

Activity 0.03 Tree of Expectations

Module: Introduction Module

Duration: 30 Minutes

Social Development Themes: Arts

Summary:

Facilitators can support participants to recognise that they will be bringing a lot of creativity and cultural awareness with them to the workshop. They can build on the Tree of Expectations exercise by looking at the roots of the tree as being the artistic skills, passions and experiences that participants are bringing with them. The soil around the tree could also symbolise the broader cultural influences in participants' communities.

Learning Outcomes: Understand Active Citizens

Preparations and Materials:

Draw the Tree of Expectations on a large piece of paper (four sheets of flip chart connected with sticky tape in a square shape). Bring sufficient Post-it notes for the group to have at least ten each. Write this quote in large on a flip chart sheet and place on wall.

The source of a tree's strength is its root system, and everything that comes after. As the tree grows, it is supported and anchored by the roots. Where are our roots and how can we nourish them?

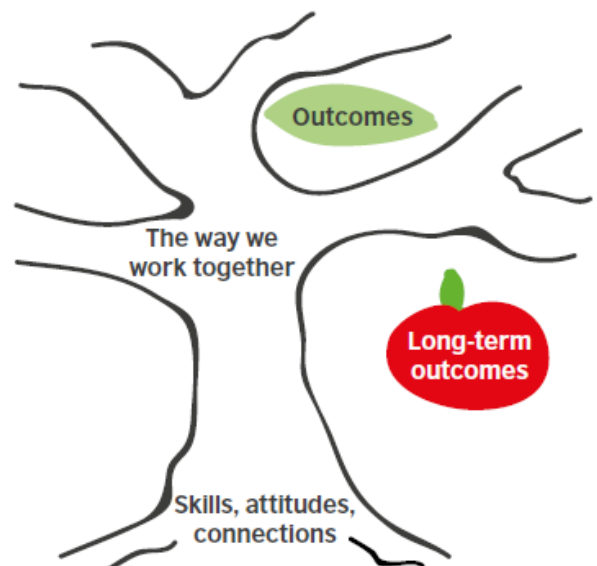
Approach:

1. Ask participants to think about the roots of the tree as the artistic skills and interests they are bringing with them, as well as their broader knowledge and attitudes. Encourage the group to think about their experience of the arts. Do they play an instrument? Are they a good dancer?

2. Once you have gathered information about the roots, ask participants to reflect on the soil that surrounds the roots. To do this, participants should think about the art forms and cultural traditions that nourish them and their communities? Where do they see or feel creativity in their communities? Participants don't have to like the different cultural influences; just notice them. Think about these as being the soil around the roots.

Tree of Expectations

Figure 7: Tree of expectations



Debrief:

It's important not to present this as a competition: if participants are struggling, help them to think outside of the box – are they great cooks? Did they write letters to their friends when they were teenagers? Do they love dancing at weddings? Where do they feel creative? Where do they have most of their ideas?

If somebody starts talking about a particular song or dance, this could be an opportunity to invite them to share it with the group or even to teach it to the group. Could it become a song or dance that's used to open or close the day or particular session? Is there a song to celebrate success or a dance to break into when the energy in the room is low? Is there something that can become the motif, the theme tune of the group?