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### Activity 3.24 The Actual to the Ideal through Image Theatre (The Arts)

#### Module: 3. Local and Global Communities

Duration: 90 Minutes

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#### Social Development Themes: Arts

##### Summary

The exercise uses image theatre to support participants to identify some of the issues in their communities or the challenges that they're facing. It looks at what's happening now and then what the world/community might look like without that problem. It then encourages participants to analyse what needs to happen to move from the current situation (the actual) to the ideal situation. This activity could be used after some community investigating has taken place and once the issues have been identified.

##### Learning Outcomes:

Ability to identify a social development issue to address in the community

##### Approach:

1. In small groups, recap on the stories of the issues in the community. Include thinking from previous exercises – power, conflict, dialogue, community mapping etc.
2. Choose one story/issue that the group feels is important, or think about which issues seem like the biggest barrier to community development or wellbeing.
3. Ask the group to create an image of the problem with their bodies. If possible, the image should include the individual or group experiencing the problem. It should also include the individual, organisation or system that is contributing to that problem. And, it should include a witness.
4. Show the images to the rest of the group, one by one, and ask: Who is in the image? Ask each of them who they are. What do they want? What do they need? What are they thinking etc?
5. As a group, explore what the obstacles/challenges are. Having identified the challenges, ask the group whether they feel there is a potential solution to this. Do we agree that change is possible?
6. Having identified the issue and the community as it is, ask the groups to create an image of what the ideal situation would be. What would the community look like without this problem?
7. Ask each group to show back both of their images – the actual and the ideal. Look more closely at the ideal image. Again, ask the characters what they want now, what do they need? What are they now thinking? What are they now feeling?
8. Having identified that change is possible, you need explore the actions for change. Whose responsibility is it? How are we going to get there?
9. This could be a key part of thinking about social action and preparing for the next chapter of their Active Citizens journey.