

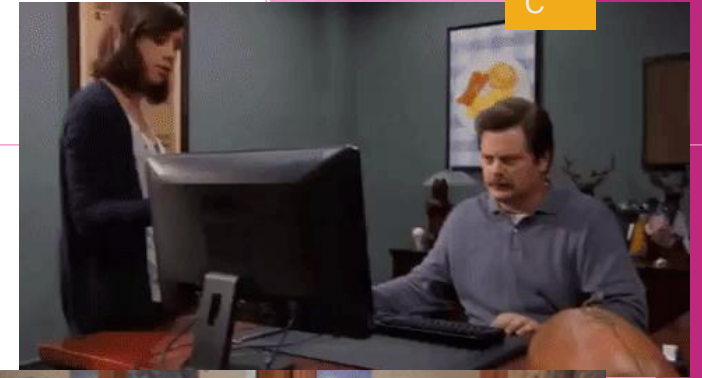
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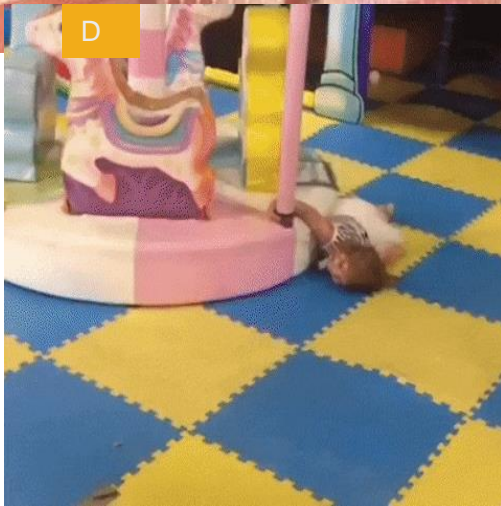
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In the chat: Name (Pronouns),
Organization; How are you feeling
today?

A vibrant watercolor splash in shades of green, yellow, and red, with several colorful butterflies (blue, yellow, and orange) flying above it.

S.E.A.R.C.H

SOCIAL EMOTIONAL ARTS & RADICAL COMMUNITY HEALING

Participatory approach to arts, restorative practices, racial justice, and positive youth development. SEARCH offers the integration of liberation and education psychology, engaging participants in transformative and radical community healing coupled with social and emotional development through the creativity and identity exploration.



ILLINOIS QUALITY AFTERSCHOOL

PRAXIS
INSTITUTE

PRAXIS

INSTITUTE

Praxis works with partners who are youth centered and committed to high quality learning and developmental experiences. Our hands-on approach is inclusive of all stakeholders and is grounded in the application of anti-racist, healing-centered, evidence based and participatory engagement strategies. We provide support and services to help our partners integrate theory and practice in order to engage, empower, and embolden young people and communities to be agents in the creation of their individual and collective wellbeing. We work collaboratively with our partners to provide inclusive interactions and participatory practices that inform every step of the process.

Liberation is a praxis: applying theory, taking action, and reflecting... in order to transform the world.

• Paulo Freire

The Praxis Institute

Leading Communities of Praxis to bring practitioners together for critical reflection, collaborative learning, and provide access to vital research in order to bridge the theory and practice divide in positive youth development.

Building Equity and Anti-Racist practice and policy.

Coaching & Learning Experiences for practitioners to develop engaging, inclusive, objective-driven and high-quality youth programs.

Developing High Quality Curriculum including research aligned resources & tools for practitioners and program participants.

Democratizing Evaluation tools & implementation strategies for program improvement, stakeholder engagement, and collaborative data planning.

Agenda

- ▶ Welcome
- ▶ I AM.. My Truth
- ▶ SEARCH Overview
- ▶ Identity Mapping
- ▶ Healing Circle
- ▶ Mindfulness (Closing)



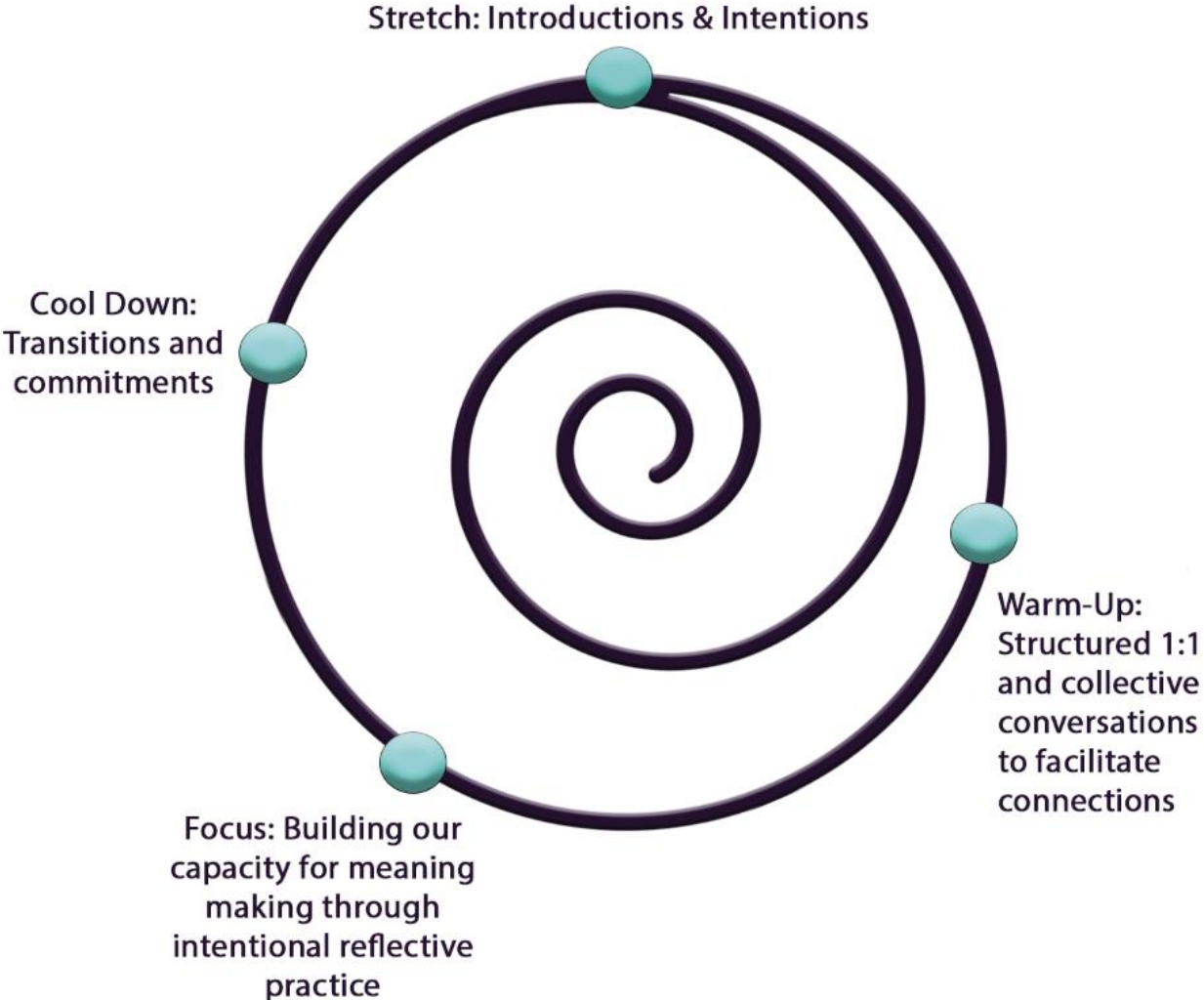
Shared Agreements for Today

- Respectfully contribute your ideas
- Ask thoughtful and clarifying questions
- Reflect on past positive experiences
- Listen to understand
- Share ideas and resources.
- Respect diverse opinions and perspectives.

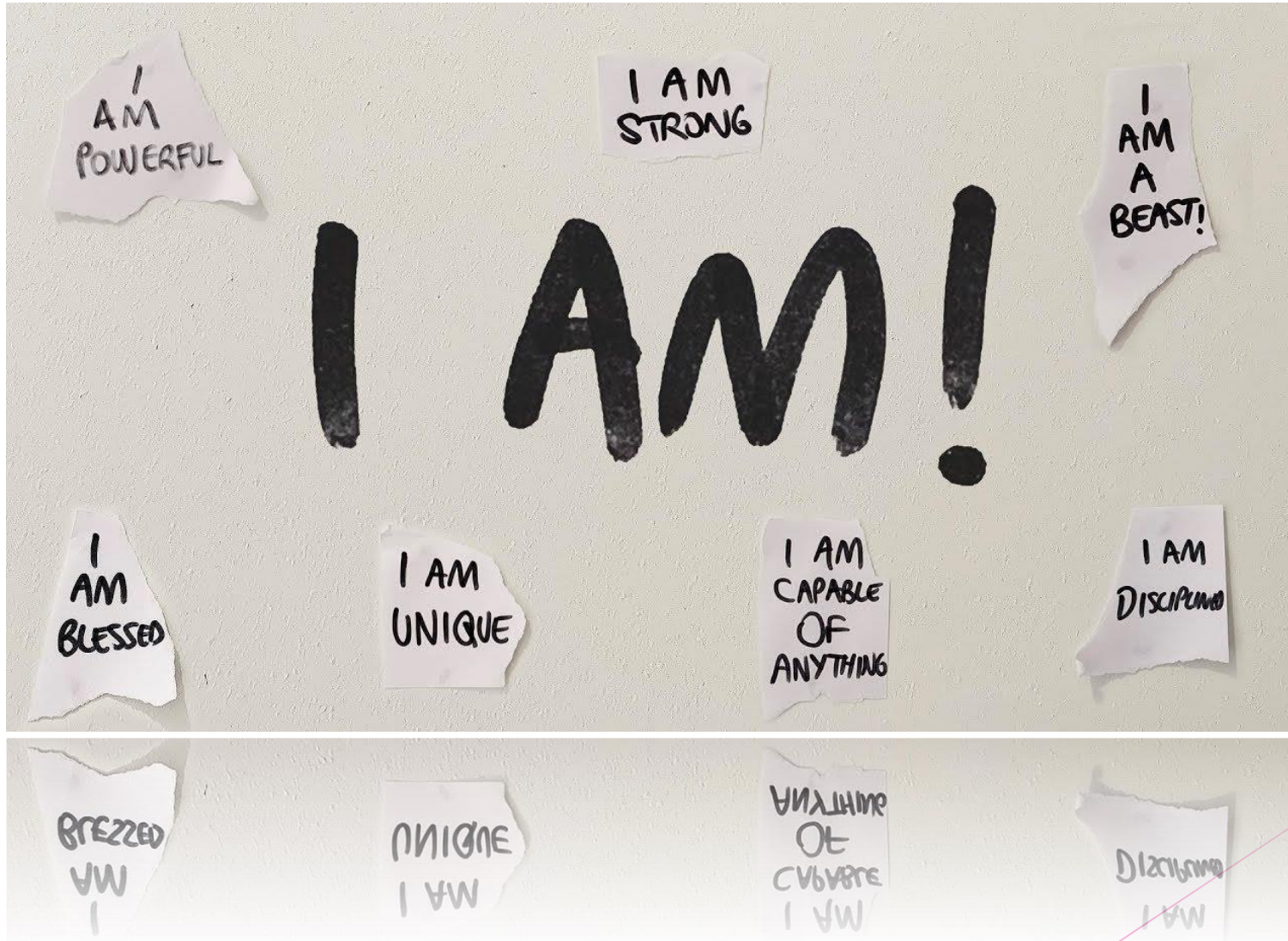
Guiding Belief - Working Assumptions

1. Every single person in this community is **good, wise, powerful, and profoundly interconnected**.
2. All human beings have commonalities including a deep desire to be in a **good relationship(s)**.
3. All students, teachers, parents, and staff members are **needed** for what **they bring**.
4. Everything we need to make positive change is already **here**.

Restorative Healing Circle involves 4 key steps:



I am.. My Truth



I am.. My Truth

- **I am..** in gratitude for the people and spaces I have chosen to be connected with and who have reciprocated that choice back to me
- **Because I am...** someone who is loud, opinionated, talkative, and very extroverted
- **Some may think...** I don't know how to listen, to be still, to be introspective, and reflective
- **Some may say...** I'm a bit too much
- **Some may assume...** I'm doing the most
- **The TRUTH is...** I'm just me, I am who I am and I ain't who I ain't

I am.. My Truth

- **I am...** the product of immigrants
- **Because I am...** Cuban, Ecuadorian, Chicago mix
- **Some may think...** I'm too much
- **Some may say...** I'm too loud
- **Some assume...** I'm extroverted
- **The truth is...** I am consistently finding balance



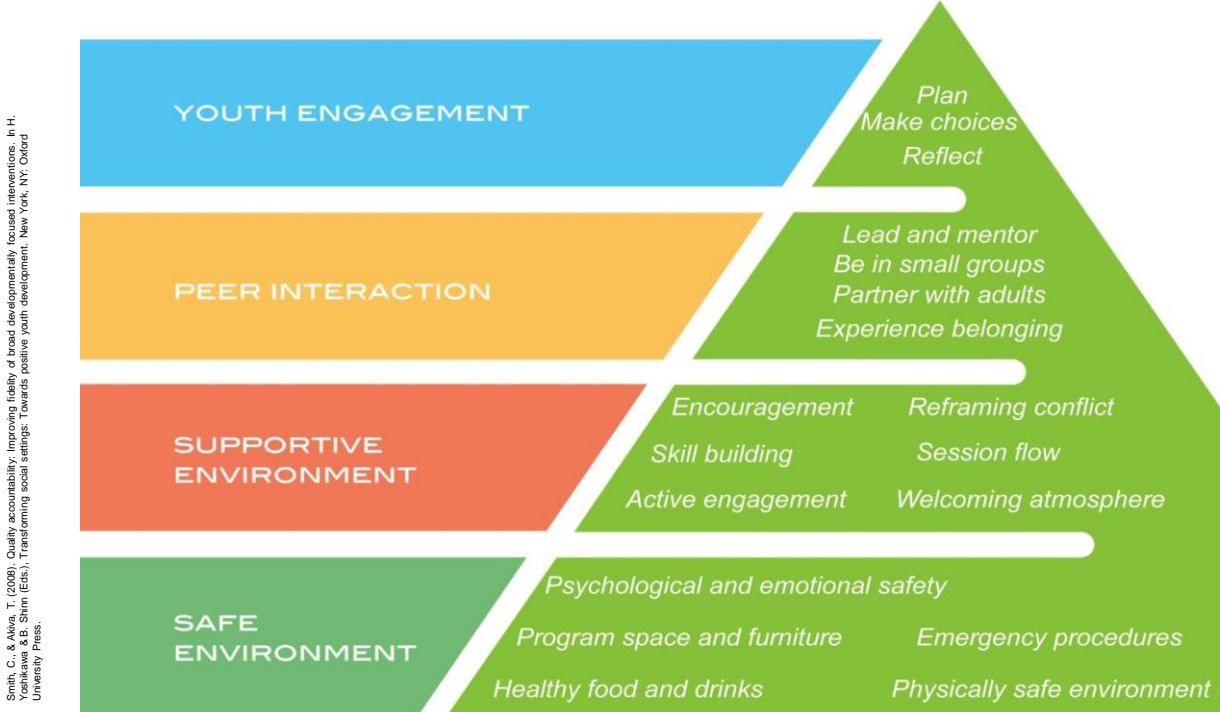
Social Emotional Arts & Radical Community Healing (SEARCH)

Growing body of research demonstrates that creative expression and the arts offer unparalleled ability to apply healing centered approaches that bring people together into safe spaces to engage in self-exploration, crucial conversations, and community building. The Praxis Social Emotional Arts & Radical Community Healing (SEARCH) combines years of applied arts research with the globally recognized Truth, Racial Healing & Transformation (TRHT) process. Since 2019, the Praxis Institute and Project Restore Initiative have implemented the TRHT-Youth Institute. The Youth Institute trains, empowers, and emboldens youth, and community practitioners in restorative practices and the TRHT process in order to be active contributors in the creation of individual and collective wellbeing. Integrating the TRHT-YI model and the arts, SEARCH ignites individual and collective action through five main components.

Positive Youth Development

Quality youth development programs...

- ▶ Provide safe and inclusive spaces
- ▶ Foster academic, social, and emotional growth
- ▶ Build on interests and strengths
- ▶ Address developmental needs



Trust + VOICE + Simplicity

- Simple & easy to implement
- Lots of dialogue of WHY & HOW the eval would be mutually beneficial for both practitioners and youth participants
- Every step of the way open to feedback and change if it led to improvement of the program and experience of youth participants.
- Each week practitioners analyzed results and made recs
- Within one week, results & next steps were communicated to youth participants.

Changes were made immediately. If we didn't make changes we told the youth why.

Continue. Improve. Next Steps (C.I.N)

- ▶ **Continue:** Things participants said we are doing well. We will continue doing these things.
- ▶ **Improve** = Make something **better** than it was before, or to do something **better** than we did before.
- ▶ **Next Steps** = Based on feedback introduce a new/different activity, idea or way of doing something in order to improve the experience.

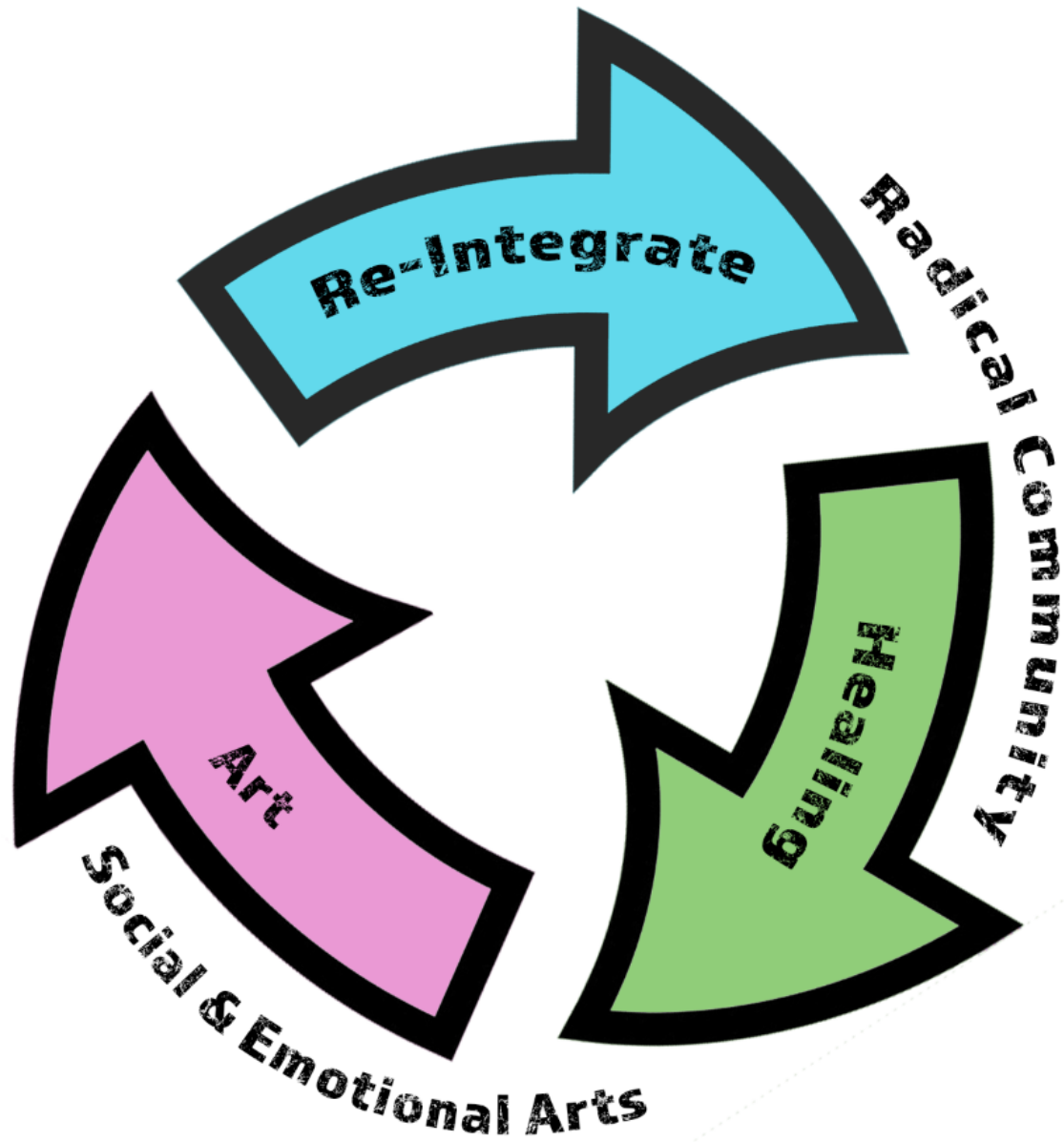


Key Outcomes

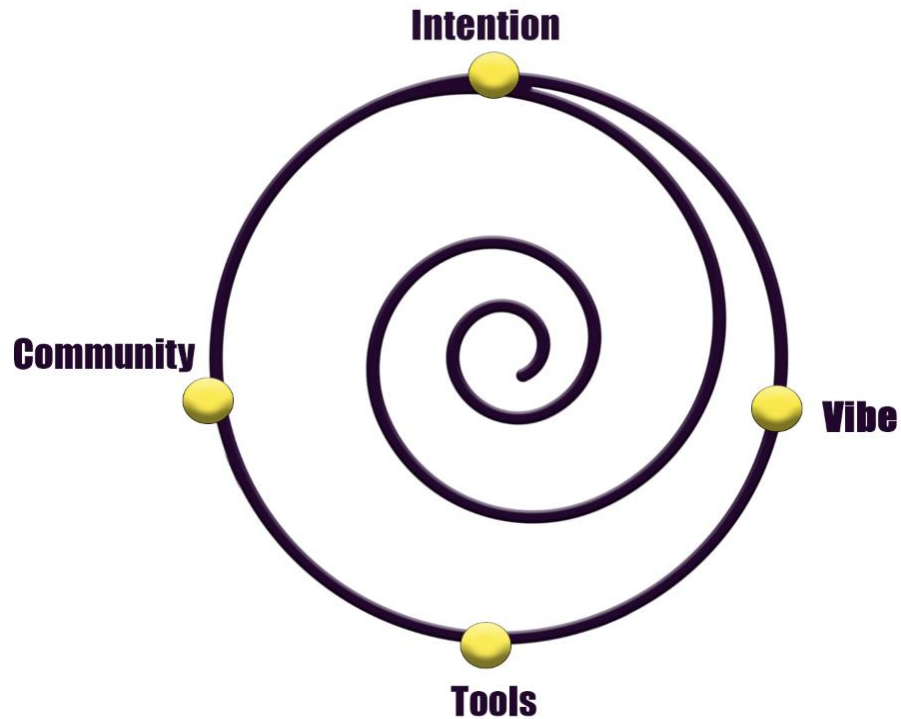
- ▶ Halfway through the program, 40% of youth participants were comfortable leading a Healing Circle.
- ▶ By the end of the program that increased to 95%.
- ▶ Participants who showed mastery of key TRHT concepts increased from 32% to 83%.
- ▶ What's most important is that all Practitioners involved in implementation could tell you WHY this growth happened.

7 Tips for How

1. Keep data collection simple and easy to use (Less questions and simple forms)
2. Do it daily (e.g Exit Tickets)
3. Do it weekly (mix of quant and open-ended questions)
4. Analyze 1x a week with staff
5. Have a system for sharing and discussion with youth
6. Make the changes & when you can't...explain why
7. Small Fixes!



Successful Social Emotional Arts session involves 5 key steps:



1. **Intentionality:** Topics and activities that align to healing & social emotional learning.
2. **Vibe:** Comfortable, safe and affirming space, music chosen by participants.
3. **Tools:** materials and multimedia resources-(consider the resources available to your audience).
4. **Process:** “**Process over product,**” being mindful that folx have a history/ personal experience with creativity so always focus on process achievements vs. the product.
5. **Community:** Individual and collective share out on feelings, reflection on new knowledge, and celebration.

Shifting Our Mindset



Traditional Perspective

Transactional
Judgmental
Power over/Obedience
Individual
Deficit-Based/Reactive
Punitive
Siloed
Dominant Narrative
Academics Achievement



Transformative Perspective

Cooperative
Curious
Power with/Collaboration
Environmental
Strengths-Based/Proactive
Restorative
Integrated
Cultural Humility
Academic + Social & Emotional Development

Identity Map

EXAMPLE

Identity Map | Name: Fausto

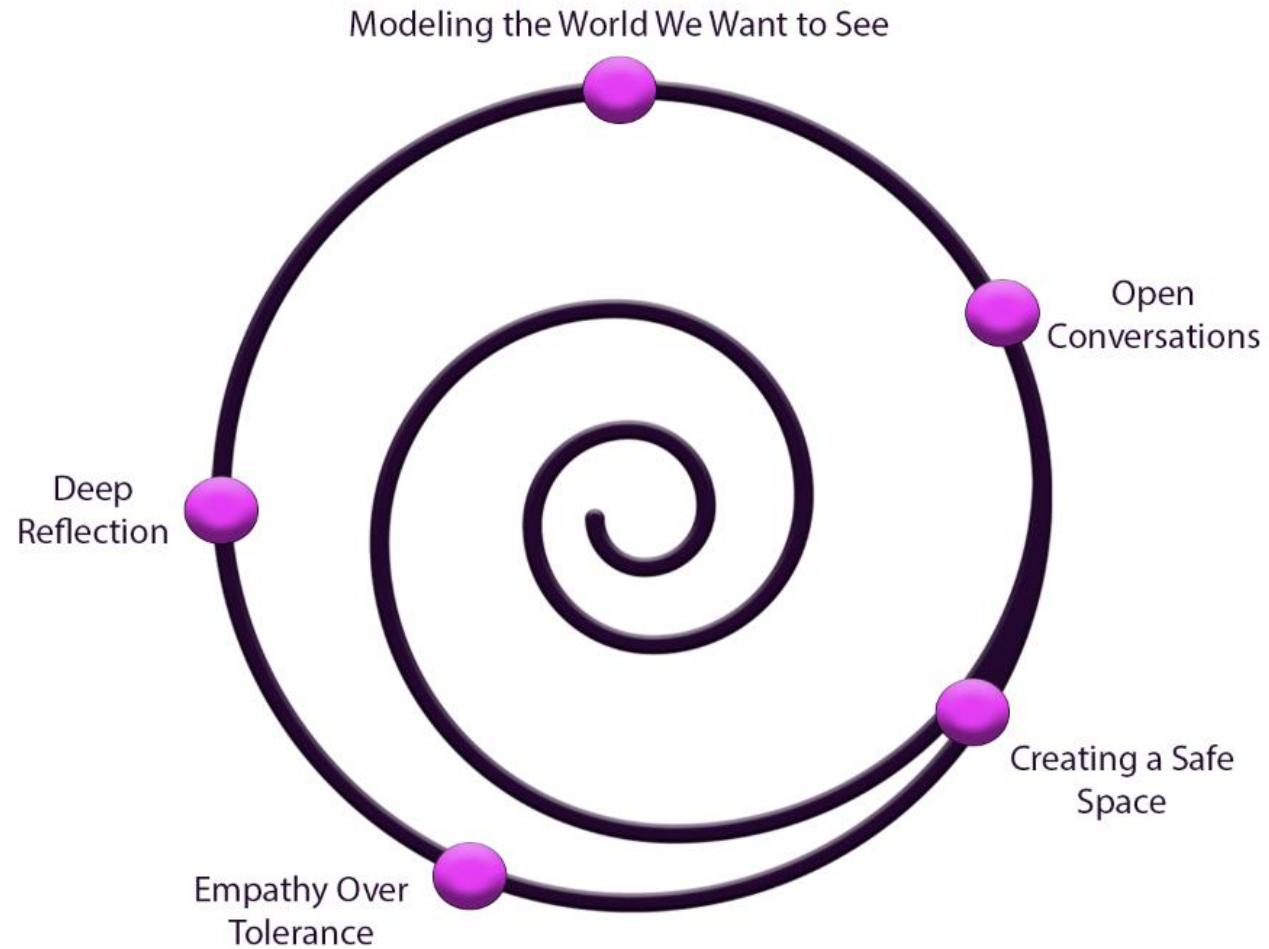


Given identity (Outer Ring): = Which aspects of your identity were given to you? These are traits you have no control over. (e.g. birthplace, first language, age, etc.)

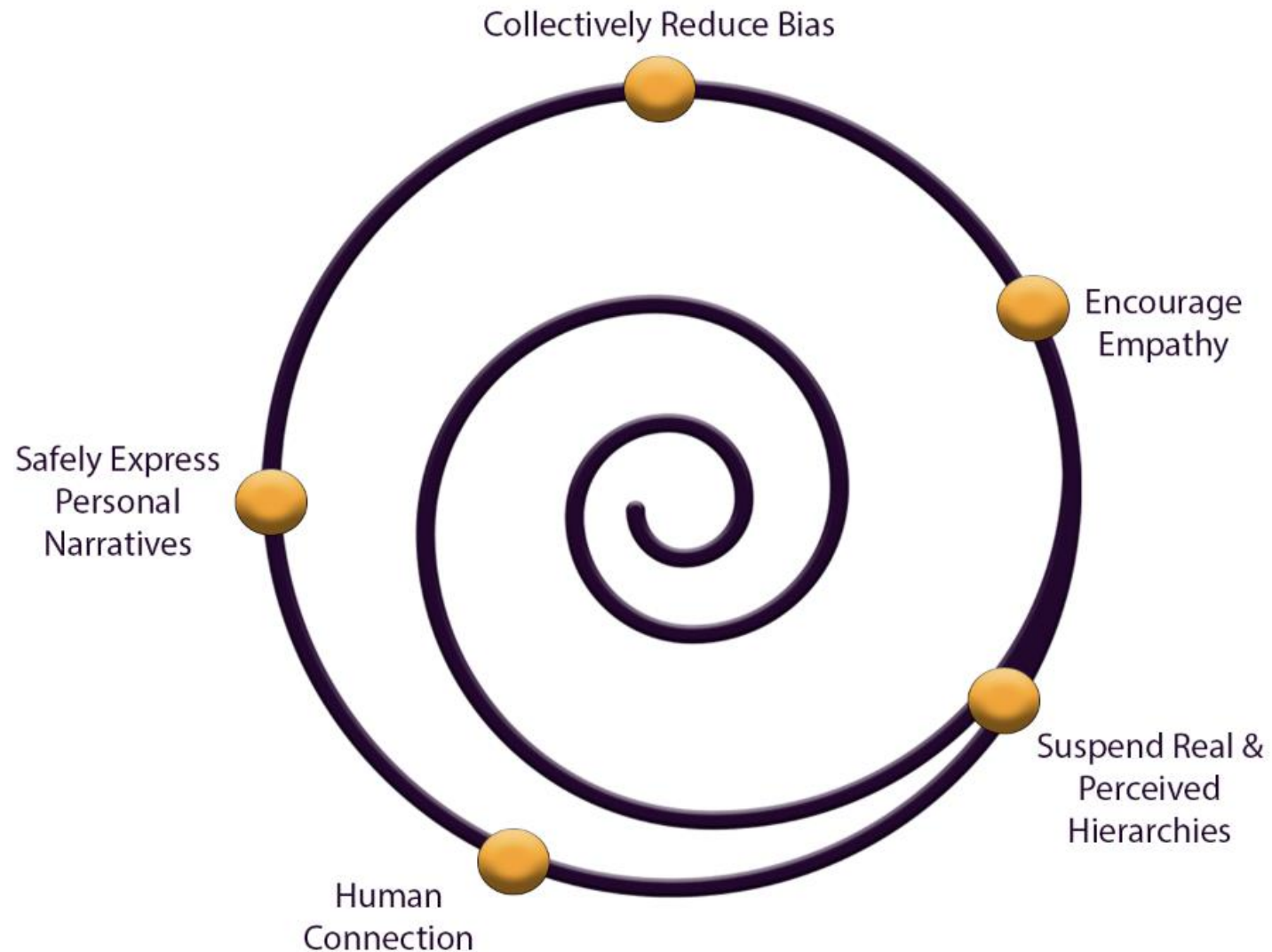
Chosen identity (Middle Ring)= Which aspects of your identity have you chosen? (e.g. career, activities, where you live, who you associate with, etc.)

Core identity (Central Ring) = How do you define yourself at your core? Who are you?

What is a Restorative Healing Circles?



What is the purpose of Restorative Healing Circles?



Discussion Prompts



Mindfulness

Mindfulness practices help establish a calmer learning environment. There are various mindful strategies that are research-based and shown to help adults and young people identify and manage stressors through focusing on emotional well-being, self-awareness, management, and healing.



Questions





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