

Community-Based Workshops from Soup to Nuts

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I. Prelude / Setting up

(before workshop starts)

- Goals: be clear about what kind of work you want to do?
- Choose where to work; when possible, build on connections you have.
- Make no assumptions about the place, the people, everyone's expectations or ways of working.
- Visit the site.
- Find out about the population, the neighborhood, and the organization.
- Set it up administratively and identify an effective person with whom to liaison.
- Find out particular rules such as possible limitations on physical contact with the people you are working with.

II. Beginnings

- Feel out the place and people; assess their level vis-a-vis the art form.
- Provide ways for them to feel you out.
- Warm-up: for what? For whom? Activities and conversation topics.
- Build the group.
- Build trust.
- Balance between doing your thing and taking in their desires.

III. The Body of the Workshop

- Establish a workshop structure/routine.
For example, each session could contain warm-up, main activity/ies, closure.
- Plan well but be ready to change plans on a dime.
- What is the structure of entire project? How much time is needed to build it?
- Build skills and level of engagement.

IV. From Process to Product

- Is it preferable to shift to production mode and at what point?
- Assess what can be produced: goals vis-a-vis the participants, you, the place.
Who is the intended audience?
- Determine the sorts of products that lend themselves to limited expertise.

V. Closure

- For them.
- For you (assessment).
- For funders/participants; make sure you've documented work.

VI. Follow-up

- Are you returning? Is someone else?
- Are there upcoming events (exhibitions, performances, screenings, etc.) you can return for?
- Can you get them in touch with other resources?
- **Have you left something behind that can continue without you?**

Facilitators also need to participate in workshops from time to time to renourish themselves. Read texts that are both directly and indirectly related to art and community subjects. Find outlets for your own personal creativity so that too much does not ride on leading workshops.