~~ *COMMUNITY VIOLENCE* ~~

Community violence is not the issue, community indifference is the challenge
Over the past 10 years B&LPI has presented on the topic of education as it relates to community violence during international conferences in Sydney (2006), Sao Paulo (2007), Vancouver (2008), Seoul (2009), Tel Aviv (2010), London (2011 & 2013), Caguas (2012), Pretoria (2014 & 2018), and Rotterdam (2019).

"Apathy is the stage before violence. So our slogan is not 'Stop the Violence!' it's "Stop the Indifference!'"   ~ John Harris Loflin

"When we revolt it's not for a particular culture. We revolt simply because, for many reasons, we can no longer breathe"   ~ Frantz Fanon

"We use violence to show our love."
    ~ A remark by a Cape Town, South Africa youth on why there is so much gang assaults in her township

"Power corrupts, but so does powerlessness. Violence is the expression of impotence."
                                 ~ Bronowski, *The Face of Violence*

These same international concepts and actions to understand and reduce violence have also been presented during the 2014 African Studies Association Conference, and the 2017 Indianapolis Spirit & Place Festival.

These conference sessions, workshops, and keynote addresses were based on the ideas presented in B&LPI's internationally recognized paper, "They Say that We are Prone to Violence, but It's Home Sweet Home": The Praxis of Hip Hop, Self-Actualization, and Democratic Education for Addressing the Roots of Violence. It was published in the 2015 peer-reviewed *International Journal on Cross-Disciplinary Subjects in Education*. Review [Addressing the Roots of Violence](.).

AACI Action Item: Maslow's Pyramid of Human Needs
Using Maslow (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O-4ithG_07Q) as a frame of reference, the African American Coalition of Indianapolis is reacting well to the challenges of meeting the basic needs of Indy's Black American community: food, shelter, safety, jobs, resources and health by suggesting AACI's 5 Action Items around Community Violence/Police Reform, Housing, Education, Economics, and Food Insecurity.

Regarding Maslow's higher needs of belonging and esteem
 In his book *Breaking Hate*, author Christian Picciolini notes that violence is a result of "a broken search for the fundamental human needs of recognition, identity, community, and purpose." These needs have to be met. If not met in socially acceptable ways, they will be met otherwise.

Below is the summary of "Addressing the Roots of Violence" and answers to the questions:
- What does violence *do* for the individual/group?
- What purposes are achieved through aggression and violence?

The unmet need for recognition is at the root of human aggression and violence

Each person has a basic need for food, clothing, and shelter. We also have a personal need for respect and regard, and to reach our potential. For marginalized communities of low-income urban youth of all colors, normal actions taken to meet such needs can become difficult. Efforts are stymied or blocked by society and individuals in the form of system racism, injustice and prejudice, as well as discrimination through social, economic, and political isolation.

Having these needs unmet, leads to feelings of frustration, powerlessness, hopelessness, and eventually to apathy--the stage before violence. Thus, violence per se is not our problem, normalcy and indifference are. Authentic situations which enable true human regard and respect will reduce the tendency to meet these needs in ways having anti-social consequences.

Such genuine situations are characterized by:
- *actions toward meeting psychological-social needs through personal and cultural clarification, and self-actualization,*
- *the use of pedagogies of recognition and democratic education in our public schools,*
- *appreciating global Hip Hop culture via validating youths' search for authenticity, and*
- *an urban community enabling the uniqueness, self-determination, and human potential of each and every citizen.*