

Intersecting Identities: Bringing Your Whole Self to the Table



Aimee Beauchamp - Two Spirit educator and school counsellor working with Indigenous students (She/Her or They/Them)

Aisha Kiani - proud mom and the founder and curator of iDream Library (She/Her)

Kyle Shaughnessy - Two Spirit, Trans social worker, writer, education facilitator focused on Two Spirit and Trans health and wellness (He/Him)

David Ng - queer, feminist, PhD student, media artist, and co-founder of Love Intersections (He/Him)



SEXUALITY & GENDER
INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

—

Supporting Indigenous 2SLGBTQ+ Youth

By Aimee Beauchamp

Colonization changed how Indigenous communities view Sexuality and Gender.



This is why:

We cannot separate culture and sexuality if we want to heal from colonization and intergenerational trauma.

Indigenous 2SLGBTQ Youth

Many left their small communities to seek LGBTQ2S supports in larger cities

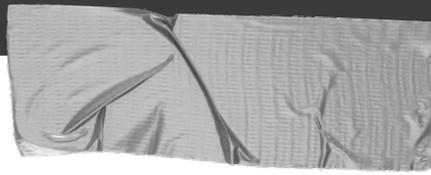
In the larger cities, racism is a problem.

There were no safe spaces for youth to seek support for both their sexual/gender identity and their culture.



Thank You:

Thanks to Kimberlé Crenshaw for coining the term **intersectionality** and providing a name for this issue.



Two - Spirit

A Term created by Indigenous members of the LGBTQ2S Community specifically for Indigenous members of the LGBTQ2S community.

→ **Culture**

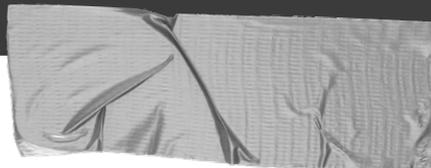
Sexuality, Gender, and gender roles have always been connected to our spirits.

→ **Calling In**

It was a term that would act as a way to reach out to other Indigenous LGBTQ2S folx.

→ **Belonging**

Provides a sense of belonging and community that acknowledges both one's culture and sexual/ gender identity.



Indigequeer

A Term created by Thirza Cuthand in 2004 as a term that acknowledged the significance of being both Indigenous and LGBTQ+

→ **Spirituality**

This term held space for folx uncomfortable with the spiritual aspect of Two-spirit and might not identify with the roles and responsibility

→ **Binary**

It removed the binary ideas of male and female that many LGBTQ+people do not identify with.

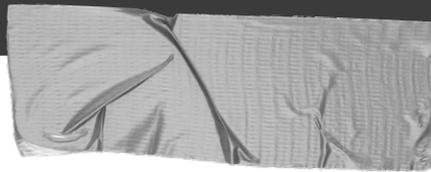
→ **Reclaiming**

Thirza wanted to take part in reclaiming the term Queer and liked that it felt controversial.

—

What do Indigenous 2SLGBTQ youth need?

(It's always best to ask them directly)



1. Educated Allies

Youth want their straight, cisgender, and non -
Indigenous allies to have more education on
Indigenous LGBTQ2S issues:

→ **Who**

In particular, they want teachers and
other school supports to be more
educated in this area

→ **How**

Do it yourself! Attend seminars,
workshops, and other events. Use
google and find sources from that
community.



2. Caring Supports

When talking about their sexuality and/or gender, youth want to feel cared for and supported by whomever they are talking to :

→ **Who**

While being a caring individual is most important, many youth would like to be able to talk to an Indigenous person

→ **How**

Connect with Elders, connect with your schools Aboriginal supports (AET, AEEW).



3. Safer Spaces

Youth want spaces where they feel included and feel represented. Everyone wants to feel like they belong :

→ **Who**

GSA/ QSAs that include youth of colour and youth from different cultures.

→ **How**

Discuss culture and sexuality/ gender, use posters that represent Indigenous folx, define Two-Spirit, acknowledge the unceded territory, bring in elders to speak.



4. Representation

Youth want to see themselves reflected in mentors, teachers, speakers, supports,, characters in books etc.

→ **Who**

Two-spirit Elders, Artists, Educators, and Knowledge Keepers

→ **How**

Invite Two-spirit or queer Indigenous people to teach about the land, history, residential schools, or to teach art, drum making, cedar weaving.



5. Resources

Youth want to know where they can go to ask questions or seek support that you may not be able to provide.:

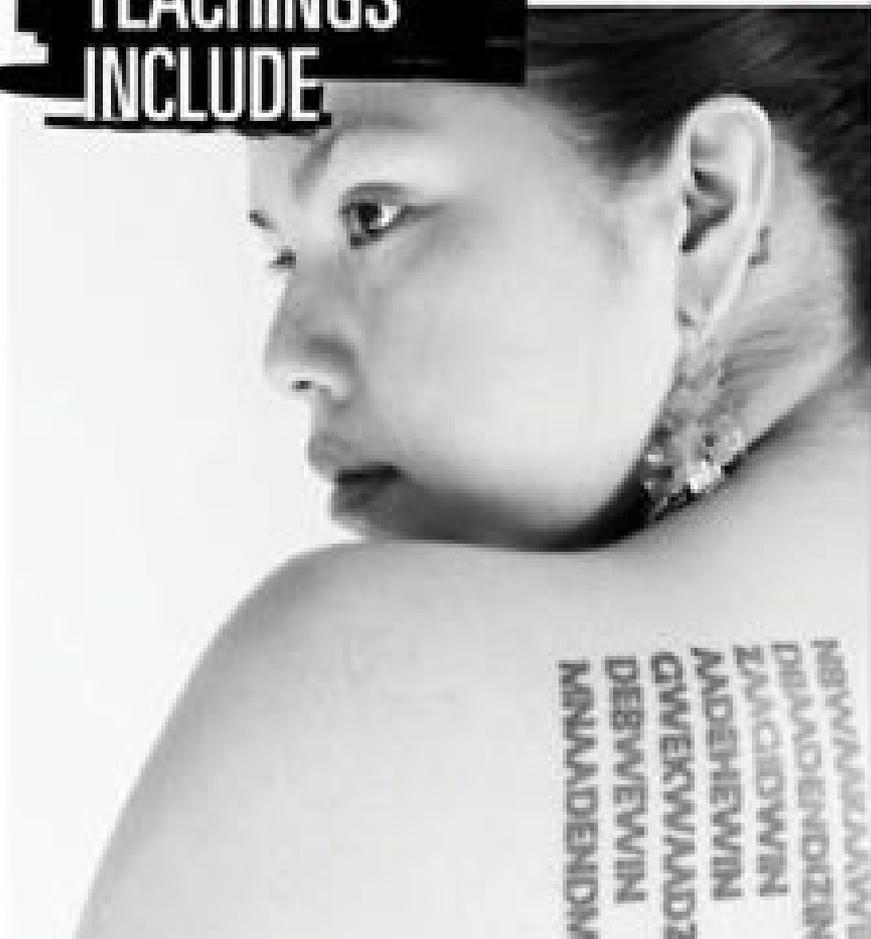
→ **Who**

YOU!

→ **How**

Create a resource list. Find websites, books, articles, drop-in groups.

MY TWO SPIRIT TEACHINGS INCLUDE



Build Connection.

Provide opportunities for teaching relationships between youth and Elders .

Encourage youth to be leaders in their communities.

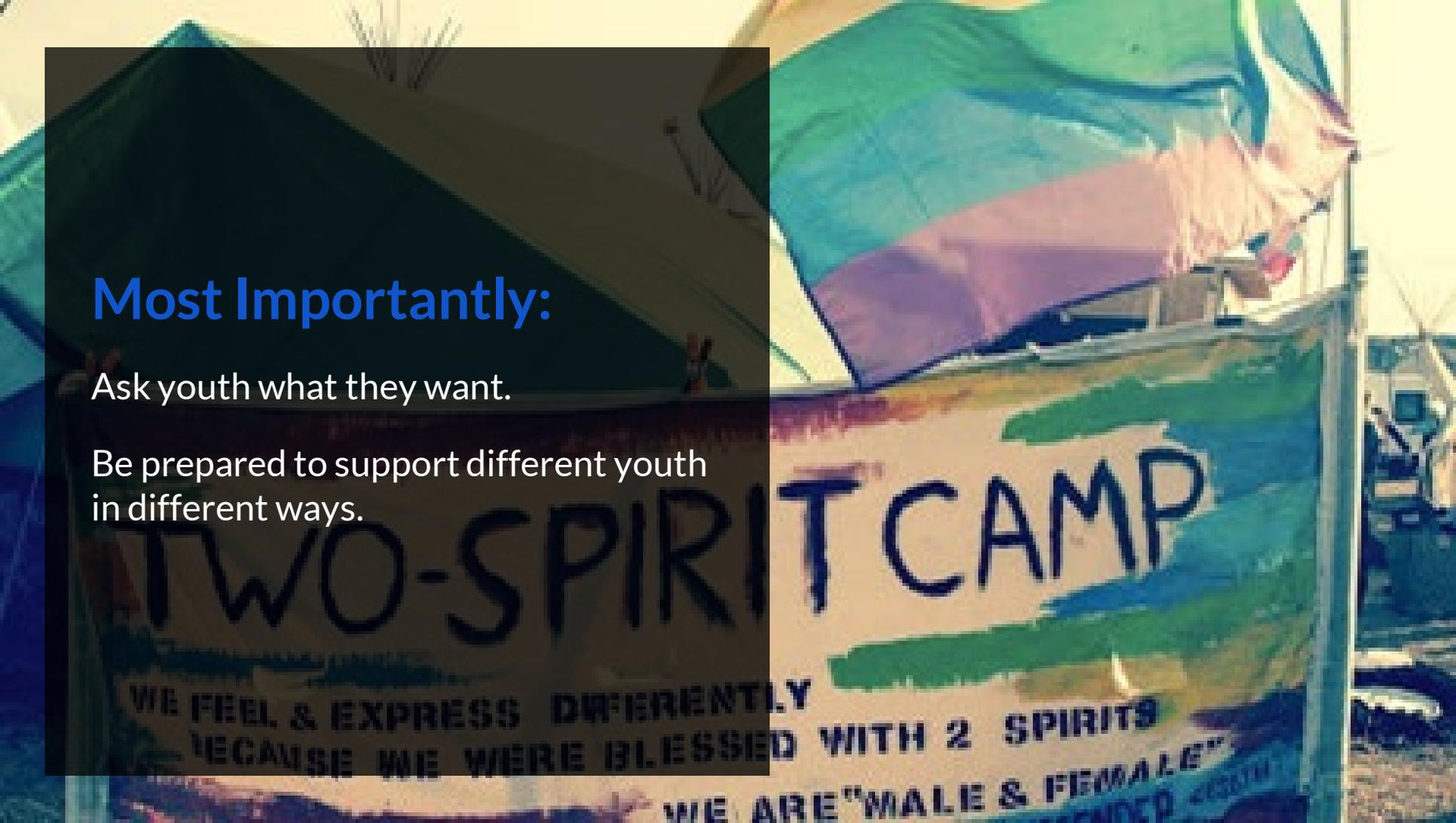
Most Importantly:

Ask youth what they want.

Be prepared to support different youth
in different ways.

TWO-SPIRIT CAMP

WE FEEL & EXPRESS DIFFERENTLY
BECAUSE WE WERE BLESSED WITH 2 SPIRITS
WE ARE "MALE & FEMALE"



Resources:

- www.nativeyouthsexualhealth.com
- Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centre
- Urban Native Youth Association (2spirit@unya.bc.ca)
- Two-Spirit. 2009. (Film).
- Miseducation of Cameron Post. 2012 (Novel).
- YouthCo Yuusnewas

Contact info for me:

Cell - 604-441-9242

Email - aimeeb2989@gmail.com



www.idreamlibrary.com



#BlackLivesMatter in KidLit



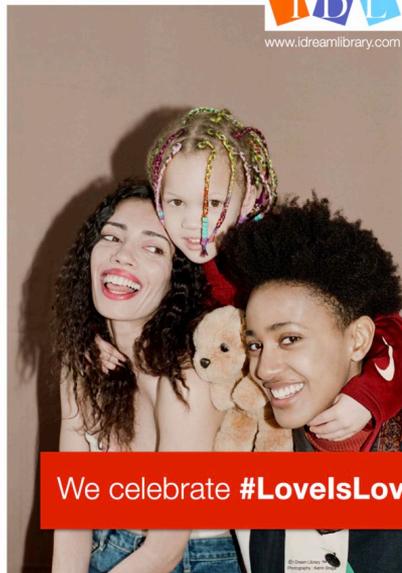
www.idreamlibrary.com



I share my story because
#WeNeedDiverseBooks



www.idreamlibrary.com



We celebrate #LevelsLove

I Dream Library

Our Stories Live Here



**THE CONSTANT ERASURE
OF BLACKNESS AND
INDIGENEITY,
ALONGSIDE THE
CULTURAL
APPROPRIATION OF THEIR
EPISTEMOLOGIES
ENABLES HISTORICAL
TRAUMA TO PERSIST.**

- ROSA HUITZITZILIN
FOR LIFE AS CEREMONY VOL. 4



Kyle Shaughnessy, RSW

Trans and Two Spirit Advocate and Facilitator

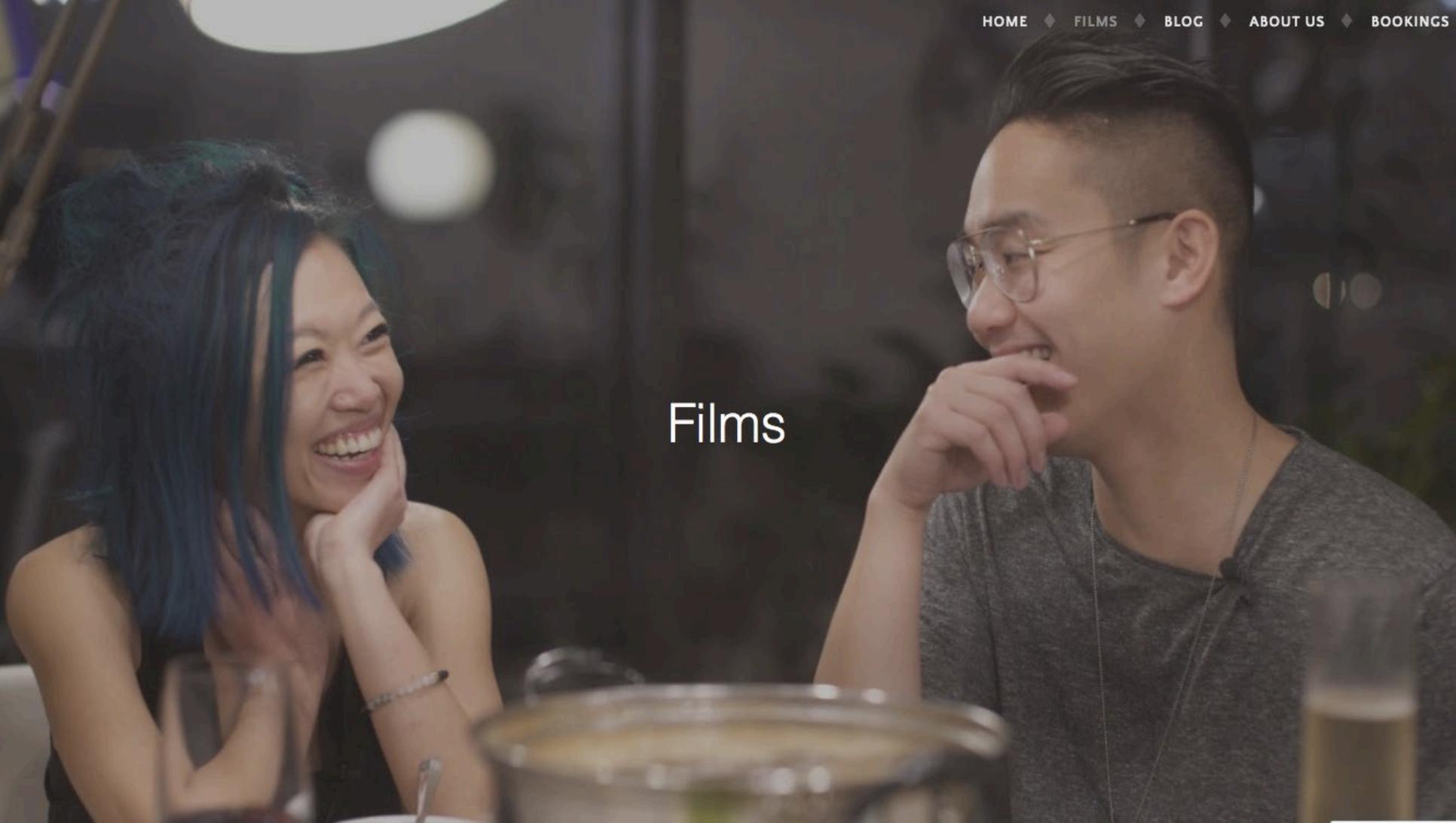
**Former Project Manager of C.A.L.L. Out which
produced this useful GSA Guide**

http://www.phsa.ca/transcarebc/Documents/Child_youth/So_you_wanna_start_a_gsa.pdf





LOVE INTERSECTIONS

A photograph of a man and a woman sitting at a table, laughing together. The woman on the left has long, dark hair and is wearing a black top. The man on the right has short hair, wears glasses, and a grey t-shirt. In the foreground, there is a large metal pot of food on the table. The background is dark with some bokeh lights.

Films