

## ***Our Shared Experience; Exploring Identity Through Image, Text and Creative Arts***

This interactive workshop uses photographs, oral history, personal story, and primary source material to explore topics such as microaggressions, privilege, and racial identity. Participants will gain skills in the practice of creative inquiry based social action. They will take on roles, create frozen pictures, read and listen to stories, and create a visual response to these specific topics, as well as broader themes of diversity, access, and engagement.

The primary objectives of this workshop are for community members to connect meaningfully with those who are different from them and to explore new creative techniques for processing challenging situations. It will address many aspects of the eight focus areas, specifically honing in on goals number three and six:

- 3. How to listen and learn from each other's stories of identity and difference*
- 6. How to reach across divides of difference to connect with those who are different from us*

In the first part of the workshop participants will use photographs, oral history, personal story, and primary source material as a basis for a creative response that communicates identity and builds perspectives. These images and texts will range from current to historical, realistic to abstract, and fictional to biographical. They will explore topics such as microaggressions, privilege, and racial identity. Participants will take on roles, create frozen pictures, scenes, read and listen to stories, and create a visual response to these specific topics, as well as broader themes of diversity, access, and engagement.

In the second part of the workshop the visual pieces will be curated into an exhibit. Participants will go through a guided response protocol and written responses will be developed into performative pieces such as poems, choral readings and short videos.

By the conclusion of the workshop, community members should have effectively used the provided texts and images to process and respond to their own stories of identity, while also connecting with the diverse experiences of others. It is our hope that engaging in this artistic process will provide participants with new, creative tools to utilize for future personal processing and engaged dialogues.

### **Workshop Outline:**

- View gallery of images and note initial responses. *What makes you respond in that way? What do you want to know more about?*
- Distribute text pulled from primary source materials such as narratives from Jenne Power's *Writing as Social Action* course, Storycorps, *This I Believe* text, etc. These texts will be scored for multiple voices and read aloud.
  - *Establish the theme of identity and difference and to begin to develop listening skills*
- Take on the pose of a person in the photographs-vocalize what you imagine that person is thinking/feeling. Share in pose.
  - *Build on perspectives and begin to connect participants personal feelings and experiences to others.*

- Break into groups of 5-7 to share personal stories connected to the themes in the drama.
  - *Connect the themes to participants and ask them to explore their own roles and experiences.*
- Use various art materials to create a 2 or 3 dimensional responses to the stories they heard/told.
  - *The finished art pieces will be displayed and artists will share title/phrase about it.*