

Seeing from the Heart — Guide for FAMILY 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 having fun making art.*



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.

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. (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 2 minutes per person. Go around the table 2 or 3 times. Find pearls in each other's ideas ("What I like about your idea is ..., and I'd add ..."). Ask questions ("What if ...").

- When a seed is planted in the ground, it can grow into a big plant or tree. It starts small. It sends roots down into the dirt, and sprouts leaves and branches and flowers. It soaks up water and nourishment from the dirt. It soaks up light from the sun. Each year it spreads out taller and wider. It gives shade and shelter, and it makes flowers and fruits that feed the insects and animals and people around it.

You are growing too. You soak up food and water. Each year you spread out taller and wider. You give more than just shade – you affect all the people around you. You give friendship and work and love, and much more. These things are your fruits, and they feed the people around you. They help your family and friends and classmates and community members have better lives.

You can decide now what kinds of fruit you'll give when you are older. How would you like to help the people around you? What changes would you like to make in the world? What kind of person would you like to be? You can plant a seed now, in yourself, by thinking about these questions, and picking some things that are important to you. You plant that seed in your heart, and watch it grow each year.

What would you like to plant in your heart?

12:10pm Make collage of a seed or plant that you'd like to have growing in your heart, and making the fruits you'll give when you are older. Cut up the magazines on your table and glue down the paper to make a new collage artwork. If you don't finish here, you can bring the magazines home and finish your artwork there.

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.

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 family 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.

15 minutes. Team understanding and enjoyment. Discuss together:

- Find 3 similarities everyone in the team has in common, and one thing that's unique about each person. (Obvious things, which you'd know without asking, like "We all live in NJ," don't count.)

20 minutes. Translating the festival theme into art.

- What does it mean to “put yourself in someone else’s shoes”?

Imagine a story about putting yourself into someone else's shoes. Draw a picture of the story. Who is in the story, and what happens? In the story, how does that other person feel when you put yourself into their shoes? And how do you feel? Draw the shapes and colors of that other person's feelings, and of your feelings.

25 minutes. Envisioning the team's overall artwork design.

- Put the drawings that your team just made onto the table. Can you move them around and put them next to each other, to make a bigger picture? Which drawings should go next to each other, and which ones should be farther apart? Arrange the drawings in a way that you like. With all the drawings arranged together, what story does the bigger picture tell?

15 minutes. Start designing the team artwork.

- What is missing from the bigger picture's story? What kind of drawing could someone add to make the bigger picture's story more understandable, or more complete?

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.
- **Make another drawing, or a collage**, to make the bigger picture's story more understandable, or more complete. Bring it to the meeting, and be ready to tell your teammates about it.
- **Look at [photos](#)** of the Festival's donated found materials. Can you think of ways to use any of these materials as part of the bigger picture, to tell the story?

Your family team's SECOND (THIRD, FOURTH, etc.)* session

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

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

- Each team member shows their drawings or collages. Teammates say what they like about each drawing or collage. Ask questions to help your teammates think about different ways or better ways to tell the story, using the found materials.

35 minutes. Envision the team's artwork.

- Lay all the drawings and collages and found materials out on a table. Put them into an arrangement that tells a story. Try moving them around to tell the story differently, or to tell a different story.

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

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.
- **Get more [found materials](#)** from the Festival organizers if desired.
- **Build or refine** (using found materials as desired) more pieces for your team's artwork. Don't be afraid to throw one or more of your pieces out, and to think of ways to redo them or to replace them, or to improve them. Bring your pieces to the meeting, and be ready to talk about them.

Your family 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.

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.

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.