

COLLECTIVE SENSE MAKING

Harvesting Methodology

Purpose

Art is a powerful way for people to make sense of/in complexity. Co-creating artistic expression allows people to make collective wisdom and learning visible.

Impact

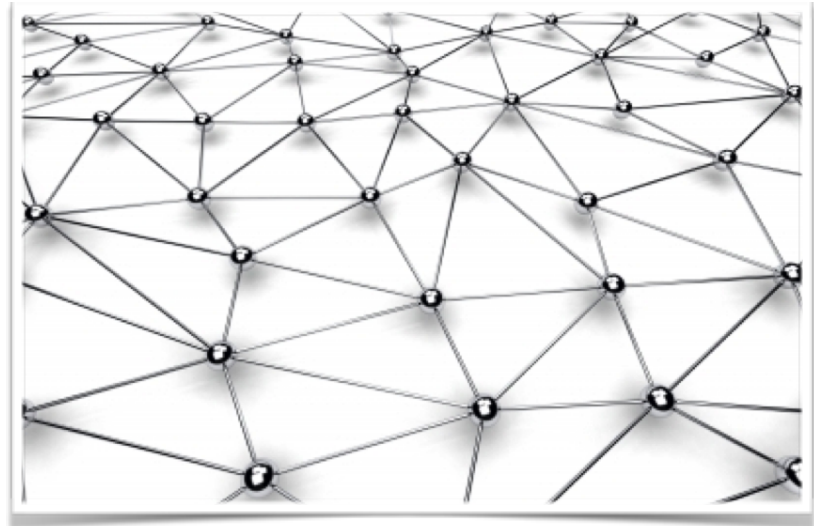
- Discover collective wisdom
- Embody learning
- Practice co-creation
- Synthesize conversations
- Deepen relationships

Application

- **Closing:** Meta-Harvest of the learning journey.
- **Mid-way:** Weave and synthesize harvests and collective learning before moving to action.
- **Opening:** Pre-existing teams introduce their inquiry/ wisdom to each other.

Set Up

- 2+ hours
- Circle of chairs (> 50 so far)
- Marketplace
- Break-out locations
- Art Medium Cards
- Art supplies
- Music supplies
- Harvests (from prior convos)
- Circle Kits



The Flow

1. **Opening** (10 m): the Host introduces the purpose and flow.
2. **Marketplace** (10 m): the Host invites volunteers to choose an artistic medium, breakout location and circle kit.
3. **Co-creation Groups** (40 m): participants self-organize into groups (less than 10 works well), check-in and co-create 1-4 minute presentations.
4. **Break** (15 m): small groups return to the circle.
5. **Wisdom in the Middle** (5 m/group): the Host invites each groups to present (1-4 minutes each) with 30-60 seconds of silent reflection in between.
6. **Closing Reflection** (20 m): the Host passes a talking piece and invites reflection. *What does our collective wisdom look like now?*



Sample

Art Mediums

Spoken Word	Poetry
Dance	Movement
Music	Visual Art
Embodiment	Theater
Wild Card/s	Games

Opening

The Host introduces:

1. **The concept** of collective sense making in complexity through art, embodiment, co-sensing etc.
2. **The Process:** (a) volunteer hosts choose an art medium and location; (b) groups check in & co-create (40 m); (c) return to circle and offer presentations (1-4 min each); and (d) full group reflection (20 m).

3. **The Inquiry:** guided by a series of questions

Check-in: *What am I learning about*?

Co-Creation: *What are we learning about.... ?*

Reflection: *What does our collective wisdom about look like now?*

4. **The Check-in:** emphasize the importance of a good check-in for team work, co-creation, etc. (especially if the group is new to AoH/Circle). Offer circle kits (talking piece, bell, center) if useful.

Marketplace

5. **The Marketplace:** invite volunteers to host one of the art mediums and choose a location by placing it on the Marketplace. Remind participants that hosting the process does not mean that you need to be an expert in the artistic medium.
6. **Co-Creation:** encourage co-creators to join an artistic medium (even one that they may not feel comfortable with) and remind everyone that the purpose is to discover what can only be sensed together.
7. **Group Size:** "if there are already 10 people in the group, another group has chosen you."

Presentations

8. **Presentations:** invite groups to volunteer one-by-one to present without explaining their piece. Invite a 30-60 second pause between presentations.
9. **Reflection:** Place a piece in the center and invite the participants to offer reflection on a useful version of *What does our collective wisdom look like now?*