

## **SAMPLE AGENDA**

### **READY...SET...ENGAGE: BASICS AND BEST PRACTICES OF ARTS AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT**

*Presented by ANIMATING DEMOCRACY, a program of Americans for the Arts*

Knowing how to create meaningful civic engagement is becoming a required skill set—as important as fundraising, planning, and marketing. Build your civic engagement muscle at this interactive workshop featuring key concepts, principles, and practices of arts-based civic engagement as demonstrated via project examples, video, and lively exchange. Learn to maximize engagement opportunities through program design and community partnerships and how to facilitate meaningful civic dialogue opportunities. Participants will have the opportunity to share projects in progress or that have potential in their communities, as well as to troubleshoot planning and project roadblocks with colleagues.

### **WELCOME & SETTING THE STAGE**

#### **CREATIVE INTRODUCTIONS**

Introduce people to each other; get people interacting and talking immediately to create energy and connection; relate to the topic; demonstrate a dialogue technique participants could use in their own meetings.

#### **ARTS & CIVIC ENGAGEMENT: THE POWER AND POTENTIAL** Interactive

- What is civic engagement?
- The unique capacity of art
- Intent, goals, impact
- Art as: SPARK, INVITATION, SPACE, FORM

#### **IMAGINING POSSIBILITIES** (interactive)

- Participants IMAGINE an arts-based civic engagement opportunity (writing assignment)
- Small group, fish bowl, and large group discussions

#### **IMAGINE, DEFINE, DESIGN**

Introduce tool kit

Small groups step through civic engagement project concepts (led by AD facilitator) to consider:

- Starting points (project impetus and driver)
- Civic intent/goals
- Stakeholders, participants, and partners
- Structuring engagement opportunities around artistic process and product
- Maximizing the value of art

**(This can be broken out for beginners and advanced learners and or for cultural organizations and artists.)**

#### **CREATING MEANINGFUL DIALOGUE**

- Mini experience that includes purpose, art, experience, exploration, reflection
- Debrief (designing the Arc of Dialogue)
- Exercise to design a dialogue opening

## **COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND PARTNERSHIPS**

Fundamental principles and practices of community relations and partnerships as well as particulars when it comes to working together toward civic and social goals:

- Creating social networks and capital
- Managing public expectations and perceptions
- Partnership and ownership
- Making partnerships real and productive

OR

## **CIVIC & SOCIAL IMPACT**

Strategies and tools for assessing and communicating the impact of arts-based civic engagement programs:

- Meaningful indicators and benchmarks
- Practical data collection
- Documentation
- Reporting and Casemaking

## **CLOSE**

Draw out learning; bringing main themes and points to the fore (Something I take away is....)