### Participatory Action Research Center for Education and Organizing (PARCEO)

PARCEO is a resource and education center that provides training and support toward meaningful social change. PARCEO's is rooted in a Participatory Action Research (PAR) framework, which values the experience, knowledge, and leadership of those most impacted by injustice as we collectively work for transformative change and to build community strength. We believe in the power of community education and we work to make curricula, educational programs/retreats, and other learning opportunities more accessible and connected to our work for justice. PARCEO works with community groups, university and leadership training programs, foundations and a range of institutions that seek to deepen their educational, organizing, research, and cultural work; form principled, meaningful collaborations; develop new initiatives; and strengthen their internal processes and broader work rooted in principles of justice and accountability. Some of the many issues that partnering organizations focus on include educational justice; racial justice; workers' rights; gender justice; challenging Islamophobia; immigrant rights; and health and food justice. To learn more, visit <https://parceo.org/>.



### Participatory Research in Asia (PRIA)

Established in 1982, PRIA (Participatory Research in Asia) is a global center for participatory research and training based in New Delhi. PRIA has linkages with nearly 3000 NGOs to deliver its programs on the ground. PRIA's work is focused on empowerment of the excluded through capacity building, knowledge building and policy advocacy. Over three decades PRIA has promoted 'participation as empowerment', capacity building of community organizations, and people's participation in governance. Initiatives are undertaken in the overall perspective of 'making democracy work for all' – in the political system; democratic culture in families, communities, and society; and participatory democracy with active citizenship.

PRIA was a 2021 ARNA Conference sponsor. Additional information about PRIA is available at <https://www.pria.org/>.

**Social Publishers Foundation (SPF)**  
Social Publishers Foundation (SPF) works in close collaboration with



ARNA as a core component of the Knowledge Democracy Initiative (KDI/IDC). SPF provides a platform for publication of practitioner-research that contributes to democratization of knowledge mobilization as well as essays on crucial issues in action research, participatory action research, and practitioner research. The Foundation’s approach provides mentoring to new authors and is exploring innovations in relation to publishing reports from ARNA ARCs. At present three ARCs are involved with SPF, including Health Equity, STAR-ARC, and the Musical Learning Community - Comunidad de Aprendizaje Musical. The Foundation’s President, ARNA Co-Founder Lonnie Rowell, states that SPF’s work is intended as an example on a global scale of “the potential of alternative knowledge production and mobilization to contribute to the search for creative solutions to the challenges facing us all during these difficult times.” Visit SPF at <https://www.socialpublishersfoundation.org/knowledge-base/>.

in a flexible, supportive academic environment that nurtures Indigenous cultures and traditions. The college was established in 1986 by Yellowhead Tribal Council to meet the educational needs of its member nations (Alexander First Nation, Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation, O’Chiese First Nation, and Sunchild First Nation). YTC now offers academic upgrading, certificates, diplomas, and post-secondary courses and degrees to all adult learners. Yellowhead Tribal College is proud to serve as host to the ARNA 2023 Conference. More information and a welcome video are available at <https://ytced.ab.ca/about/>.



For more information about ARNA’s current knowledge democracy partnerships or to consider becoming a partner, contact ARNA Chair Joseph Shosh at [shoshjm01@gmail.com](mailto:shoshjm01@gmail.com).

## News from the ARC Co-Chairs, Aubrey Uresti & Suzy Thomas

We began our roles as ARC Co-Chairs in the fall of 2019 and are delighted to continue serving ARNA in this capacity. We have learned that some new ARNA folks are not yet aware of the purpose or existence of the ARCs, so we wanted to begin this annual report with some basic information, followed by a review of our activities in 2020 to the present.



### Yellowhead Tribal College (YTC)

Yellowhead Tribal College is an inclusive and open learning institution in Treaty 6 territory, providing accredited programs



**Overview of ARCS:** The ARCs are Action Research Communities, active groups of people who want to share resources, strategies, practices, and ideas focused on a specific topic of mutual interest. ARC members sometimes collaborate on research projects, or engage in consultation or support for one another, or come together to build community. We have also been dubbed “mini ARNA communities” or subgroups of the larger ARNA organization. There are 10 active ARCs in ARNA, and we are eager to expand membership

in the existing ARCs and to develop new ARCs as well. The ARCs can be found on the ARNA website at: <https://arnawebsite.org/arcs/>.

Our overarching goals are to support the work that ARC members are engaged in, to find ways to help to move the ARCs forward, and to help to foster collaborations across the ARCs as well. The ARC model began in 2015 at the ARNA Conference in Toronto, based on an idea developed by Candace Kaye, who envisioned the shape of an arc as a pathway for connection between the annual conferences. We feel strongly that the ARC model represents an excellent way for folks to come together during and between conferences and continue to work together and share their action research projects, ideas, and resources in settings where topics and interests overlap.

**Needs Assessments:** We tried various methods for connecting with ARC chairs and members over the past 20+ months, including several surveys to gauge interest in activities for the conference and checking in to see how ARC members were doing during the COVID-19 pandemic. We found that many folks were having trouble staying productive in 2020-2021, and that people were not as responsive as they might have been before COVID-19. Our Google surveys, however, helped us to solidify plans for ARNA 2021 and to do so in a way that aimed to meet the needs and reflect the priorities of the ARC chairs and members. It became clear to us that some members of our community were maintaining a productive research agenda during the pandemic, while others were feeling stalled or stuck in their research projects, and some were carrying a sense of shame related to an inability to move forward. It was important to us to cultivate a safe and welcoming environment for ARNA 2021, with spaces for honest and open dialogue that would facilitate connection and offer support and, hopefully, build momentum for ongoing relationships in the coming year.

**ARC Webpage:** In addition to the needs assessments, we focused on the ARC page of the ARNA website, adding an interactive Adobe Spark page (please check it out at: <https://spark.adobe.com/page/ocydv9gbfEtCJ/>) in which we introduced the concept of the ARCs in a bilingual video message, followed by a profile of each ARC. We have invited the ARC chairs to make their section of the Spark page more personal by adding photos or videos, and we will continue to follow up with each chair with the goal of building up this section of the ARC page.

**ARNA 2021:** We were successful in highlighting the interests, joys, and challenges of the ARCS at the ARNA

2021 virtual conference. We designed an ARC thread for the conference, with multiple opportunities for involvement in social, research-oriented, and reflective activities. Our aim was to provide opportunities for mingling and relaxing, time for sharing research successes and challenges, virtual spaces for networking, and ways to promote ARC membership to ARNA members who have not yet joined an ARC or who might have an interest in starting a new ARC. The ARC activities included the following:

- **Brain Breaks**, which involved short videos in English and Spanish developed by Aubrey's graduate school counseling students at San José State University, with a brief introduction by the two of us. These asynchronous materials were available at a designated time in the conference program but could be played any time for participants to offset Zoom fatigue. We also co-facilitated a live, bilingual brain break before sharing the pre-recorded series, which can be found at the following links:

**Week 1:** <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1rAvy-lb9TS9Yw-NEsQi7ylfrCSzYz9Apo>

**Week 2:** [https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1JB-b\\_8n1Lr9C5eE1jEuKhuFVR5jdlge9u](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1JB-b_8n1Lr9C5eE1jEuKhuFVR5jdlge9u)

**Week 3:** <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1z0vDN-GRAMMssPRnRyzEuHVcS-bmWyejF>

- **Brown Bag Discussions**, which took place each Thursday of the conference and emphasized the theme of that week. We co-facilitated these sessions and integrated expressive arts into the discussion by inviting participants to use Google Jamboard, art, poetry, and music in a structured reflection prior to an open discussion. We also used the five questions developed by Charlene Carruthers, founding national director of Black Youth Project 100 and author of the book *Unapologetic: A Black, Queer, and Feminist Mandate for Radical Movements*. These questions are used to help people who are interested in organizing for change, and they include: "Who am I? Who are my People? What Do We Want? What Are We Building? Are We Ready to Win?" We were thrilled that the brown bag sessions not only attracted ARC chairs and members, but several folks who were unfamiliar with the ARCs and who subsequently decided to join an ARC.

- **A Research Symposium**, with the chairs of the Musical Learning Community (MLC-CAM), Health Equity, and STAR ARCs. This panel, co-moderated by the two of us, included Victor Rubio Carrillo, Nancy Murphy, and Margaret Riel, each of whom brought a different perspective on the presence of the ARCs in ARNA and the joys and successes

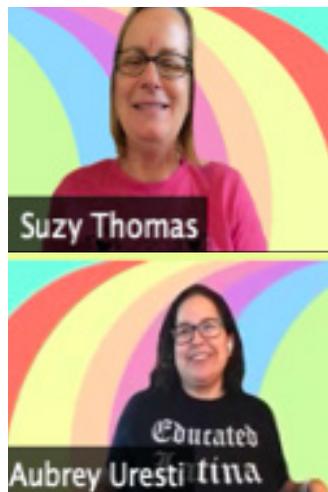
of carrying out action research during global pandemic. These three ARCs are in different places in terms of the kind of work they were able to engage in and the types of obstacles they have been facing, and we are grateful to the three chairs for taking the time to prepare such thoughtful presentations. This was the most traditional component of the ARC thread during ARNA 2021.

- **A Networking Session**, which involved games, laughter, and a bit of good spirited rivalry! The original purpose of the networking session was to introduce the concept of the ARCs and allow attendees to find out more about each ARC to confirm their interest in joining an existing ARC or perhaps starting an ARC related to a new research area. However, the fun took over, and the attendees were mostly people who were already familiar with the ARCs, and so we focused our time on relaxing and playing a virtual Jeopardy-style game (see <https://www.playfactile.com> to develop your own virtual game!). We are pleased to report that “Team Fox,” with ultra-competitive members Joe Shosh and Holly Marich, took first place and won a donation in their honor to Fundación Punta de Mita’s COMPAS program. We will be co-hosting another networking social on Friday, November 12, from 3-4 PST, so mark your calendars and come share some fun with us (see link below!).

Ultimately, we hoped to find ways for ARC members to connect, persevere, adapt, and thrive as we continue to move through 2021! We offered our conference materials and sessions in bilingual formats and attempted to use the virtual space as creatively as possible, so that people would feel inspired, involved, and welcomed. ARNA 2021 was a productive event for the ARCs, and we received feedback that the conference activities described above achieved the goal of underscoring the importance of the ARCs as a vital dimension of ARNA.

**Supporting New ARCs and Next Steps:** We are so happy to have welcomed the newly minted Dr. Donna Benson as the chair of the most recently developed ARC, which centers on sustainability and food insecurity. Donna’s enthusiasm is contagious, and we appreciated her active presence at her first ARNA conference and her energy for cultivating collaborations across the ARCs. We are also overjoyed with the work that Victor Rubio Carrillo and his colleagues have done with the Musical Learning Community (MLC-CAM) in their first year as ARNA members. During ARNA 2021, we welcomed several new members into existing ARCS, especially the Health Equity and Musical Learning Community ARCs; and we explored the potential for collaboration between and among ARCs, most recently with a concept that covers mutual areas of interest in the Health Equity, Sustainability/

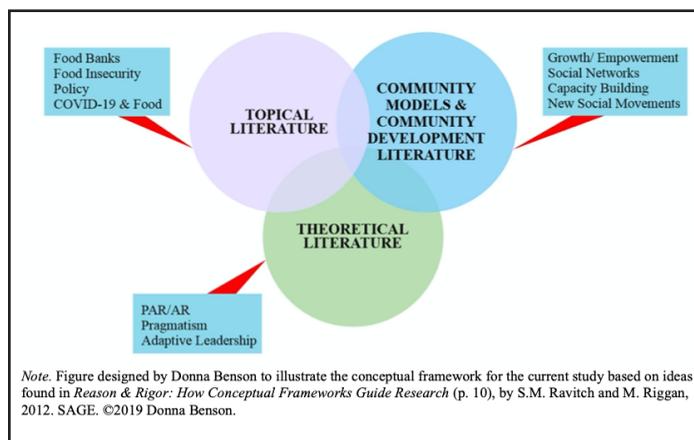
Food Insecurity, and MLC-CAM ARCs and another potential collaboration with the Graduate Student ARC and the Health Equity and Sustainability/Food Insecurity ARCs. We would like to foster opportunities for these kinds of collaborations moving forward, as well as generate ideas for new ARCs. We have the promise of one new ARC that connects East-West in dialogue as well, and we will work with Candace Kaye on that concept and share news as it unfolds. We also plan to connect with the Knowledge Democracy Center and a recent initiative related to Latin American dialogues as new avenues for ARC involvement.



If you are interested in joining or forming an ARC, please contact the ARC Co-Chairs Suzy Thomas ([sthas@stmarys-ca.edu](mailto:sthas@stmarys-ca.edu)) and Aubrey Uresti ([auresti@ucdavis.edu](mailto:auresti@ucdavis.edu)). Check us out on the ARNA website: <https://arnawebsite.org/arcs/>.

## Notes from the Addressing Food Insecurity ARC

I am thrilled to have had the opportunity to meet with other ARNA members at the annual meeting’s Cafe, who were interested in learning more about what each other were working on in relationship to food security in their own and other communities. I especially appreciated that Alicia Swords, an experienced Action Researcher who has been working with students and the foodbanks to bring about positive and sustainable change was able to share her insights with us.



I'm looking forward to exploring how we can advance our June Cafe conversations over the next few months and integrate our work with other ACRs.

Currently, I am working with three University of Victoria students - "on the ground," building garden beds for community members, as well as doing literature reviews on social prescribing and "dirt Therapy." As well, we are creating an Action Research based regional food policy change protocol and learning as much as we can about collaborative technology for global research studies.



The target is to have a report on the progress made in September to share with our ARC communities.

Cheers to all! and thank you for being there!!! ...for encouragement, support and to remind me that there is always the next cycle when we do Action Research.

Love and appreciation to all,

Donna



## Early Childhood Education ARC

A major purpose of the Early Childhood Education (ECE) Action Research Community (ARC) is to build a professional learning community for those interested and involved in action research in early childhood. We had only two activities in 2020- 2021 but had opportunities to connect with ECE professionals in San Francisco and the Bay Area during the pandemic. Despite the difficulties of organizing a group meeting even in a virtual format, we could organize two gatherings this year. Here is a summary of them:

### 1. Annual SFSU Early Childhood Action Research Community Meeting

Mina Kim launched an Early Childhood Action Research group in San Francisco in December 2016, and just had the 7th biannual meeting on May 10th, 2021 at San Francisco State University (SFSU). The meeting agenda was to make teacher action research presentations and discuss disseminating AR projects done by ECE teacher researchers in various venues. Interestingly, two teacher researchers developed their action research projects around the pandemic and community support in ECE, and their studies were well recognized by participants. Here are the titles and researchers of these projects.

- Understanding the needs of preschool teachers during a global pandemic by Olga Avalos
- Supporting Families of Color during Covid -19 by Kelley Wheatley

### 2. Virtual Café Connection Conversations about Early Childhood at the Annual 2021 ARNA conference

Although the annual 2021 ARNA conference decided to be held virtually in June 2021 last year, the ARC ECE leadership team could not join the conference due to limited projects and minimum research activities during the pandemic. However, Mina Kim was invited to develop an hour conversation session around ECE Action Research at the virtual ARNA conference in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, and hosted a June 3rd 2021 café session. Kim also invited four teacher researchers from San Francisco. They were able to present their action research projects at the session and raised questions around those topics to promote a deeper conversation around the best practice of ECE during the pandemic. The list of presentations was:

1. Supporting Families of Color during Covid -19 by Kelley Wheatley
2. Transcending perspectives in Nature-based Education: A Reflective Self-Study by Carolyn Mulcahy
3. Tell me a story: Original storytelling as a therapeutic intervention for all preschoolers by Nicole Friedenber
4. Raising our voices: Infant/toddler teachers' stories of low wages by Emily Bugos

We had about 16 participants and discussed various topics on the themes of the presentations as somewhat those studies were related to the pandemic and its impact on ECE. We also invited participants/audiences from all over the world to share how young children have been doing during the pandemic in school settings. Carolyn Mulcahy's study on nature was heavily discussed because nature

education gained so much attention during the pandemic. It provided better learning environments for young children more than the online learning format.

It was great to connect with researchers and educators from other sides of the world. This meeting motivated the leadership team to plan more meaningful gatherings in the next academic year. We plan to bring the network with ECE folks back as we are more able to do so in 2022 and hope to facilitate an online forum to see if there are any possible projects we can work together to share for next year's ARNA conference.

Lastly, Dr. Candace Kaye will join the leadership team as co-chair from Fall 2021. Welcome back, Dr. Kaye, and look forward to working closely again. Thanks for your strong leadership on ECE!



## Graduate Student ARC

The year 2020/21 has been an extremely challenging year for all, which has made it particularly challenging for graduate students. The Graduate Student ARC reached out to various partners to seek and promote new forms of collaboration. The Graduate Students ARC is proud to have released its first-ever video about the ARC, and more will follow.



We had a fruitful discussion on the brown bag discussion about the Graduate Students ARC at the Virtual ARNA Conference in Puerto Vallarta 2021—led by Candace Kaye. We are particularly grateful to Candace Kaye and Joe Shosh for their continual support and readiness to help to

build a meaningful and striving Graduate Student ARC. The main points included providing a supportive, caring, intellectual, inspiring, and energizing place for exchanging ideas to develop and implement graduate action research projects.

The short- and middle-term goal for the Graduate Student ARC is to encourage additional graduate students doing action research to come together and support one another to contribute locally, regionally, nationally, and internationally to practitioner inquiry and knowledge democracy efforts. There are two main goals: 1) Designing a new and supplementary video highlighting graduate students' action research, their successes, and the Graduate Students ARC's initiatives. 2) Recruiting interested graduate students to participate in the monthly Graduate Students Dialogues to build an international network for supporting future action researchers.

Now comes the time for me to say officially goodbye in my capacity as Chair of the Graduate Student ARC, since I completed my graduate students at McGill University in Montreal this past April. I look forward to supporting the incoming Chair in any way possible. Of course, it is with a happy and a watery eye, for it has been a blessing to learn and work with you all and an honour to have been part of the ARNA family in this capacity. I wish you all the best, and I hope to see you again soon.



## Health Equity ARC

This past year during the Covid-19 pandemic, the Health Equity ARC has had little activity and is in a process of updating and moving forward. The recent ARNA Conference in Puerto Vallarta provided a wonderful space to connect and build. We were fortunate to have our member from Brazil, Luciana Corderio, make a presentation at the conference titled "Participatory research with Community Health Workers: Building critical knowledge towards emancipation in the Coronavirus pandemic context." The conference also afforded the Health Equity ARC an opportunity to participate in the ARC Symposium panel where challenges, opportunities, and successes were shared and discussed. Three ARNA members joined the Health Equity ARC after meeting and dialoguing at the

conference's "Health Equity Café Connection." The ARC will be meeting soon to set new goals and priorities and determine the next best steps for us to take, and we invite you to join us.



To learn more about the Health Equity ARC, contact Nancy Murphy at [nphlox@gmail.com](mailto:nphlox@gmail.com).

## Musical Learning Community (MLC)/ Comunidad de Aprendizaje Musical (CAM)

### Backdrop

In the context of the USA Music Education field, the Musical Learning Community was founded in April 2020 to develop the meaning and practices of action research from a musical learning perspective. This group began with solid connections to the Latin American Community. Five members (two from Florida and three from Ecuador) convened in the inaugural meeting to start an expansive process that evolved through four phases during the 2020-2021 year.



### Phases

#### Phase 1: Uprising and Convening (April/June 2020)

During the first phase, we carried out a reflective process regarding our artistic and learning visions. We created a diagnosis of our conditions at the time by describing our working conditions. We started to work in developing a working site online where all our documentation could be stored and accessed. During this phase, we began working on multiple ideas; however, the most prominent model was using calls (for papers or presentations) to foster

collaborative projects where all members would be involved. These processes helped us catalyze creative ideas and to reach new people across the world. Specifically, we were able to connect and learn with people in Indonesia. Apart from these spaces, we also continued working on smaller action research groups within the community.

#### Phase 2: Systems Development (June/August 2020)

As multiple projects began to coincide, we developed a systems matrix in a spreadsheet to assess the status of each project. In this matrix, we logged the main components (e.g., name, type, description, actions, members, location, dates) of each working system (currently, over 40 systems are operating in the MLC). During this phase, we continued working and prioritizing some of the established systems. We also became involved with the *Knowledge Democracy Initiative* and began expanding our web presence.

#### Phase 3: Larghetto (August 2020/March 2021)

*Larghetto* is used in some music for a passage or movement to be performed in a slow tempo. This phase concurred with the academic year, where everyone's attention is focused on urgent work outside the MLC. Regardless, we continued with a slow but consistent working pace, prioritizing pending works with an external deadline.

#### Phase 4: The Seed (March 2021 - Ongoing)

Finally, the last phase concurred with the ARNA 2021 Virtual Conference, where the MLC was involved in five research presentations, two panels, and a dialogue. We also started seeing the multiple works carried out during previous phases beginning to be published in international journals and other outlets. One of those works involved a meta-reflection of the process thus far. Among the implications, the need to connect with more areas of the continent was highlighted. As part of that process, we have begun connecting with more colleagues from Latin America and North America, with whom we are already working on new systems. Apart from the more active networking, we have also shifted towards a coordinating model that involves executive, academic, and artistic coordinating systems. As the community's needs expand, new shifts in the structure are necessary to maintain responsiveness to the evolving nature of its members.

### Documentation

By June 2021, we have done 15 documented meetings where all members have been involved in some capacity. Apart from the community meetings, each system has its unique dynamics and working sessions that convey as necessary to satisfy the work's needs. We also keep a *research notes* document, which purpose is to foster

collective reflection and serves as a historical document where the MLC activity can be traced. We document data relevant to each one of our backgrounds. We are building an online library to host relevant works related to our work and host online all the documents from our working systems. Finally, we now have an archive of publications, where all metadata from our works is stored.

To connect with the Musical Learning Community, you can visit us online at:

**Website:** <https://www.mlc-cam.info/>

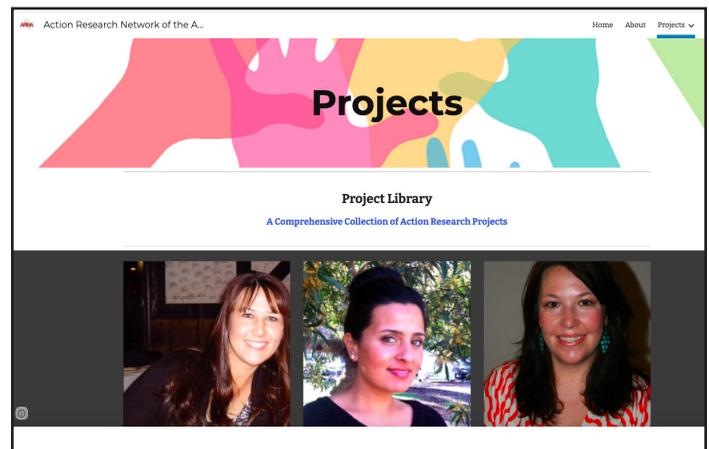
**E-mail:** [mlc.cam.arna@gmail.com](mailto:mlc.cam.arna@gmail.com)

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/mlc.cam.3/>

**Twitter:** <https://twitter.com/MusicalMLc>

**YouTube:** <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCj6zQD-PSse9r9Jb7pgWfyVQ>

- assessing the connectedness of students to school
- evaluating a multi-tiered system of support (MTSS) program that leans on comprehensive data elements and responsive teaching to support students holistically.



While our ARC experienced some relative setbacks in collaboration as we navigated the nuances of pandemic learning, it is clear that there are a number of lessons that we can take forward as we approach another school year. There are ample opportunities for school counselors to get out front and lead as we return to a more traditional learning environment. Our focus will begin there as we work to reconnect and follow through on implementing initiatives that will have the greatest impact on our learning communities.

To view the School Counseling ARC knowledge base and affiliated resources, please visit: <https://sites.google.com/view/sc-arna-arc/home>.



Victor Manuel Rubi...

To learn more about the Musical Learning Community (MLC)/ Comunidad de Aprendizaje Musical (CAM) ARC, contact Víctor Manuel Rubio Carrillo ([vmr64@miami.edu](mailto:vmr64@miami.edu)) and Eliana Sofía Vaca.

**Eliana Sofía Vaca**  
not pictured

## School Counseling ARC

The School Counseling ARC consists of practicing school counselors, counselor educators and graduate students in school counseling. The mission of the group is to connect, collaborate, and share best practices for implementing action research initiatives in schools. The School Counseling ARC shares completed AR projects, as well as resources that may support current practitioners in completing projects of their own.

During this time of unprecedented change around education, members of the School Counseling ARC are reassessing the role of the counselor and identifying new and more efficient mediums of connecting with and supporting all students. A few specific areas members have focused in on include:

- looking at the impact of bi-modal wellness programs in schools



To learn more about the School Counseling ARC, contact Scott Merkel at [merkelsh@pwcs.edu](mailto:merkelsh@pwcs.edu).



<https://arnawebsite.org/arcs/>



## STAR-Community - Shared Energy and Future Paths

Supporting the Teaching of Action Research-Community (STAR-C) brings together educators and professors of action research from seven countries- Canada, the U.S.A., Mexico, Peru, Austria, Argentina, and the UK-- with the goal of sharing pedagogical insights and resources to improve our practice. We formed our ARC in 2017.

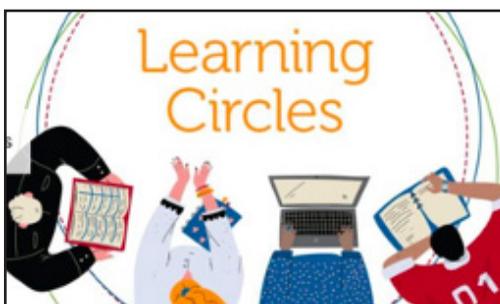
The leadership of the STAR-C:

- Clotilde Lomeli Agruel, Mexicali, Mexico
- Carlos Chiu, Lima, Peru
- Teri Marcus, CA, USA
- Christine Lechner, Tyrol, Austria
- Matthew Moors, England
- Laura Irene Dino Morales, Chihuahua, Mexico
- Ronald Morgan, CA, USA
- Linda Purrington, CA, USA
- Margaret Riel, CA, USA
- Geitza Rebolledo Márquez, Argentina
- Kathy Shafer, IN, USA
- Kimmie Tang, Ottawa, Canada

The STAR-Community meets virtually on the first Wednesday of the month to explore teaching strategies, issues, and resources. Beginning as a learning circle, the STAR community has continued to evolve into a professional community supporting a series of activities. These include a dual language website, newsletter, blog, video chats, and a Facebook group. We describe our development over a series of phases.

### The first phase (2017-18) Learning Circle

We started our interactions within a learning circle which is project-based with distributive leadership (for



more on the learning circle model visit ([onlinelearningcircles.org](http://onlinelearningcircles.org)).

Our project was to collectively created the STAR-ARNA-ARC website ([star-arna-arc.org](http://star-arna-arc.org)). We shared our syllabi for teaching and timeframes to compare the different ways that action research has been integrated into graduate programs. (Please consider sharing your syllabi as this helps new teachers as they create their courses). Then we organized our discussion around a set of themes each moderated by one of the learning circle members. Our new members continue to add their ideas to these themed discussions:

- Framing the research question
- Ethical challenges of action research
- Blending theory and practice
- Data collection and analysis
- Action research and leadership development
- Action research competence
- Teaching the art of reflection
- Supporting Youth action research

### The second phase (2018-19) Dual Language

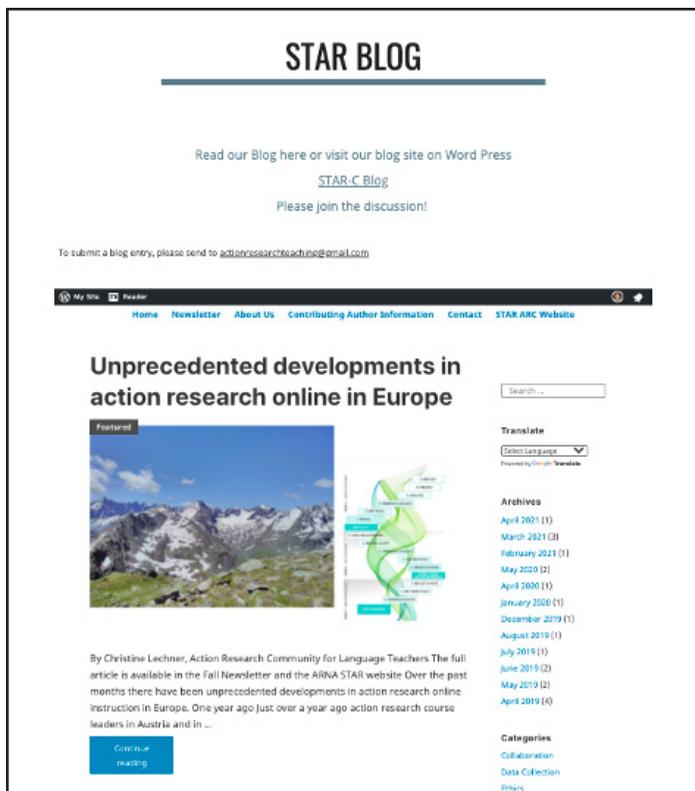
Once the website took shape, our learning circle refocused on ways to expand the participation and reach of the STAR Community. The first action taken was to make the current resources available to our Spanish-speaking colleagues. With the help of Clotilde Lomeli Agruel, Laura Dina, and more recently Geitza Rebolledo, we created a dual language website adding the challenge of updating both the English and Spanish pages whenever changes or additions are made.



### The third phase (2019-20) Extended Reach

We then created three new initiatives to extend the reach of our community. a blog, a newsletter, and links to the Action Research Tutorials and the Facebook Discussion Group to increase the visibility of action research teaching and learning worldwide.

The STAR-Community Blog ([star-arna-arc.org/blog](http://star-arna-arc.org/blog)) was launched by Kathy Shafer in April of 2019 and is currently managed by Christina Lechner, Kimmie Tang and Ron Morgan. This is an open invitation to both write for the blog, and/or join the written discussion around blog topics.



Margaret Riel, has grown to three thousand members from around the world and provides an extended community for ARNA and STAR-Community membership.

We also forged a closer partnership with the Social Publishing Foundation encouraging teachers of action research to publish there as well.

### The Fourth Phase (2020-21) Extended Sharing

This process began with a shift in name—STAR ARC became Supporting the Teaching of Action Research Community (STAR-C), by trimming the double AR. With the names change, we redesigned the banner of the website.

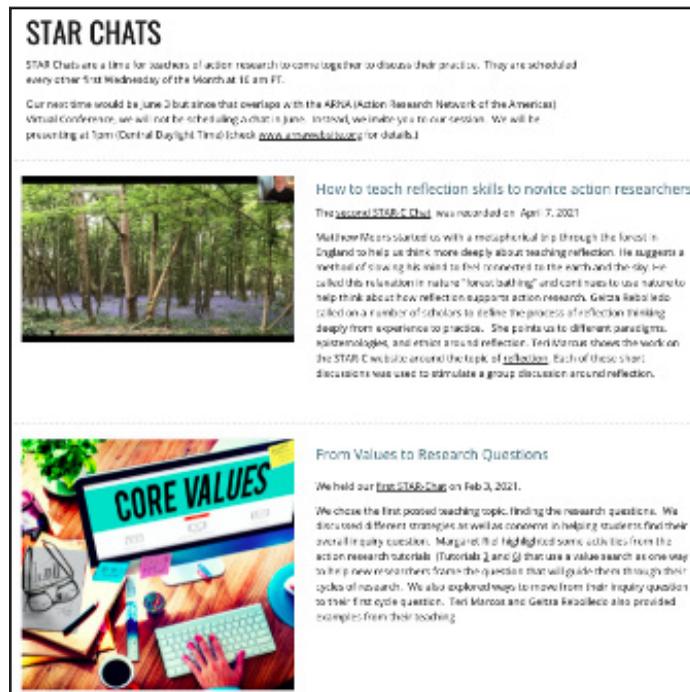
This year we added one more interactive component—STAR-C Chats lead by Linda Purrington. We now alternate monthly meetings between STAR-C Learning Circle meetings and STAR-C Chats around topics central in teaching action research. We are recording these chats and posting them on our website. We are planning the next one (August 4, 2021) on Ethical Issues and Review Boards, a topic that was raised in our workshop presentation at the Online ARNA Conference.

The publication of the first STAR Newsletter followed in May 2019 with Teri Marcos, Linda Purrington, and Clotilde Lomeli Agruel as editors (<https://sites.google.com/view/star-arna-arc/newsletter?authuser=0>).



The last issue was a special issue on how the Pandemic was affecting teaching and learning in the range of countries we collectively represent.

We established a connection with the Center for Collaborative Action Research making the Action Research Tutorials available and joining the Facebook community that focuses on both the learning and teaching of action research. Our Facebook community, managed by Linda Purrington and



### Invitation

We just created a video invitation posted to YouTube to reach out and invite new members.

STAR ARC Video Link



If you teach action research, we invite you to be a part of the STAR-Community. If you have limited time, please consider writing for or responding to our newsletter or blog posts. Or maybe adding a STAR Chat to your calendar. If you are ready for more commitment, we welcome you to the STAR-C leadership learning circle.

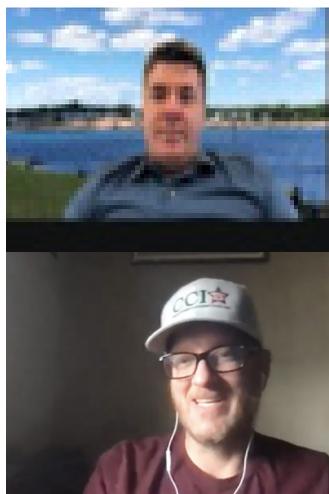


To learn more about the Teaching of Action Research Community, contact Margaret Riel at [mmriel@gmail.com](mailto:mmriel@gmail.com).

## Youth Participatory Action Research (YPAR) Update

At the 2021 ARNA conference, the YPAR ARC hosted an open lunchtime discussion for conference participants to discuss issues related to youth participatory action research. The session began with a brief overview of some of the tenets and practices of YPAR for those who were new to YPAR. Then, participants engaged in an open discussion about engaging in YPAR inside and outside of public schools, while tackling issues such as how to engage youth in collective analysis and writing up research findings. It was a powerful session for participants new to YPAR and those who are actively engaging with young people through YPAR to connect and share resources.

Shortly after the conference, Dane Stickney transitioned into his new role as YPAR ARC Chair.



To learn more about the YPAR ARC, contact Chris Buttimer at [chrisbuttimer444@gmail.com](mailto:chrisbuttimer444@gmail.com) or Dane Stickney at [DANE.STICKNEY@ucdenver.edu](mailto:DANE.STICKNEY@ucdenver.edu).

## Membership and Sponsorship Report

This report provides an account of the final membership and sponsorship numbers associated with the 2021 ARNA conference hosted virtually in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico. This report also explains in brief, the efforts to maintain membership during our conference-postponement year (2019-2020) as well as efforts to increase membership participation within the first virtual conference (2020-2021).

### 2021 Membership and Sponsorship

The membership numbers associated with the 8th Annual ARNA conference hosted virtually, via Puerto Vallarta, Mexico totaled 151. Sponsorships totaled five with three additional non-funded affiliates and supporters confirmed.

### Sustaining Membership Amidst COVID-19, Conference Postponement Year (2019-2020)

The ARNA membership renewal cycle has been associated with its annual conference. This is also a time when we attract most of our new memberships. The postponement of last year's annual conference required a new approach for soliciting new and renewed ARNA memberships. As reported in the 2019 ARNA report, we initiated a pay-what-you-can option. Through an email campaign individually messaging each of the 194 attendees of the Montreal conference, ARNA announced this financial option along with encouragement to renew. We were pleased that 87 active members continued even in a year where there was no conference. Email campaigns continued into the following year in an effort to promote ARNA attendance at the first virtual conference.



### Supporting Membership Amidst COVID-19, Virtual Conference Year (2020-2021)

Two significant email campaigns emerged during this year. First, a message to the 87 ARNA members encouraging them, once again, to renew their membership and take advantage of the affordability, convenience, and new ways to support the ARNA community through its virtual conference offers. Further, this message included an invitation for

membership participation in the way of a conference session host or co-pilot, both essential within a virtual setting.

The second email campaign served as member outreach asking conference participants to become an ARNA Angel. Because the virtual conference structure allowed registrants to attend far more sessions than they could during a 'normal' in-person conference when many more sessions must occur simultaneously, we anticipated that attendance in that some sessions could be under-attended. To help us ensure that every presenter had supportive ARNA members in their sessions we initiated ARNA Angels, or a list of volunteers ready to be called upon to increase audience numbers in any given session.

It has been a pleasure to be connected with past, present, and future ARNA members at a personal level throughout these email campaigns. Efforts to maintain and increase ARNA membership during a global pandemic paid off. Although we are still faced with the strategic plan priority goal of 250+ active ARNA members by 2025, ARNA membership numbers have returned to those similar to pre-pandemic, placing us on solid ground to continue increasing membership numbers each coming year.



## ARNA French Speakers Report (2020-2021)/ Rapport des francophones ARNA (2020-2021)

Cette année, malgré l'imprévisibilité des activités de recherche lors de la pandémie, les membres d'ARNA ont réussi à développer de nouveaux modes de concertation; à commencer par l'organisation du colloque virtuel à Puerto Vallarta.

Nous avons également réfléchi aux stratégies de recrutement à mettre en œuvre afin de rejoindre un plus grand nombre de chercheurs-euses des Amériques qui souhaitent collectiviser les outils, les méthodes et les moyens de diffusion de la recherche-action. Bien qu'il persiste d'importantes disparités entre les communautés scientifiques francophones, anglophones et hispanophones, les chercheurs-euses et collaborateurs-trices sur le terrain contin-

uent de croire que la mise en commun de nos ressources de formation, d'enseignement et d'intervention est une voie nécessaire.

Pour la prochaine année, nous envisageons de développer une fiche d'inscription web où chacun des membres pourra créer son profil, incluant les spécificités linguistiques, les champs d'expertise, etc. ce qui permettra de poursuivre les discussions entamées au sujet de l'accessibilité de la participation de l'ensemble de la communauté d'ARNA, notamment auprès des membres non anglophones. Afin de mieux refléter les particularités sociales, politiques, géographiques, institutionnelles, etc. des différents groupes de locuteurs-trices des Amériques, nous espérons continuer à cheminer sur ces enjeux de concertation, de mobilisation et de coconstruction des savoirs durant la prochaine année.

\* \* \*

This year, despite the unpredictability of research activities during the pandemic, ARNA members succeeded in developing new ways of working together; starting with the organization of the virtual conference in Puerto Vallarta.

We also reflected on the recruitment strategies to be implemented in order to reach a greater number of researchers in the Americas who wish to collectivize the tools, methods and means of dissemination of action research. Although significant disparities persist between the French-speaking, English-speaking and Hispanic-speaking scientific communities, researchers and collaborators; on the ground we continue to believe that the pooling of our training, teaching and intervention is a necessary path.

For the next year, we plan to develop a web registration form where each member can create their profile, including linguistic specificities, fields of expertise, etc. This will allow the continuity for discussions we started on accessibility of participation within ARNA's wider community, more especially among non-English speakers. In order to better reflect the social, political, geographical, institutional, etc. particularities of the different groups of speakers of the Americas, we hope to continue working on these issues of consultation, mobilization and co-construction of knowledge during the coming year.



## ARNA En Español Report

The 2020-2021 ARNA en español activities were addressed to ARNA 2021 Conference and membership promotion and diffusion through the social networking mainly ARNA Facebook and email blast based in the existing ARNA database and that from other institutions.

There was an increased Latin America participation at ARNA 2021 Conference virtually from Puerto Vallarta. It is forwarding to concrete new memberships. With the success in the “Diálogos Latinoamericanos para la Democratización del Conocimiento” there built new relationships between the researchers-action and some community leaders in the Global-South and this communication was maintained during the ARNA Conference.



La correspondencia sobre ARNA En Español debe dirigirse a Karina Cruz en [cruzaleka@gmail.com](mailto:cruzaleka@gmail.com).  
Correspondence about ARNA En Español should be directed to Karina Cruz at [cruzaleka@gmail.com](mailto:cruzaleka@gmail.com).

## ARNA Seeks Candidates for Elected Office

Please consider nominating an ARNA colleague or self-nominating for the following elected positions within the organization:

### Memberships & Sponsorships Chair, Executive Committee, Coordinating Group

**Term:** Two Years

**Beginning:** Immediately

The ARNA Membership and Sponsorships Chair assumes primary responsibility for recruiting new members and sponsors, while supporting the needs of existing members and sponsors in alignment with the strategic plan; maintains a current and past Membership and sponsorship database with support from the Administrative Support Staff Assistant; and serves as lead author of the Membership & Sponsorship section of the Annual Report. The Memberships & Sponsorships Chair ensures that members and sponsors have a current and up-to-date roster of benefits in alignment with ARNA's stated mission, vision, and values and coordinates and chairs the regular meetings of the Memberships & Sponsorships Operational Group.

### Web & Technology Chair, Executive Committee, Coordinating Group

**Term:** Three Years

**Beginning:** Fall 2022

The ARNA Web & Technology Chair assumes primary responsibility for oversight of ARNA's web sites, public and private document and video archives, and social media presence in alignment with the ARNA strategic plan; convenes and chairs regular meetings of the Web & Technology Operational Group; and serves as lead author of the Web & Technology section of the Annual Report. The Web & Technology Chair works to ensure that ARNA's public web and social media presence is in alignment with its stated mission, vision, and values and supports members of the Web & technology Operational Group in fulfilling their responsibilities to the organization.

### Treasurer, Executive Committee, Coordinating Group

**Term:** Two Years

**Beginning:** Fall 2022

The ARNA Treasurer assumes primary responsibility for financial oversight of the organization in its daily operations and implementation of the strategic plan, prepares an organizational budget with support from the Administrative Support Staff Assistant, and serves as lead author of the financial section of the Annual Report. The Treasurer ensures fiduciary responsibility in alignment with ARNA's stated mission, vision, and values and ensures that all accounts are in good standing and that incoming invoices have been paid upon authorization of the Executive Committee.

### Chair, Executive Committee, Coordinating Group

**Term:** Three Years

**Beginning:** Fall 2022

The ARNA chair assumes primary responsibility for overall implementation of the ARNA strategic plan, develops the agenda and chairs each monthly meeting of the Coordinating Group, and serves as lead editor of the Annual Report. The ARNA Chair works to ensure that ARNA's actions are in alignment with its stated mission, vision, and values and supports members of the Coordinating Group in fulfilling their responsibilities to the organization.

### French Speaking Liaison, Coordinating Group

**Term:** Two Years

**Beginning:** Fall 2022

The French-speaking at-large member of the Coordinating Group ensures that the point of view of Francophone ARNA members is taken into consideration in deliberations by the Coordinating Group.

## ARNA en Español Chair, Coordinating Group

**Term:** Two Years

**Beginning:** Fall 2022

The ARNA en Español Chair ensures that the point of view of Spanish-speaking ARNA members is taken into consideration in deliberations by the Coordinating Group.



Questions about elected office and nominations should be directed to ARNA Chair Joseph Shosh at [shoshjm01@gmail.com](mailto:shoshjm01@gmail.com).

## ARNA Presents Awards At 2021 Virtual Conference



**SPECIAL ARNA VIRTUAL CONFERENCE DEVELOPMENT AWARD to ADRIANA GARCIA**

Planning for the ARNA Puerto Vallarta Conference actually began prior to the 2019 site-based Montreal conference, and planning continued on a site-based conference in Puerto Vallarta until Covid forced the cancellation of the 2020 conference. Planning resumed in the summer of 2020 with a commitment to build ARNA's first-ever virtual conference in alignment with its strategic plan to support live simultaneous translation throughout the conference and to integrate the ARNA action research communities into the conference program.

Adriana attended her first ARNA Conference in Cartagena, Colombia in 2017 and was so moved by the camaraderie of those in attendance from throughout Latin America and around the world, the commitment to engaging in new South-North dialogues, and the celebration of indigenous local culture that she commented on site that Mexico would be a perfect host for a future conference, and she would make sure that it happened. As past Director of the Los Mangos Library, the most important cultural center in Vallarta, Adriana sought to create "a multicultural center where everyone is welcome, and differences are the best excuse to learn. Because regardless of color, religion, sexual preference, age, or economic level, you feel at home or sometimes even better." Adriana's can-do spirit and

commitment to social justice served her and ARNA particularly well as she coordinated ARNA's first virtual conference and succeeded admirably in sharing Vallarta's vibrant community-based research with those in attendance.



**EDUARDO FLORES LEADERSHIP AWARD to CANDACE KAYE**

As one of the founders of ARNA, Eduardo Flores not only worked diligently to improve education in Mexico but was instrumental in building the initial structures of ARNA. Eduardo's work to build an inclusive ARNA in both Spanish and English, as well his incredible support for the initial conference in San Francisco, mean that he had a significant impact on the future of ARNA despite being involved for only short time. This award acknowledges an individual who embodies Eduardo's leadership.

Candace Kaye's leadership within the organization was previously recognized in 2015 when she received ARNA's Social Justice Award. At that time, she was honored for exemplifying ARNA's commitment to the development of worldwide efforts in support of teacher action research. Since then, Candace continues to lead and engage our Mongolian university colleagues in collaborative research with a specific focus on action research projects, lectures, symposia, seminars, and workshops, while at the same time supporting the exchange of action research, practitioner research, and participatory research information and materials as an international outreach of ARNA. Candace also has continued to explore the development of distance technology in support of connecting action research to a worldwide community. To that end, she was key to the organization and implementation of the first virtual conference for ARNA in 2021. She gave considerable support by creating the call for papers and process for review and acceptance of proposals. She was then responsible for creating the program and working tirelessly in a leadership role on the local ARNA Organizing Conference Committee in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico. As with Eduardo, Candace continues her commitment to building an inclusive ARNA community that includes voices of the Global North, Global South and the rest of the world and providing support for both the current quality and significant future of ARNA.



**PROMISING ACTION RESEARCHER AWARD to DONNA BENSON**

As indicated in the mission statement, ARNA unites college and university students and faculty conducting practitioner inquiry into teaching and learning with fellow action researchers in public schools, private schools, community settings and workplaces throughout the Americas. This award acknowledges an individual who has demonstrated a commitment to rigorous action research as well as valuing the importance of developing site-based knowledge.

Donna Benson was responsible for initiating ARNA's "Sustaining Food Instability" Action Research Community. Donna successfully defended her thesis "Improving Food Security in Penticton, British Columbia through Social Networking And Community Capacity-Building Using Participatory And Action Research" in the spring of 2021 to earn her Ph.D. from the University of British Columbia and may be accessed online at <https://open.library.ubc.ca/soa/cIRcle/collections/ubctheses/24/items/1.0397348>.



**ARNA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AWARD to HOLLY MARICH**

The organization and execution of the annual conference depends upon the ability of leaders to engage and motivate the community and to build strong connections with those knowledgeable others. These efforts require significant investment of both time and energy, as well as a commitment to the mission and vision of ARNA. Of course, keeping ARNA moving forward during the non-conference months requires all kinds of outreach to recruit and retain members and sponsors. ARNA is most fortunate indeed to have benefitted from the spirit and tireless energy of this year's Community Development Award Recipient.

Holly Marich is about to complete her third consecutive two-year term as ARNA Chair of Memberships and Sponsorships. In this capacity, she has coordinated ARNA's annual membership campaign and both conference and institutional sponsor recruitment. She has overseen the design of ARNA's two most recent membership brochures and leads ARNA's

Angel project to ensure that all conference sessions are well attended. Holly has worked tirelessly as a member of the Executive Committee over the last six years, serving as a key voice in support of the ARNA membership.



**ARNA SOCIAL JUSTICE AWARD to FUNDACIÓN PUNTA DE MITA**

ARNA members are committed to taking action locally, regionally, nationally, and internationally to promote action research that is conducted with a commitment to honesty, integrity, inclusiveness, multi-vocality, engagement, and achievement within sustainable democratic societies. The realization of such a commitment requires individuals and organizations determined to build relationships that are respectful of cultural and linguistic diversity.

A community foundation that formally began operations in December 2007, Fundación Punta de Mita is committed to supporting the communities of the Bahía de Banderas region of Mexico through projects that improve the quality of life of its inhabitants. They do so with educational programs, as well as with material resources that give other non-profit organizations the possibility of growing in their management work and providing them with financial support when their objectives are compatible. To learn more in English, visit <https://www.fundacionpuntademita.org/en/home/> or in Spanish, visit <https://www.fundacionpuntademita.org/>. Fundación Punta de Mita served as the host of the 2021 virtual CARN/ARNA Pre-Conference Study Day.



To learn more about the ARNA Annual Awards or to nominate a future recipient, contact Holly Marich, Memberships & Sponsorships Chair, at [holmarich@gmail.com](mailto:holmarich@gmail.com).

## ARNA Treasurer's Report

The past year has certainly introduced new fiscal challenges. Despite not being able to hold a conference in 2020, our membership drive and remote workshops generated a modest surplus (\$2,067.99) and provided professional outreach opportunities for members, including a highly successful first virtual conference. The 2021 Conference Team in Puerto Vallarta organized a rich virtual conference that offered a diverse set of voices and research. Coming in under the budget of \$10,000.00, the team managed financial resources wisely, resulting in a \$3,765.96 surplus after sponsorships and ticket sales. ARNA remains financially solid moving into our next year.

### ARNA May 2020-June 2021 Overview Balance Sheet

2021 Puerto Vallarta Conference Expenditures	
Puerto Vallarta Committee Thank You Dinner	205.80
Conference Manager-Pat Jackson	857.00
Language Interpreters-Marcela Escalante (33.5 hours) & Paul Deveraux (17.5 hours)	2,240.00
Honorarium Keynotes	3,000.00
<b>Total Conference Expenses</b>	<b>6,302.80</b>
ARNA Operational Expenses	
Bank of America International Wire Fees	225.00
Multimedia Services	500.00
ARNA Brochure	500.00
GoDaddy.com SSL Certification Licensing-2 Years (\$201.48); Zoom Memberships (\$598.83); HST Tax (104.04)	904.35
SPF Sponsorship	1,000.00
<b>Total Operational Expenses</b>	<b>3,129.35</b>
<b>Total ARNA Expenses 2020-2021</b>	<b>9,432.15</b>
ARNA 2020-21 Revenue	
Sponsorships Received	2,450.00
2020 Membership Drive	2,067.99
2021 Conference Eventbrite Transactions (net ticket sales)	8,680.12
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>13,198.11</b>
<b>Surplus</b>	<b>3,765.96</b>
<b>Ending ARNA Account Balance</b>	<b>23,789.79</b>



## Web Development and Social Media Report 2021

As ARNA continues to grow its membership and online community, so do the challenges in ensuring that members stay connected through unprecedented times, such as this past year. Like many organizations having to move virtual due to the COVID-19 pandemic, ARNA worked together with its conference Coordinating Committee to run a 3-week conference (2 days per week) in June, using Zoom as its primary platform. As a small organization, Zoom was most efficient for bringing presenters and participants together, offering multiple opportunities to attend keynotes and sessions over the 3-weeks of #ARNA2021 in English, Spanish and Bilingual Zoom rooms. With the aid of the planning committee, executive team members and volunteers, the virtual conference was able to remain online and active with minimal technical difficulties outside of general connectivity issues.

This past conference also marked the first full year of using Eventbrite as our primary registration portal for membership and conference registrations. As the experience proved to be successful, we plan to continue using Eventbrite moving forward while continually assessing its value to ARNA and how we can utilize all of the tools that it offers to ensure an efficient user experience.



With the support of our Spanish colleagues and conference Coordinating Committee, webpages across [www.arnawebsite.org](http://www.arnawebsite.org) continue to be made more visible

as a bilingual site. Recognizing there is much work yet to be done, we are confident that in the coming years, the ARNA website will be fully bilingual. This past year, the website welcomed 15,000 pageviews with great increases on social media platforms (Twitter, +226, totalling 709 Follows and Facebook, +38, totalling 424 Page Likes and 491 Follows). Most important, Action Research Communities (ARCs) continue to flourish and be a vehicle for welcoming new members that encourage active participation.

Continuing to use the (free) Hootsuite service to share information across social media platforms, ARNA continues to share information from colleagues, sister-organizations and fellow action researchers around the globe to help share the amazing work that is being done to move action research forward.



To learn more about or contribute to ARNA's web and social media presence, please contact chair Rich McPherson at [richcmcpherson@gmail.com](mailto:richcmcpherson@gmail.com).

## 2020-2021 ARNA Coordinating Group

**Joseph Shosh**  
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**Karina Cruz**  
Knowledge Mobilization Chair  
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**Nathan Snyder**  
Treasurer  
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**Holly Marich**  
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**Rich McPherson**  
Web & Media Chair  
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**Suzy Thomas & Aubrey Uresti**  
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**Mary McAteer**  
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**ARNA** Action Research Network of the Americas

**FALL MIXER:  
FRIDAY, 11/12  
AT 2:00 PST  
ON ZOOM**

Join us for community building activities to bring the ARCs together and have fun!

Action Research Communities (ARCs) are groups of ARNA members who share resources, practices, strategies, and ideas on topics of mutual interest.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88693471643>

Hope to see you there!  
Aubrey Uresti and Suzy Thomas,  
ARC Co-Chairs

## Why join ARNA?



ARNA provides a collegial, practice-oriented, and professional development space where practitioners and students of action research across the Americas can come together to share ideas and develop initiatives that will strengthen the position of action and participatory research around the globe.



ARNA members are committed to taking action locally, regionally, nationally and internationally to promote action research that is conducted with a commitment to honesty, integrity, inclusiveness, multi-vovality, engagement and achievement within sustainable democratic societies.



Through the use of action research-based knowledge mobilization, ARNA aspires to global leadership in exploring democratized knowledge production as a basis for public discourse and public policy.



Each year, ARNA hosts a site-based international action research conference, providing expanded opportunities for virtual participation across the Americas and around the world in the leading action research organization of the western hemisphere.



Practitioner researchers throughout the Americas and around the world join together to form action research communities (ARCs) around shared areas of inquiry, including food insecurity, early childhood education, health equity, musical learning, participatory action research & popular education, school counseling, school leadership, supporting the teaching of action research, and youth participatory action research.



Leadership opportunities for ARNA members are provided through the annual Conference, Action Research Communities, Virtual and Site-based workshops, and publication within the Annual ARNA Conference Proceedings.

[www.arnawebsite.org](http://www.arnawebsite.org)

ARNA unites action researchers and participatory researchers throughout the Americas. We support:

- Practitioner and participatory research efforts to improve professional practices and strengthen community capacity
- Knowledge mobilization across the Americas to extend the benefits of action research to wider constituencies
- Bringing together action researchers from diverse points of the Americas and around the world both virtually and physically to share findings and further develop practitioner inquiry and participatory research

# JOIN US TODAY!