

OUR CREATIVE FUTURE

co-creating an arts & cultural plan for all

Portland metro region and Clackamas, Multnomah, and Washington Counties

Community Sample Activities

GOAL: *These exercises aim to elicit what creativity, arts and culture mean in your neighborhood or community. You will probably find many, even conflicting meanings that sometimes do not surface in conversations. You can use these exercises as conversation starters, as inspiration to come up with your own games, or as a framework that you can tweak as you need.*

Activity Option #1: Thinking of my neighborhood/community or group, who are we?

Ask people to choose either 1) a place in your community that represents the culture or creativity of your community, or a 2) piece of artwork in your neighborhood, or a 3) well known person in the neighborhood and have them write/draw/represent the history of that place/artwork/person. Then everyone shares. If they don't know the history, they can make it up.

Ask people specific questions, *for example:*

- What was the place used for and what is it used for now?/ When was the artwork produced and why?/ What's the person's life history?
- Why is that person/artwork/person so important to this community?
- Why does the place/artwork/person represent creativity?
- How does this place/artwork/person represent your community as a whole?
- What does the future look like for this place/artwork/person? What do they want it to be?

Tip: *Pay attention to how people talk about what's unique in their neighborhood.*

Activity Option #2: What does arts, culture, and creativity mean in our community?

Ask participants to draw or describe their neighborhood and think about it in the future or as something else...

1. If our community/neighborhood were a piece of art, what would it be? Why?
2. How would you describe the neighborhood's vibe/beat in terms of music? (rap, country, rock, indie) Why?
3. Looking into the future, what do we want our community/neighborhood be known for?