

APPENDIX 2: CFC Initial Gathering Notes
August 10, 2015

Welcome, Opening, and Context (Aaron, Molly, Chrissie)

Aaron opened the session discussing the need for Recognizing Capacity, Inspiring Capacity, and Linking Capacity

Molly and Chrissie both honored the “incredible circle of practitioners” and the opportunity to “hear each other’s voices” along with the “power of community, art & healing.” They also invoked “creative communities.” a “love of living in the world” and the inspiration that so many people in the room work at “the site of possibility.”

Molly, Chrissie, and Aaron shared with the group that the intent for this project was to “move forward convening and catalyzing through collective inquiry into a framework for statewide impact for”:

- Engaging emerging practitioners
- Connecting similar groups of people doing similar work
- Building on experiential forces
- Sharing ways of knowing

What are essential qualities and practices of this work and why does it matter?

The cohort discussed this question in small groups with one notetaker in each group who captured key ideas and topics in writing.

Group One

- dignity
- witness
- seeing/being seen
- vulnerability
- heads/hand/heart = learn/serve/reflect
- patterns that lead to dialogue
- valuing tension
- physicalize
- wait to think
- safety
- being present with ourselves & others
- be nimble
- foundation of freedom & values
- step up/step back
- invitation to participate
- being compelled to participate
- honoring & navigating & acknowledging different & representation
- attention to aesthetic
- hope, beauty, joy, play

deep sense of intuition
awareness & experience
trust in people's potential to transform & evolve
deep connection
action & reception
create a domain of trust

Group Two

dignifying element
quality of listening to stories of others, of our elders
witnessing – I want people to be seen, and I want to see

how do we open the containers?
How do we get to a place of being vulnerable?
Just to get out of the way...

Play, cultivate, invoke, create space for play – that cracks open and our stories appear

Intentional time & space for reflection

3 touchstones – head, hands, heart...learn, serve, reflect with students

Rhythm – elemental understanding of our self – hear rhythm is most basic level – then how that rhythm interacts with others

reflection & listening to patterns – how people are doing things, patterns in nature, patterns in systems – dialogue ...waiting to think and see where your consciousness is going

valuing tension instead of trying to “make nice”

setting up for success – fall not fail – important to take risk and step into realm of unknown

creating a welcome – a welcoming space

play in a space of discovery – being in your own body – moving away from the head only – connecting all ideas deeply

creative room for people to define their own definition of success

more adept at owning a definition of success when body/movement is involved

leave ample room to create projects

slowing down to have channel open

establishing safe spaces – for example, it's a privilege to be in your body

understanding context

mutually beneficial experience – students gain from experience not just give – understanding values shared

Group Three

need to have the realm of possibility

structure that offers backbone from which to build a body

security fostered by the structure

provocation – ask the question

safe container but then allow for disturbances – tensions

structure allows people to avoid paralysis

obstacles – where are they useful?

Group Four

Relationships - it takes awhile to create relationships – comes out of spontaneity, and I have a resistance to this format

Doing vs. explaining

Self-conscious in presentation

Resistance to outside format – misses opportunities – HERE & NOW

Respecting what EMERGES

Energy vs. words

Group Five

salad bowl model of diversity, plurality (integrity of each flavor, texture)

collaboration – recognition of others doing this work

reciprocal inspiration

create connections – opportunities to meet each other

training for a process being the heart of the work (methodology)

community or collaborative sourcing – to get people to participate so much that they are suddenly learning

communal movement to do together – not one leader

Dinner and Table Discussions:

What are the elements/practices/collaborative processes needed to create a meaningful and effective statewide “ training” in creative facilitation?

Table One

advocacy to invite and include these whose ancestors are the original caretakers of this land...if they don't respond w/involvement, can we consider why there isn't interest (because of no pre-existing relationship, no guarantee of benefit to those communities). How to grow trust, reciprocity, relationship, etc.

Table Two

How do we invite people without power into our spaces?

How do you create a space to meet?

How do you have everyone sit at the table of family when not everyone uses tables?

Table Three

What does it take for individuals to deprogram?

What are the questions you are afraid to ask in a multiracial space?

Why does it even matter?

Table Four

Story collection – usually skips over youth

Training young oral historians validates – especially of youth of color & low-income

Oral history – heals

Why oral history matters - Primary tools in our culture are social media or mainstream media

Stories are typically archived or amplified in “mainstream” places like museums, universities...ie places that youth, low-income individuals often do not go – and where there are often barriers to access