

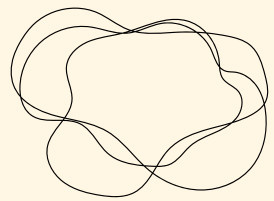


Photos by Side A Photography

# Rehearse the Future!

Strategies in Creative Facilitation

Arts-based strategies to facilitate deeper connections during the community planning process.



# Agenda

## Get ready to be “on your feet”

- ✓ Intros + Community Builder
- ✓ Setting the Stage
- ✓ Project Examples
- ✓ Sharing Values
- ✓ Rehearsing with Arts-based Strategies!
- ✓ Closing Reflection



# Guides:

- Practice active listening
- Lean into curiosity + play
- Release perfection
- Take care of your own needs
- Honor stories & confidentially





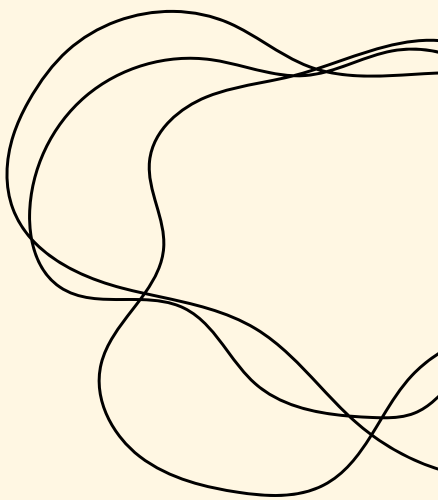
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# Community Builder



# Setting the Stage

**Why does this session topic matter to us, to NDC, and why at this conference?**



# Placemaking Report

Conducted by Project for Public Spaces in 2025

© What's NDC's Role in the ecosystem?

© How do we define placemaking?

© How can values guide practice?

© How can placemaking program grow?

© What resources are needed?



Currently, NDC's stakeholders generally view the organization as a provider of **design services exclusively**, not seeing its capacity for *building the broader placemaking field, influencing policy, and developing partnerships with public agencies and institutions.*"

-Excerpt from Project for Public Spaces' 2025 Placemaking Report for NDC



We have the potential to move beyond project-by-project impact toward new strategies that unlock funding for hyperlocal partners, shift policy and regulation to ease placemaking statewide, help partners navigate bureaucracy, and **convene a community of practice for placemaking practitioners.**

-Excerpt from Project for Public Spaces' 2025 Placemaking Report for NDC



**“Placemaking”** is not always clearly defined, and is often faced with skepticism and criticism from community organizers, academics, planners, and design practitioners alike.

“

At it's most basic: We can define Placemaking as a *process* of co-creating a place holistically, with the people who will use it.”

NDC staff see their work as both **Placemaking AND Placekeeping**





# Putting values into action

The report interviewed NDC partners, who identified values to shape a placemaking program:

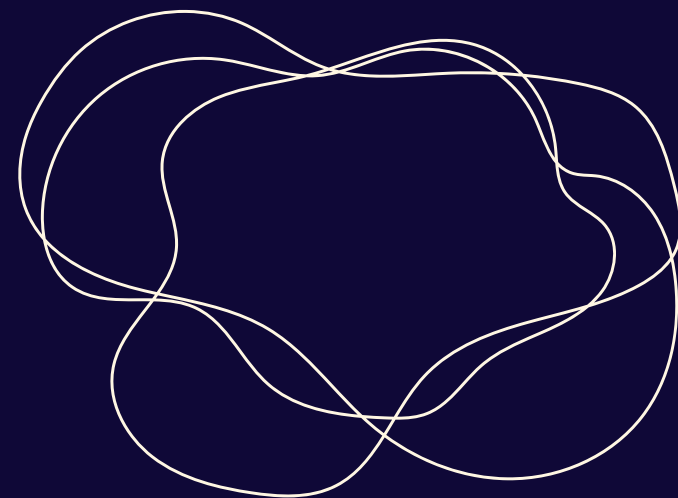
- Trust Building
- Community Ownership
- Creative Problem-Solving



As artists, now we're asking...  
**What are artists' roles in  
community planning, and  
specifically, in placemaking?**

And how do we  
apply shared values?

# Project Examples (Breath Break)



# Made You Look Program: Art in the Right-of-Way

...Growing since  
2019 with many  
partners!

[madeyoulookbaltimore.org](http://madeyoulookbaltimore.org)



Artwork: Chalk Riot | Photos by Side A Photography

**Many of us have a crazy (or tragic) car story – we face speeding cars, bad traffic, and transit challenges every day!**

How can we use our skills and values as artists to deepen the conversation, and therefore – the impact?



Neighborhood: Reservoir Hill | Artwork: Graham Projects

**Short-term:** Safer and more beautiful streets!

**Longer-term:**

Opportunity to reduce car culture & reclaim streets for people, plants, & creatures alike!

Increase civic participation, improve mental & physical health, make life more affordable, get outside, and build climate resilience



Neighborhood: Johnston Square

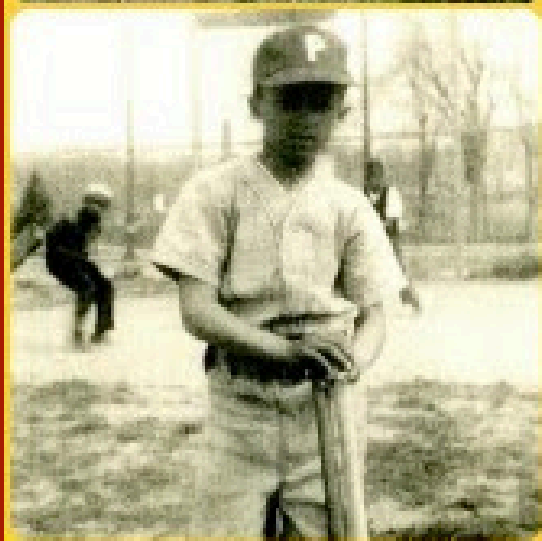
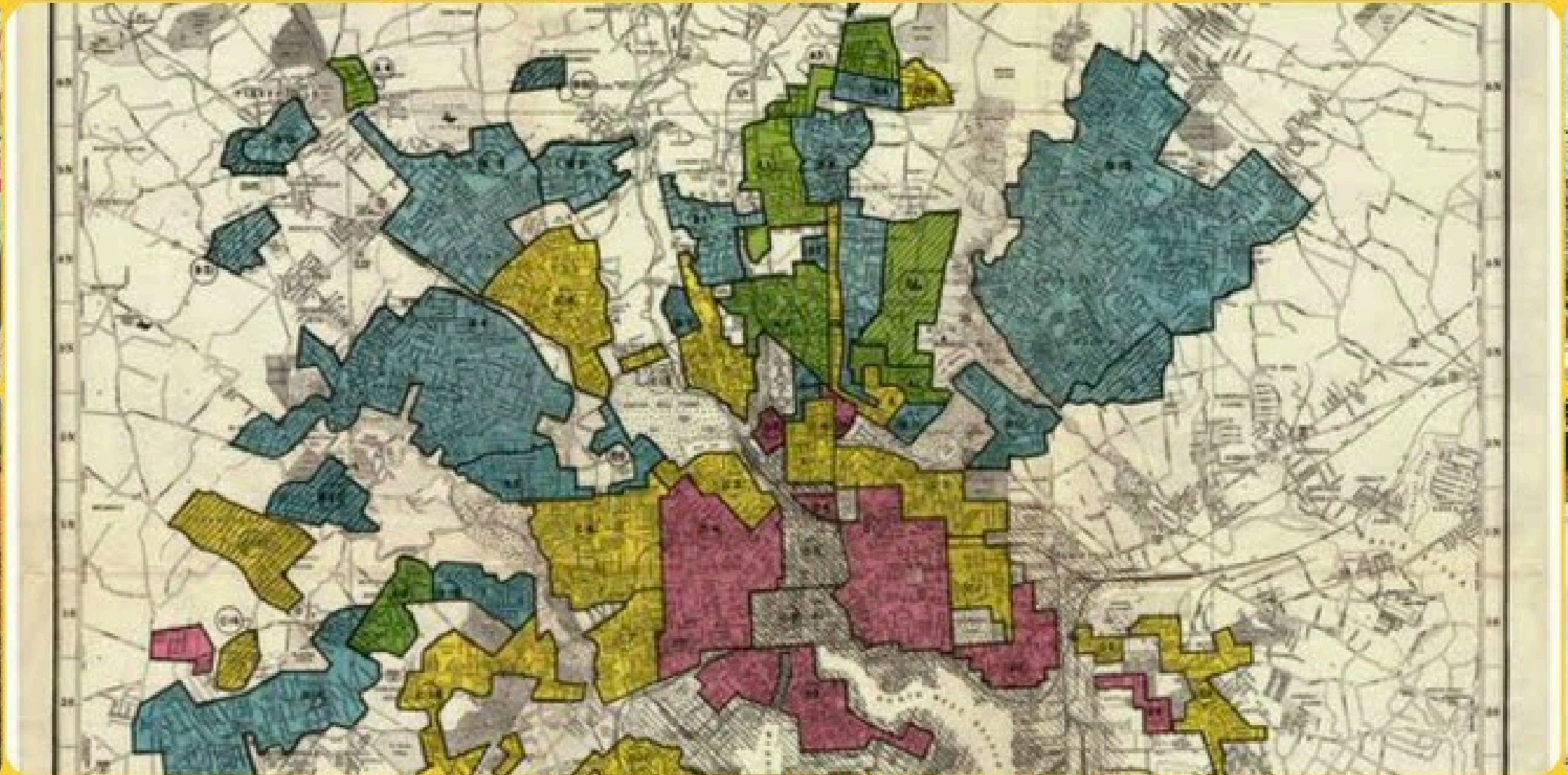
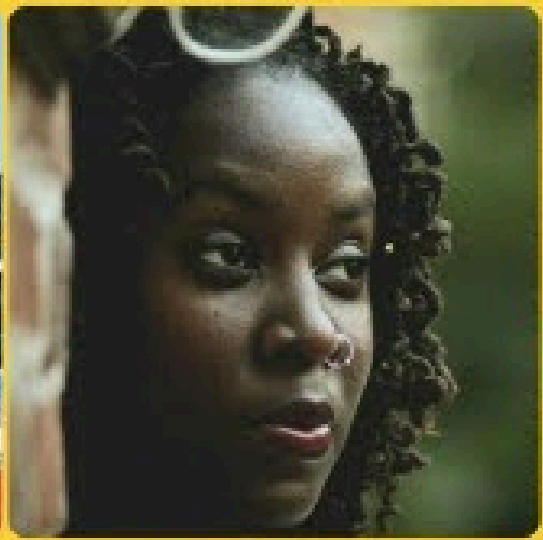
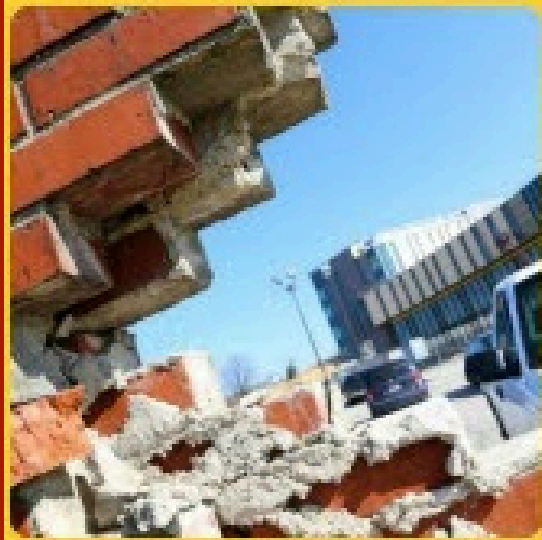
# SNAP!

## Sister Neighborhood Arts Project

- Our Mission
- The Legacy: Covenants and Northwood Plaza
- The Conflict: Neighborhoods Divided
- The Artistic Response: Holding the Line



# SNAP! - Our Mission





*Covenants, A Theatrical Collage about Northwood*



# Covenants: A Theatrical Collage about Northwood



**EQUAL  
SERVICE**

**MAKE UP  
YOUR MIND  
CROSS THE  
LINE**



NG  
**NORTHWOOD PLAZA**

 **RITE AID PHARMACY**



# A Conflict: Neighborhoods Divided





# The Artistic Response: Holding the Line









# Facilitation Values

## Values to incorporate into a planning & engagement process



Radical Hospitality



Share Stories



Embodied Practice



FSI – Flair, Surprise, Imagination

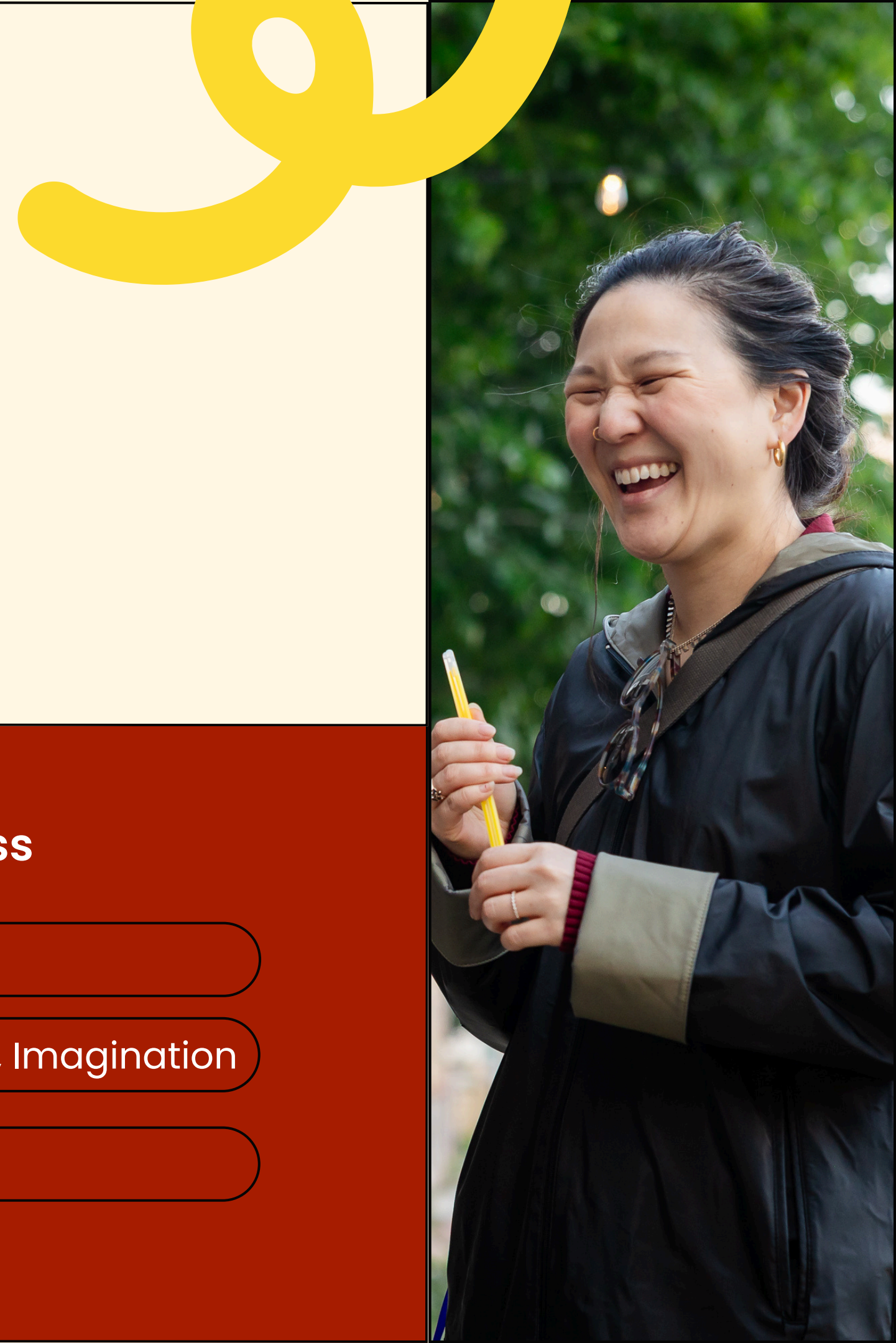


Collective Participation



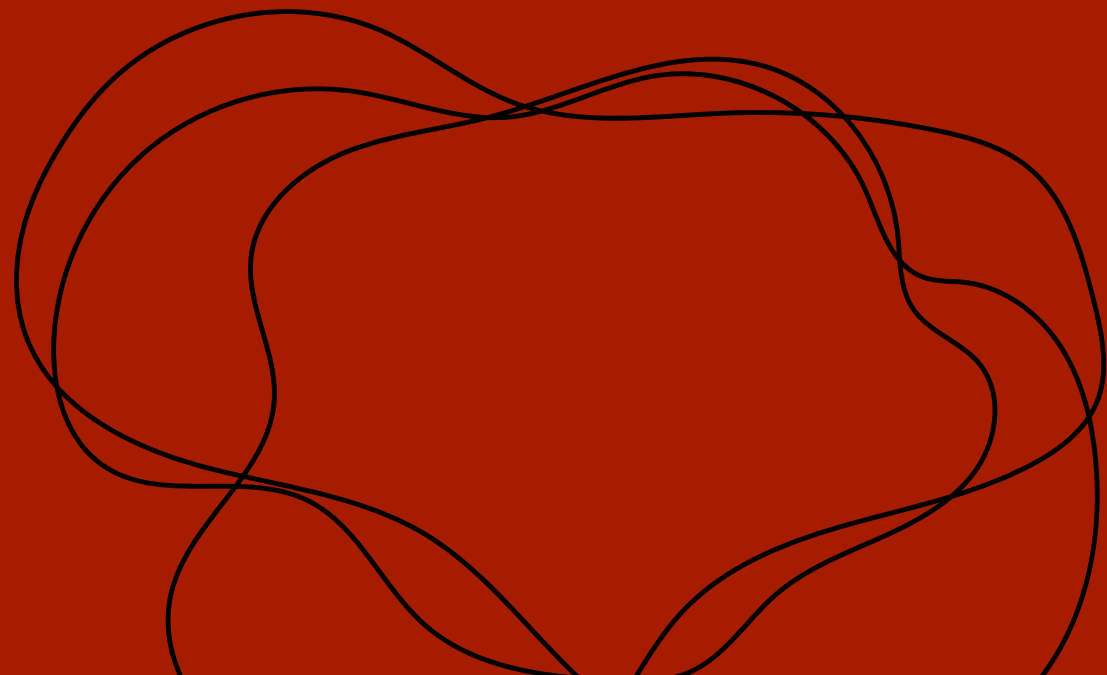
Dramaturgy

\*Adapted from Michael Rohd and Marks-N-Sparks



# RADICAL HOSPITALITY

A practice of designing gatherings with **care and intention**, attending to welcome and belonging as essential conditions for meaningful participation....being mindful of the opportunities to break down barriers.





# EMBODIED PRACTICES

Design agendas that include physical movement and reflection, activating space and recognizing the body as a source of insight, regulation, and learning.

**Examples:** "Getting mobile" structures, collective breathe and low stakes "games"





# Collective Participation

- Design moments where the whole group is actively engaged together or simultaneously.
- Begin with low-stakes invitations and gradually deepen participation
- Creativity and solutions emerge through collective action—and through practice.



# FSI: Flair, Surprise, Imagination

Shake up the norm! Bring something to your next session that feels surprising, unique, special, or an invitation to get out of your comfort zone.

**Example:** MICA's Center for Creative Impact hosted a Jones Falls Watershed "Reimagining Workshop" where participants were invited to design the river's infrastructure as a critter or plant.





# Share Stories

Storytelling and dialogue are core practices for building trust, deep listening, and a sense of belonging.

Don't be afraid to make space in community engagement plans for adults and children to share lived experiences as a foundation for collective learning and shared meaning.

(story circles, pair shares/triads are your friends).



# Dramaturgy

Design with considerations of the overall arc of the Participant Experience.

# Creative Facilitation Structures:

## Tools that apply the Values



Cover the Space



Dyads, Pair Shares



Reflective Listening with Movement



Continuums



Socio-Metric Maps





# Reflection:

- What did you **notice** in your body during this experience?
- What **inspired** you from the projects and activities today?
- How will you **apply** this to your own work or practice?

# Brian Francoise



Rehearsal for Life  
Consulting

***Rehearsal for Life** helps people imagine new futures—and practice bringing them to life. We use arts-based facilitation to support dialogue, creativity, and change across sectors: education, health, environmental justice, and community development.*

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