



## **What is Cross-Cultural Engagement?**

It is a specific type of community-based engagement where there is active partnering and relationship development with citizens whose knowledge, culture, faith or economic status are very different from our own. The purpose is to address a social need, create opportunities that are more creative or simply build relationships that are satisfying and provide insight and personal growth to all. (Hassel and Holland)

## **Principles**

- Uses participatory strategies
- Seeks two-way partnerships where there is reciprocity, authentic relationship development
- Involves mutual respect for the strengths of each party
- Means giving up control
- Integrates discovery, learning, and engagement in a seamless way
- Brings together multiple worldviews around an issue or problem
- Involves a role shift from expert to co-learner
- Trust and relationships between individuals and organizations are built on sincere commitment

## **To do this effectively we must:**

- 1) Recognize our own belief systems and ideology without becoming defensive
- 2) Demonstrate humility in not trying to control agendas and decisions but be assertive
- 3) Step into listening, learning and reasoning within an entirely different worldview

At Gitana we believe that authentic cross-cultural engagement can transform America!

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