

# 2012

## Cultural Navigator Trainee Handouts



Two program participants make holiday cookies together.

# Cultural Navigator/ Family Agreement

Cultural Navigator: \_\_\_\_\_

Individual/Family Parent(s): \_\_\_\_\_

By entering into this agreement:

- We will work together at the Library for a period of at least three months.
- Cultural Navigators recognize the role of mentor-advocate and expect to share their experience and guidance consistent with a positive and affirming approach which respects the uniqueness of each individual.
- Families/individuals understand that their Cultural Navigator offers them support and guidance while they are learning about living in Hartford. They should expect to work together with their Cultural Navigator and participate in social and learning activities in the community and at the Library.

In order to facilitate cooperation and avoid potential obstacles to this new relationship, we agree to the following terms:

- 1) To meet for approximately 3 hours per week for a total of 36 hours over a period of 3 months – the initial 21 hours on site at the Library,
- 2) To meet on time and call each other if it is necessary to change the meeting date or time,
- 3) To keep an open mind and attitude when sharing ideas and information.



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The family, Cultural Navigator and project staff have discussed the relationship and understand it is an opportunity for **everyone** to learn about one another other and to form new friendships.

- We agree to respect personal information and maintain confidentiality unless there is potential for danger or injury to anyone.
- We recognize that our participation in this project is voluntary and requires patience, trust, respect and caring.
- We understand that any participant may decide to end the relationship without question at any time during this agreement period.  
(Please contact project staff, 860-695-6316)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Cultural Navigator Signature      Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Family Parent(s) Signature(s)      Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
HPL Project Staff                      Date

Signed copies of this document will be distributed to the Individual/Family, Cultural Navigator and project staff.

Prepared by IMLS Project Staff, Hartford Public Library /October 2012



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# Cultural Navigator Resource Materials

## BOOKS

Fadiman, Ann. **The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down.** Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1998.

Explores the clash between a small county hospital in California and a refugee family from Laos over the care of Lia Lee, a Hmong child diagnosed with severe epilepsy.

Nguyen, Tram. **We Are All Suspects Now: Untold Stories from Immigrant Communities.** Beacon Press, 2005.

In an ironic reversal of the American dream, 20,000 members of the immigrant community of Midwood, Brooklyn (known as little Pakistan), voluntarily left the U.S. after 9/11. Nguyen reveals the human cost of the domestic war on terror.

Pipher, Mary. **The Middle of Everywhere: Helping Refugees Enter the American Community.** Harvest Books, 2003.

"I saw my father and grandfather shot in our living room," says Anton, a Bosnian teen who now lives in Nebraska. His teachers see him as a potential suicide, and he struggles to make sense of being an American high school student.

Roberts, Steven V. **From Every End of Earth.** Harper, 2009. The stories of thirteen families are followed in this poignant, eye opening look at immigration in America today.

Samovar, Porter, McDaniel. **Intercultural Communication, a Reader, 13<sup>th</sup> Edition.** Wadsworth Publishing, 2012.

Explores how communication, values and styles can vary across cultures and communities. Conveys the idea that successful intercultural communication is a matter of highest importance if humankind and society are to survive.

## MOVIES

**American Made** (2003)

Chronicles the conflict between a father and son, assimilation versus identity, and faith versus compromise, when the Singh family's American made SUV breaks down on a trip to the Grand Canyon. *Winner of the Grand Prize Angeles Award.* (HPL)

**Becoming American, The Chinese Experience** (2003 / 360 min)

This saga traces the ongoing struggle of Chinese immigrants and their descendants to be fully accepted as Americans. (HPL)

**Dying To Get In** (2006 / 39 min)

Documentarian Brett Tolley pulls the viewer deep into the Arizona desert where so many have perished attempting to cross the border into the U.S. *Finalist 2006 Angeles Film Festival.* (HPL)

**El Norte** (1983 / 140 min)

Focuses on two young Mayan Indians whose lives are shattered by the Guatemalan civil war. They flee to Mexico and then into the U.S. with the dream of starting a new life. (HPL & Netflix)

**Farmingville** (2004 / 78 min)

A provocative and emotionally charged look into the ongoing nationwide controversy surrounding a suburban community, its ever expanding population of illegal immigrants and the shockingly hate-based attempted murders of two Mexican day laborers.

*Winner Special Jury Prize at the Sundance Film Festival.* (HPL & Netflix)

**God Grew Tired of Us** (2007 / 89 min)

Explores the indomitable spirit of three “Lost Boys” from Sudan who traveled together for five years against all odds and crossed into the UN’s refugee camp in Kenya. *Documentary Grand Jury Prize and Audience Award at Sundance.*

(HPL & Netflix)

**Lost Boys of Sudan** (2003 / 87 min)

Premiered on PBS’s P.O.V. series. A gripping documentary about young refugees from the Sudanese conflict, as well as a moving story of survival and acclimation in a strange and daunting land. (Netflix)

**9500 Liberty** (2010 / 80 min)

Documents the only two months in American history where an “Arizona Style” immigration law is actually implemented- and why it was so quickly repealed. Prince William County, Virginia adopts a law requiring police to question people who appear to be undocumented immigrants. (HPL)

**The New Americans** (2004 / 410 min)

Follows four years in the lives of a diverse group of contemporary immigrants and refugees as they journey to start new lives in America. (HPL & Netflix)

**The Other Side of Immigration** (2010/ 55 min)

Based on over 700 interviews in a Mexican town where about half the population has left to work in the United states. Asks why so many Mexicans come to the U.S. and what happens to the families they leave behind. (HPL)

**Rain in a Dry Land** (83 min)

Chronicles a year in the lives of two Somali Bantu families as they leave behind a legacy of slavery in Africa to face new challenges as Muslim immigrants in post 9/11 America. (HPL)

## Breaking the Ice Activity Worksheet: Suggestions for Initial Cultural Navigator/ Family Meetings

Take a look at the suggested activity column and then turn to a fellow participant to discuss a couple of the activities and what purpose(s) they serve. Then come up with two other ideas to add to the list.

Suggested Activity	Get to know each other	Goal-related	Just for fun!	Sharing across cultures
Take a tour of the library and review the TAP resources together				
Share descriptions of one another's first jobs				
Converse about each other's countries and customs regarding family and friends				
Look at Hartford's <i>Neighborhoods &amp; Treasures</i> booklet to pick out favorite places to visit				
Visit the Career Center at HPL and find basic handouts on job interview skills; plan to visit them later				
Borrow the book, <i>101 American Customs</i> and share similarities				
Sit together in TAP's computer lab to share information from websites highlighting your family's country/culture				

# Cultural Navigator Activity Log

Cultural Navigator \_\_\_\_\_

Family/Individual \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Appointment</b>	<b>Date:</b> _____ <b>Hours:</b> _____
	<b>Location:</b> _____
<b>Focus of session</b>	_____
<b>What was accomplished</b>	_____
<b>Next Step(s)</b>	_____
<b>Appointment</b>	<b>Date:</b> _____ <b>Hours:</b> _____
	<b>Location:</b> _____
<b>Focus of session</b>	_____
<b>What was accomplished</b>	_____
<b>Next Step(s)</b>	_____



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# Cultural Navigator Mid-Point Evaluation Log

Thank you very much for taking a few minutes to provide this information. It will help us strengthen our program and provide data to demonstrate the effects of mentoring on Cultural Navigators and newcomers. NOTE: All individual data gathered will be confidential.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Cultural Navigator: \_\_\_\_\_

Newcomer Family/Individual: \_\_\_\_\_

## A. Program Assessment

What is your general assessment of your involvement with HPL's Cultural Navigator Program?

\_\_\_ Very Successful    \_\_\_ Successful    \_\_\_ Moderately Successful    \_\_\_ Unsuccessful

How satisfied are you with your Newcomer match?

\_\_\_ Very Satisfied    \_\_\_ Satisfied    \_\_\_ Dissatisfied

Do you receive adequate assistance from project staff?    Yes     No     Please explain:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Please rate each of the following program components:	Not Enough	Just Right	Too Much
Information about the program at the interview session			
Information about Newcomer families			
Cultural Navigator training			
Staff support during 3-month partnership			

What suggestions do you have for improving the program?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



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**B. Mentoring Experience Assessment**

How satisfied are you with your experience as a Cultural Navigator?

\_\_\_ Very Satisfied     \_\_\_ Satisfied     \_\_\_ Slightly Satisfied     \_\_\_ Dissatisfied

How effective do you feel as a Cultural Navigator?

\_\_\_ Very Effective     \_\_\_ Effective     \_\_\_ Not Very Effective     \_\_\_ Not at All Effective

Please indicate a few possible reasons for your feelings:

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How is Cultural Navigating affecting you personally? <i>(please check all applicable responses)</i>	To a Great Extent	Somewhat	Not At All
I am learning new things about myself.			
I find it easy to be a Cultural Navigator.			
I have a better understanding of the needs and issues of Newcomer Families.			
I have a better understanding of cultural diversity.			

How is your CN/Family Relationship developing?	Agree	Disagree
The Newcomer Family was open to sharing information immediately.		
The Newcomer Family does not appear to be reluctant to request my assistance.		
The Newcomer Family is learning to become more self-sufficient.		
The Newcomer family and I (the CN) handle our language challenges adequately.		

# Cultural Navigator Exit Evaluation Log

Thank you very much for taking a few minutes to provide this information. It will help us strengthen our program and provide data to demonstrate the effects of mentoring on Cultural Navigators and newcomers. NOTE: All individual data gathered will be confidential.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Cultural Navigator: \_\_\_\_\_

Newcomer Family/Individual: \_\_\_\_\_

## A. Program Assessment

What is your general assessment of your involvement with HPL's Cultural Navigator Program?

\_\_\_ Very Successful    \_\_\_ Successful    \_\_\_ Moderately Successful    \_\_\_ Unsuccessful

How satisfied are you with your Newcomer match?

\_\_\_ Very Satisfied    \_\_\_ Satisfied    \_\_\_ Dissatisfied

Do you receive adequate assistance from project staff? Yes  No  Please explain:

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Please rate each of the following program components:	Not Enough	Just Right	Too Much
Information about the program at the interview session			
Information about Newcomer families			
Cultural Navigator training			
Staff support during 3-month partnership			

What suggestions do you have for improving the program?

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**B. Mentoring Experience Assessment**

How satisfied were you with your overall experience as a Cultural Navigator?

Very Satisfied     Satisfied     Slightly Satisfied     Dissatisfied

As your official match is winding down, how effective did you feel as a Cultural Navigator?

Very Effective     Effective     Not Very Effective     Not at All Effective

Please indicate a few possible reasons for your feelings:

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How did Cultural Navigating affect you personally? <i>(please check all applicable responses)</i>	To a Great Extent	Somewhat	Not At All
I learned new things about myself.			
I find it challenging to be a Cultural Navigator.			
I learned new information about the needs and issues of Newcomer Families.			
I would like to serve as a Cultural Navigator with another family in the future.			
I would recruit friends, family, or colleagues to get involved in this CN project.			

In hindsight, how did your CN/Family Relationship develop?	Agree	Disagree
The Newcomer Family never fully opened up to me.		
The Newcomer Family gradually became less reluctant to request my assistance.		
The Newcomer Family became more self- sufficient during our 3-month match period.		
The Newcomer family and I (the CN) will remain in contact at least once a month in the future.		