

## Art & Belonging: Lyceum Toasts and Commissions

3<sup>rd</sup> ANNUAL EQUITY SUMMIT, BELONGING IN NORTHEAST MINNESOTA

Theme: Art and Belonging

Question: What role do the arts play in supporting belonging in our communities?

### **Toast: What is something that stood out to you or a highlight from the conversation in your group?**

- We discussed art as a way to bring us together and create a sense of belonging. “To getting out and getting together.”
- Courage through our youth to reveal and alter cycles through expression.
- A toast to the yes-to-art of our table, local pride in local art, valuable discussion about tokenization
- We discussed who gets to decide what art is displayed and how systemic power dynamics affect art in the community.
- We discussed the power of finding and promoting acceptance within community. We would like to toast community acceptance.
- Cheers to the power of art-in telling stories, building community, and healing.
- In order to advance equity we need to become more involved in community and with each other. “Community doesn’t stop with the person next door.”
- We discussed the definition and role of art. Art is the process of expression of humanity; it is provocation, it is representation, it is a snapshot in time, it is visual, it is music, movement, conversation, teaching and so much more.
- We toast to the diversity and accessibility of art.
- Gathering to make connections. Minimum viable product.
- Art is everywhere and provides us all with an opportunity to learn and share with each other.
- Art brings us together as community. People interpret it differently but it allows for conversational building and finding connections. We want to make a toast to the value of art as connection.
- Accessibility. Visibility.
- We discussed artists and the power in their representations to tell the stories.
- We discussed how important the content “we” consume is with our children/youth to impact our future.
- Having authentic reputations and relationships
- The value of giving space for underrepresented voices and the younger generation to gift their voice whether it is art or other forms of expression.
- Art is in all of us.

- We talked about expression and enrichment rather than diminish, therefore we toast how art bridges and creates connections.

## **Commission: What is an action you want to take as a result of the conversation?**

- Inviting those of different cultures and perspectives to join us.
- Create safe brave spaces to do this (Courage through our youth to reveal and alter cycles through expression)
- Consume more local art, start seeing the art in our personal and professional lives
- We discussed why it's important to challenge authority's perspective on art by engaging decision makers in cultural conversation. Include artist representation in community housing meetings.
- We would like to learn about and explore the art/artists in our local communities.
- We discussed encouraging, organizing, and commissioning more art with more cultures represented authentically.
- Try to speak to the most unlikely person. Get out of your comfort zone.
- Give your time to support art in your community.
- Art is for everyone. Through the JEDI lens, we will ask more questions to better understand working towards more accessibility of art within our individual influence.
- Slow down and take the time to learn and understand the meaning and symbolism behind the art we consume.
- Our action is to use educational awareness and engage the media to celebrate the arts in our community and new and traditional methods to build and stretch art awareness.
- Lens that we view our community through when making decisions (diverse, intentional, include groups not at the table.) Going to more community events and listening.
- We will be more aware and invite all to the table – including the beginnings/design phase.
- Open conversations about our unique perspectives and finding common ground and goals.
- Step out of Bubble and meet people where they are at to build authentic relationships.
- To listen, understand, and support the arts and other expression – many artists cannot make a living doing art.
- Find out more about who is making the art. Finding artists from the community. Whose voices are we finding represented.
- How to have more murals, different forms of art, and different views it creates (movie, poem, music, dancing, jewelry.)