

# Seeing from the Heart — Guide for ADULT teams

**Festival theme:** *Compassion, empathy, respect, and friendship across boundaries or differences.*

**KICKOFF Saturday, October 5, 2024.** *Today's goals: Learn about the Festival. Learn something about your teammates. Pick team roles. Schedule your next team session. Start thinking about the festival theme. Start thinking about making art.*



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**10:20am SEATING:** Pick up your packet, find your team's table.

**Nametag:** While you're waiting, write and illustrate your name. No art judgment – just for fun.

**Team roles:** Note the roles listed for your team members for today. Feel free to change roles, by agreement with your teammates.

*(Each team is a non-hierarchical group of peers with equal responsibility and equal respect. At the same time, every team member brings unique and different perspectives, experiences, skills, and interests. Members share or rotate team responsibilities and administrative tasks.)*

**10:30am WELCOME.** Montclair Art Museum, Montclair Mutual Aid.

**10:40am FESTIVAL OVERVIEW.**

**11:00pm QUESTIONS?** Ask the Festival organizers.

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**11:10am BREAKOUT – MEET YOUR TEAMMATES, INITIAL CONVERSATION**

**11:10am Icebreaker.** Your FACILITATOR for today calls on each teammate and makes sure that everyone gets a turn. Go around the table, and **share/discuss your personal item or story.** After each person's turn, the team can ask that person a question or two.

**11:30am INTERLUDE:** Explore the Found Materials on tables, and take photos of items you find interesting. Refreshments. Bathroom break.

**11:45am Schedule next session.** Tell your SCHEDULER for the next session any changes to your available times listed in your packet.

The SCHEDULER proposes to the team some exact 1.5-hour time slots and dates (e.g., "7:15–8:45pm on Saturday October 12") within the next 1–2 weeks after October 6, for the team's next session.

The team agrees on the possible times/dates when all teammates are available. The SCHEDULER emails the dates/times now to the organizers at [hi@seeingfromtheheart.art](mailto:hi@seeingfromtheheart.art). (Within the next few days, the organizers will let your team know a match with a co-sponsor venue at one of those times.)

**11:55am Discuss the topic** below together as a team. Today's FACILITATOR calls on each team member to respond to the topic prompt, with a time limit of 1 minute per person. Go around the table several times, reacting supportively to one another ("What I like about your idea is ..., and I'd add ...") and asking questions ("What if ..."). You're free to support or disagree with the writer's viewpoint:

- Boundaries between people are weird. New ones can seem to **pop up suddenly**, out of nowhere – on the word of a divisive politician, or after a horror in the news.

And when a boundary emerges in society, it **magnifies differences** that previously seemed small. It enhances contrast. Grays become black and white.

Like water freezing into the minutest nick to split a mountain cliff, boundaries in society are **strongest where differences are smallest**. Neighbors and siblings fight hardest.

Societal boundaries are not just passive barriers: they **actively push**. They have energy.

And boundaries between people don't just push others away from you; they also push *you* away in the opposite direction. They're **bidirectional**. They **polarize**.

So how can your artwork address societal boundaries? Can it educate? Illustrate? Inspire? Oppose? Overcome? Elude? Melt them away? Express anguish? Fear? Hope?

Or, taking an alternate tack, how can your artwork address the lush, vital, human strengths that hold boundarism at bay: compassion, empathy, respect, friendship, dignity, love?

**12:30pm On your way out**, at the end of today's meeting, stop by the Found Materials tables again and take 1 handout bag of materials that you find interesting, or might like to use in your team's artwork. And shoot photos of any interesting additional materials, for your team's next discussion.

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## *Before your team's next session*

- The **LIAISON** sends the Festival organizers a brief team progress update. How did it go? Any issues?
- The **SCHEDULER** confirms the time and venue of the team's upcoming meeting with the Festival organizers. The SCHEDULER sends a reminder to all teammates before the meeting.
- **Think** about the discussion questions for your next team session, and how you'd like to answer them.
- **Look** at [photos](#) of the Festival's donated found materials.

# Your adult team's **FIRST** independent session

**Goals:** Learn more about your teammates. Explore ideas about making art in the context of the festival theme. Develop a rough vision for the team's artwork. Allocate artwork components to individual team members.

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**15 minutes. Team understanding and enjoyment.** Discuss together:

- How can we show *compassion, empathy, respect, and friendship* within our **own** team? What if you say something about a teammate's work that gets perceived as negative – how would you want that to be addressed?

**20 minutes. Translating the festival theme into art.** Pick 1 topic and discuss together:

- Imagine a scene in which “*compassion, empathy, respect, and friendship across boundaries or differences*” is present. What events or actions occur? Who is there? What relationships or feelings arise?
- What pulls you toward a boundary, or pushes away from it? What happens when a boundary is crossed? What colors, shapes, textures, atmospheres, placements, or relationships could evoke or represent that kind of boundary energy? Can you build that energy from any of our found materials?

**25 minutes. Envisioning the team's overall artwork design.** Discuss together:

- Should our artwork convey or illustrate an explicit message about “*compassion, empathy, respect, and friendship across boundaries or differences*”? If so, what message? Or if not, could it instead relate to the theme abstractly, or indirectly? Can there be multiple messages, or a story or feeling or concept?
- Can you pick out two or three found items that evoke an emotion or curiosity or mystery? From one item, how might you begin an artwork related to the festival theme? How might you add a teammate's item in? How can items relate to one another, or connect in sequence to build a story or raise a response?

**15 minutes. Start designing the team artwork.** Speak for 1 minute at a time. Go around at least 3 times.

- What would you like to see in our artwork? Of your teammates' responses (besides your own), which one(s) would you most like to see in our artwork? Based on all responses, what would you like to rough-build, or sketch, for our artwork, before our next session?

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## Before your team's next session

- The **LIAISON** sends the Festival organizers a brief team progress update. How did it go? Any issues?
- The **SCHEDULER** confirms the time and venue of the team's upcoming meeting with the Festival organizers. The SCHEDULER sends a reminder to all teammates before the meeting.
- **Look** at [photos](#) of the Festival's donated found materials. Request and obtain from the Festival organizers some found materials if desired.
- **Sketch or rough-build** (using found materials as desired) a component or idea for your team's artwork, based on the previous discussion. Bring it to the meeting, and be ready to talk about it.

# ***Your adult team's SECOND (THIRD, FOURTH, etc.)\* session***

**Goals:** Offer creative and supportive ideas to one another for the next round of art-making.

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## **40 minutes. Review the component sketches or rough-builds.**

- Each team member shows their sketches or rough-builds. Teammates call out pearls in each component or idea. Ask questions to elicit creative enhancements or alternatives.

## **35 minutes. Envision the team's artwork.**

- Then each team member talks about ideas for how to arrange or relate the components into the team's artwork. Mention opportunities for the components and the team's artwork to address the Festival theme, "*Compassion, empathy, respect, and friendship across boundaries or differences.*" Lay the component sketches or rough-builds out together, to show possible arrangements.

***\* Repeat and refine as many times as the team wishes.***

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## ***Before your team's next\* session***

- The **LIAISON** sends the Festival organizers a brief team progress update. How did it go? Any issues?
- The **SCHEDULER** confirms the time and venue of the team's upcoming meeting with the Festival organizers. The SCHEDULER sends a reminder to all teammates before the meeting.
- **Obtain** from the Festival organizers more [found materials](#) if desired.
- **Build or refine** (using found materials as desired) a component for your team's artwork, based on the previous discussion. Bring it to the meeting, and be ready to talk about it.

# ***Your adult team's FINAL session***

**Goals:** Assemble the components into the team's finished artwork. Ensure that all dimensions and features adhere to the guidelines. Submit the artwork to the Festival for exhibition.

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**10 minutes. Identify team members for artwork submission tasks.** Volunteer, or randomly select teammates, for these roles and tasks, to be done after the session:

- **Writer.** Draft a descriptive statement on the artwork, and how it relates to the Festival theme. Circulate the draft to teammates for editing and discussion. Provide the final description to the Submitter.
- **Speller.** Create a written document containing the correct, desired spelling of each team member's name, to appear on a label next to the exhibited artwork. Circulate the document to every team member for verification. Provide the final document to the Submitter.
- **Video maker** [for teams making a **mobile**]. Hang up the mobile and shoot a 1-minute video (phone camera is fine) showing how it moves. The video can be displayed at MAM after the mobiles are moved to another local venue, to allow ongoing visibility to MAM visitors. Provide the video to the Submitter.
- **Submitter.** Receive the description, name-spelling document, video (for mobiles), and any other required materials. Enter them into the Festival's online submission form, by December 1.
- **Deliverer.** Take the completed artwork and deliver it by December 1, for exhibition, as specified by the Festival organizers.
- **Receiver.** Receive the artwork back from the Festival organizers after exhibition. Retain or dispose as the team members agree.

**65 minutes. Assemble, polish, and finalize the team's artwork.**

- Teammates together do whatever is needed to combine all components into the finished artwork, and to provide the fit-and-finish to make it look as good as possible for exhibition.

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## ***After your team's final session***

- The **LIAISON** sends the Festival organizers a brief team progress update. How did it go? Any issues?
- The **WRITER, SPELLER, SUBMITTER,** and **DELIVERER** perform their tasks.
- Give edits to the WRITER on the descriptive statement.
- Verify your desired name spelling to the SPELLER.