

INNOVATIONS IN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FOR AGENCY OR INDEPENDENT ADVOCACY

UNITING OUR AMERICAN VILLAGE –

AN INTERGENERATIONAL RETREAT FOR CULTURAL WORKERS, STUDENTS, TEACHERS, AND ALL COMMUNITY ACTIVISTS

(Recreation, Legal, Entrepreneurial, Health, Education, Environmental, Juvenile Services, Senior Citizen Services, Parenting Counselors, Arts and Social Justice)

ROLES OF ARTIST & TEACHERS/COMMUNITY WORKERS

ROLES OF ARTIST: Lead icebreaker and whole group sessions; assist the TEACHERS/COMMUNITY WORKERS in the network sessions

TEACHERS/COMMUNITY WORKERS:

Assist ARTIST in icebreaker & PLENARY sessions

Conduct small group red and blue network (either TEACHERS or COMMUNITY WORKERS) sessions: conduct story circles, gather stories, develop scripts for forum theatre, produce stories

DAY ONE:

Icebreaker: for entire gathering of STUDENTS AND/OR PROFESSIONALS

COMMUNITY WALK

(Background music for changing locations: Harvest for the World – Isley Brothers)

Description of Activity 1:

There are 5 blank flowers posted around the room: 1-PASSION, 2-SKILL-SET, 3-JOB DESCRIPTION, 4-URGENT NEEDS, and 5-CHALLENGES/OBSTACLES

Each network member is given COLOR LEAVES representing their designation (BLUE –TEACHERS, OR, RED - COMMUNITY WORKERS) so people can WRITE NAMES ON DOTS and mark where they've been;

- People start out in location 1- PASSION under which they introduce each other, listing their main PASSION(S) on their leaves and reading out loud to group
- When the music plays they move to flower 2 where they will list their SKILL-SET on their colored leaves;
- Play music again and they rotate to 3, the next flower , which is their JOB DESCRIPTION; they list their current duties on their color leaves
- Play music again and they rotate to 4-URGENT NEEDS, again writing on leaves of their representative color (red or blue)
- Play music again and they rotate to 5-CHALLENGES/OBSTACLES

DAY ONE evening/night session:

Re-introduce 5 Elements To whole group:

Then break into network groups:

Use Jo Carson's oral story prompts:

1. "I come from a place", including all levels, referring to your *passions, your **skills, your ***job description, your ****urgent needs, and finally, your *****obstacles
 2. "I'm going to a place" referring to your desired status within each area (passion, skill, job description, urgent need, obstacles)
 3. "I am and I am"(self-image and degree of faith and determination to transform challenges and overcome obstacles)
- PARTICIPANTS tell "caplet" stories (long story >short stories) using these story prompts as story organizers and edit points

DAY TWO /Closing Session

ARTIST DEMONSTRATES THREE IMAGE AND/OR MOVEMENT GAMES

Demonstration of play-party symbol dances (Ranky Tanky Pain to Power, More Than a Beauty Mark)

GROUPS DEMONSTRATE “found” relationships / potential collaborative work projects or programs in

- **Images (statues)**
- **Song**
- **Story**
- **Dance**

Group story prompts:

Two story formats: one written, one oral

Keep ALL stories, get them written OR recorded, respectively, so that the group sponsors will have them for future reference in program design or planning.

Large groups can break into two to work simultaneously on story prompts. That will be up to the number of participants in each affinity network (RED - Teachers or BLUE - Community Workers).

Oral and or Written

1. Tell me a story about a time when the work that you do in the network, the passion that you have, and the urgent need for a network all fell into alignment---or didn't.

2. Tell me a story about a time when an interaction in the network caused a shift in your point of view.

Each group can either select a story (using dot democracy)

Or construct a collective story that represents the group

Or break EACH network (generic or hybrid) into 3-5person groups, each of which would develop a story in images, narrative script, or images with spoken word?

Then, the rest of the time, the network breaks into small groups with these focus areas:

1. EYES: Storyboard images, focusing primarily on the images they

brought in their scrapbooks and other materials or found during writing sessions (magazines, scissors, glue, posterboard)

2. EARS: Soundtrack: talking about the kinds of music that would represent the story, then either creating it or finding it on line, or use Carpetbag cd or Paula's music.

3. VOICE: Finalizing the story, writing the script

magazines, scissors, glue, posterboard

video cameras or tablets for EACH SMALL GROUP (to record each person's story / image idea)

PLENARY CLOSING

Leaders from each group (RED, BLUE) PRESENT ELECTED (CHOSEN) STORIES using whole group or chosen representatives

Reading leaves on trees, the participants form either multi-scene or single scene images, or form symbolic working partner relationships for “Ranky Tanky Pains”, OR “Johnny Brown” OR “More than a Beauty Mark” procession games