

# CAT

## CREATIVE ACTION TEAM (CAT)

### *Utilizing the Power of Story for Positive Change*

The Academy for the Love of Learning's Creative Action Team (CAT) is a team of seasoned creative practitioners who design and facilitate joyful participatory processes & creative engagements for select groups around important topics.

Skilled in The Academy's depth facilitation practices, CAT facilitators lift and strengthen personal and collective voices, participation and vision. CAT activates, and reflects back, the wisdom and knowledge of individuals and groups, creating pieces of high artistic value that move hearts & minds. CAT creates a shared horizon of experience that allows individual and groups to engage in vision, and experience renewed inspiration through shared connection.

CAT events, under the leadership of Aaron Stern and Molly Sturges, include humor, surprise, opportunities for connection, reflection and inquiry. The Creative Action Team has participated in activation as small as a community gallery event and as large as a presentation to His Holiness the Dalai Lama. The public event with His Holiness was moderated by ABC News anchor Dan Harris with a panel that included the Founder of Center for Healthy Minds Richie Davidson, and Soma Stout from "100 Million Healthier Lives." The presentation was streamed live all over the world and the reaction was immediate. One audience member tweeted, "The piece was so simple, clean and lucid. . . a lovely blend of elements that struck just the right note for the start of the program,"

CAT responds fundamentally to the needs of partners and is skilled at, and dedicated to, meaningful collaboration. All professional and highly skilled artists and facilitators, CAT members are accustomed to facilitating in challenging environments and adept at adapting project to each unique situation. CAT explores, practices and develops forms for unearthing the stories we live by—remembering stories conducive to life, letting go of those stories that are not, while creating renewed collaborative narratives consonant with health and wellbeing for ourselves, our communities and the planet.

*"I hope it was as clear to you as it was to me that your performative piece on Friday night was extraordinarily powerful and effective. We said at our planning meeting that if we were lucky the actual 6 days might uncover the thing we are trying to study -- the generative social field. You did that for us in the most delightful, playful, deep, soulful and palpable way."*

#### **Who Is CAT?**

##### **Molly Sturges**

*faculty co-lead and lead designer*

##### **Aaron Stern**

*faculty co-lead and lead designer*

##### **Vanessa Torres**

##### **Hakim Bellamy**

##### **Chrissie Orr**

##### **Amy Lin**

##### **Acushla Bastable**

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## How to work with CAT:

### **Step One:** Invitation and Intake

When someone wants to partner with CAT the initial conversations involve getting to know each other and finding our common deepest intent. The CAT lead facilitator asks questions and listens to the needs and intent of the partner. From there, CAT will follow up with a proposal about how to move forward. This becomes the basis for mutual agreement about intent and a design process is created.

### **Step Two:** Collaboration and Exploration

Once the agreement to move forward is confirmed, CAT collaborates with the partner on a co-design and a process for animating the intent within the scale and parameters of the project. CAT responds to the particulars of the project from a menu of participatory processes in the CAT toolkit. Timelines, agreements, processes and contracts will all be completed.

### **Step Three:** Implementation and Evaluation

CAT implements and activates processes ranging from single performances to multi-day participatory processes. Activation tools can include written prompts, collective improvisation or movement. The CAT lead will then work with partners to do follow up and evaluate of the project.

*"I was really (really) skeptical before we began! And I was completely blown away with the depth and lightness of the "show" - we had spent the week talking about social fields, and you went up there and demonstrated to perfection what some of the core elements of generative social fields are."*

— **Mette Miriam Rakel Böll**

## What CAT does:

- **Helps people to feel the beauty and joy in their own wisdom**
  - Leaves partners with something they can return to for inspiration and illumination
  - *Moves groups and communities from fragmentation to integration and wholeness*
    - Creates participatory spaces of inspiration and engagement
    - **Integrates aspiration, inspiration, and historical patterns**
  - **Animates intent and lifts collective vision**
    - Invites the potential into the now
  - **Opens hearts and opens minds**