Peace Should Not Be This Fragile
FragilePeace is a nonprofit human rights organization based in the United States. Partnering with vulnerable communities, we use art, creative problem solving education and global digital collaboration to find innovative, community driven solutions. Our efforts combine to reignite confidence and amplify self-assurance, empower intuitive and collective leadership development, and advance personal and community economic growth.

FragilePeace was organized in January, 2016. Our programming was in part developed in the Democratic Republic of Congo, at the Panzi Hospital, and has its roots in the successful after care program designed to assist marginalized women and children receive the support they need to continue to heal physically and emotionally, and regain their sense of self respect and empowerment.

“We have developed a scalable and repeatable methodology that ignites creativity and inspires confidence in an individual’s creative choices, teaches the concept of creative problem solving (CPS) to develop unorthodox thinking, and hones organizational and leadership skills within vulnerable and indigenous communities.

During this process we enhance access to public and private resources using digital collaboration with groups locally and globally.

We build hubs as anchors in the communities and regions we work in. This allows all projects and problem solving teams within the general area of the hub to communicate and work together. The hubs also operate as archives for indigenous wisdom systems, and knowledge bases, around the country and around the world.

We provide continuing mentorship to ensure guidance and support geared towards economic independence and cultural sustainability.

Our successful process allows us to develop culturally diverse leadership teams in a variety of locations around the country and the world. We exchange ideas to find innovative, community-driven solutions to community problems.

“Creativity can solve almost any problem. The creative act, the defeat of habit by originality, overcomes everything.”

George Lois
OUR TEAM LEADER IN SANTA FE, JEREMIAH STAR (JEMEZ) AND A MEMBER OF OUR GLOBAL TEAM
Young adults and children in vulnerable and displaced communities and societies under duress, are in need of a program that instills pride in cultural identity, personal confidence, and increased leadership capabilities. Additionally, it needs a program that helps them build coalitions, alliances and partnerships within their communities that will combine resources and offer support.

Despite the growing understanding of the value of indigenous and cultural wisdom, which includes alternative educational systems and the value of heterogeneous peer group problem solving skills, we have yet to fully bridge the gap between understanding its value and importance, and adopting a system that integrates the best of both worlds. The source of community and national solutions must be intrinsic, and they must be focused on domestic sustainability.

If we combine the innate traditional wisdom and ingenuity of vulnerable populations, with programs that enhance their natural ability to imagine and design solutions we can find answers to some of the biggest humanitarian issues of our time.

One of the most pressing issues in these communities is job creation. There is a wealth of business incubation and entrepreneurship resources available to the educated Western world, but easy access to their value is largely unattainable to the communities that we work with. The reasons include very little history of entrepreneurship and business development to fall back on, a lack of networks, mentors and financial access, and a history of discrimination and oppression.

We need to find ways to open the doors to entrepreneurship and business development that aligns with traditional values; and enable these communities to find a suitable path of developing economic growth. Unless we assist them in reaching their potential, they will continue to struggle to
women

The world’s greatest untapped natural resource.

FRAGILEPEACE STUDENTS FROM ÉCOLE SECONDAIRE SAINT-LAURENT, MONTREAL, CANADA
what tools do we use?

reimagine yourself as a positive force and an economic asset

ART AND CREATIVITY
is the process of creating something from nothing. Creating art instills pride and develops skills of self-reflection, persistence and creative problem solving.

Art develops fast thinking, imaginative and flexible minds, and that is absolutely where success lies in the future.

What sets this program apart is that it is not the finished product that’s important, its about the journey to create, which its where the greatest learning experience comes from.

Creativity is one step in developing a learning platform and a communication system, used by our clients, their communities, and our innovation teams; capable of addressing social justice, personal development, cultural recovery, multicultural interaction, and community and personal economic development.

CREATIVE PROBLEM SOLVING
is a curriculum and a process, and it nurtures abstract, out of the box thought processes.

It encourages thinking in an abstract manner, and takes a divergent approach to solving problems that have resisted quick or straightforward solutions, such as solving water problems in your community, or finding a way to use your innate abilities and passions to develop a sustainable lifestyle.

The techniques are relatively simple. Brainstorming, role-playing, or “problem lotto”, a step by step game that demonstrates there is rarely one answer to any question, are just some of the many ways it operates.

If the development of active imaginations allows us to picture ourselves living a different life, then learning to think outside the box opens a world of possibilities to finding solutions that let us live the life we choose; not the life we feel we have been forced to live.
CREATIVE OR ADAPTABLE PROBLEM SOLVING (CPS) methodology uses lateral thinking techniques that use provocation to force a shift in thinking—a leap in neural network pathways—leading to more creative solutions.

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**WHICH IS?** Out of the box thinking. Or more precisely, taking the box apart and putting it back together again in as many different ways that you can think of. Use one idea as a springboard for another idea. Seek wild answers and go for quantity. Always defer judgement.

**WHERE DOES ART AND CPS INTERSECT?**

Artistic creations are born through the solving of problems. How do I turn this clay into a sculpture? How do I portray a particular emotion through dance? How will my character react in this situation?

Without even realizing it, people who participate in the arts are consistently being challenged to solve problems. All this practical problem solving develops skills in reasoning, decision-making, and understanding. This helps develop important problem-solving skills necessary for success in any career. Art is uncharted territory, just like many problems we all face.

While it may not be immediately apparent, creative problem solving and art share the following steps:

- **Problem clarification.** The real problem is not always visible, and is nearly always a fundamental problem.
- **Find as many ideas and alternatives you can.** The answer may come from the most unexpected places. Connect dots you normally wouldn’t.
- **Evaluate the answers.** But not while you are brainstorming.
- **Determine how to implement.** Make a plan.
what tools do we use?

**COLLABORATION** is face to face connectivity using global teleconferencing, with far away places and very different cultures, and with similar and/or diverse communities right around the corner.

We connect with mentors and advisers, experts, and consultants in specific subjects, and talented problem solvers like our own. We connect resources.

We connect to business advisory councils, business incubators and entrepreneurial organizations to create economic development consistent with ancestral values, and promote sustainability.

Our resources includes schools and universities including online educational assets, and innovation and idea generators.

**HUBS** are anchors in the communities and regions we work in. This allows all projects and problem solving teams within the general area of the hub to communicate and work together, teaching and learning, and developing mentorship and leadership opportunities.

Hubs help control the communication aspect of our collaboration network.

They can function as archives for indigenous wisdom systems and operate as local knowledge bases.

**CREATIVE PROBLEM SOLVING TEAMS** are capable of providing imaginative, holistic and compelling solutions. These teams are established with and by our participants, as they progress through our programming.

They collaborate with other individuals and teams. And with diverse private and public organizations, academia, and corporations large and small.

They also learn to train other teams and individuals, becoming assets to their communities.

we operate from a core principal of the web which posits that small contributions from many people can combine to build powerful, unique results in the aggregate.
Our belief in the innate creativity, imagination and ingenuity of the human mind is absolute. These are the very qualities that created civilization.

Those skills can never be lost though they can be overwhelmed by history and circumstance. Their reemergence is a matter of establishing the confidence of the individuals and communities to believe in their own inherent and instinctive abilities.

We work to reimagine ourselves as part of a diverse global set of cultures, rather than being restricted to a singular, historical point of view.

Once you rediscover the assets and attributes you have always possessed, the positive outcomes are limited only by your imagination. One of the most important is to develop your own, personal economic resource set.

Our partners are global experts in academia, business development, entrepreneurship, and finance. We work together towards the goal of sustainable economic development at the local, national, and international level; nurturing the growth of adaptive and evolving economic self-sufficiency that respects traditional values.
WHY COLLABORATE?

In our 21st century world, the creativity and connectivity we encourage in our clients have become essential to solving local community needs. Interacting with similar projects and groups allows individuals and communities to combine resources, create digital economies of scale, trade knowledge and become friends and colleagues; it can be transformational when we share and exchange knowledge, as opposed to competing for it.

Using teleconferencing, social media, and digital global collaboration helps breakdown the sense of isolation in communities. We all gain seeing the differences in cultures, but also and far more importantly, we gain by better understanding our commonality and shared experiences.

We can create one on one collaborative activities, or partnership models which are long lasting, scalable and transformative, and which create shared value.

By sharing information, resources, activities, and capabilities we can achieve things together that we could never achieve alone; creating sometimes surprising alliances and strategic partnerships, mobilizing expertise and hard to reach resources and creating shared accountability in an increasingly complex world.

“Affective trust is especially critical in creative collaboration because unlike collaboration that merely involves the sharing of labor, creative collaboration requires the sharing of new ideas.” Roy Chua, Harvard University

What is ‘affective trust’? An emotional belief that another person has one’s best interests at heart.

FragilePeace helps to develop affective trust by collaboration within and around our hubs and programs. By working with trusted partners and schools, and diligently developing self-esteem, intellectual acuity, and cultural metacognition within our programs, our clients learn to trust in their insights and discernment, broadening their participation in collaborative activities.
it’s never too early to meet the rest of the world

KidVenture - A Passport to New Friends
from Chinle School on the Navajo Reservation to Tyrone, Pennsylvania

The program fosters inclusion and acceptance of different cultures, genders, races, and religions.

The use of art, creativity and the inherent problem solving in that process, instills pride and a sense of accomplishment, and is a proven way to improve test scores.

And to connect with new friends for five years via digital collaboration.

This is a five-year project started in 2017, designed to introduce students to new friends from a different culture and foster an understanding of multiculturalism.

And to give the children an understanding of the vast geography that makes up the United States, and their place in the greater context of an interconnected, global community.
We are exploring the intersection of Sustainability and Human Rights at Santa Fe Community College.

We look at examples of ancient and modern methods of sustainable innovation, while we examine strategies to foster these skills, create a flexible and inspired work culture and space, and explore ways to navigate the obstacles that discourage free-thinking.

The exercise is to create a new community without relying on any preexisting conditions. Our collaborative partners are many and diverse and include experts on revitalizing urban communities, Native American scholars, Inuit partners in Quebec, water and land experts, community organizers and others.

“IF YOU HAVE AN APPLE AND I HAVE AN APPLE AND WE EXCHANGE THESE APPLES THEN YOU AND I WILL STILL EACH HAVE ONE APPLE. BUT IF YOU HAVE AN IDEA AND I HAVE AN IDEA AND WE EXCHANGE THESE IDEAS, THEN EACH OF US WILL HAVE TWO IDEAS.”
George Bernard Shaw

OBJECTIVES:

- Develop tools and frameworks to help plan and implement
- Develop change, project and risk management skills
- Exploring problem solving models (lean, agile, etc.)
- Explore ancient and modern sustainable practices and innovations
- Create networking and experience opportunities with peers and field experts
- Develop empathy, awareness, multiculturalism and inclusion through digital collaboration with other communities and groups, nationally and internationally.