Gathering the Healers

Cook engaged the healers in conversation to draw out and identify the healing aspects of their practices.

Cook created portrait outlines of the healers from pictures of them as children, to be used in the festival.

These pictures of healers in their youth were used to indicate an open space of possibility: their future.

Over 7,000 people attended.

Life Is Living Festival
DeFremery Park, Oakland, CA

Festival participants collaboratively painted the portrait outlines.

Included on these portraits were quotes from the individuals written in several languages.

Healers shared their experiences with the participants.

Together, the participants imagined a collective vision of healing.

Participants were invited to respond to prompts on a blackboard.

Served as a mirror for community sentiment and ideas.

A wellness clinic provided free health services as well as resources about health care.

This included Chiropractic Massage, Yoga, Acupuncture, and Spiritual Cleansings (known as Limpias).

Tracy Bartlow
Choreographer, Dancer

Tyler Norris
Public Health Administrator

Kathy Ahoy
Public Health Nurse

Oscar Wright
Education Advocate

Melanie Cerventhes
Artist

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Facilitate a 3 Stage Intervention

Learn/Inform

Build/Imagine

Produce/Project

Produce

Share

Build a new model of the city that responds to community identified problems that have directly or indirectly resulted from the region’s history of cultural oppression and exploitation.

PRODUCE

A productive fiction where: A recently naturalized immigrant woman runs for mayor, governor or Senate. The candidate platform would be in direct response to community identified needs & proposed solutions throughout the project implementation.

SHARE

Present ideas to City of Brownsville: Mayor, City Commission, Planning Department, Parks Department, Health Department & Housing Authority.

Produce

Public Infrastructure, Architecture, Public Space, Monuments

REIMAGINE THE PRESENT AND FUTURE OF CIVIC ART

(through cultural community events & town halls)

LEARN/INFORM

Learn/Inform with University of Texas Orange Valley.

Research & share regional history of colonization & militarization.

FACILITATE A 3 STAGE INTERVENTION

Las Imaginistas

Project Brainstorming

REIMAGINE THE PRESENT AND FUTURE OF CIVIC ART

(through cultural community events & town halls)
possibleworlds.org
An independent internet server launched in 2005 that offers web hosting to social movements in Mexico.

Spacebank
A community investment bank dedicated to serve as a vehicle for investing small sums in social causes.

Diego de la Vega Coffee Co-op
A project working with the Zapatista farmers in Chiapas, Mexico to bring their products and ideology to activist communities in New York and elsewhere.

While sharing the coffee, Ilich shares the ideas of the kind of participatory democracy that is practiced in the autonomous zones in Mexico to create a dialogue.
The art project was transformed into a fully tested curriculum that's packaged and ready for distribution elsewhere.

SexEd

Norene Leddy and Liz Slagus share an interest in changing the face of sex education in this country. They are creating a new vision for what the entire education system can do to improve healthy sexuality in our society.

Leddy and Slagus were interested in what's missing from the current sexual education curriculum.

Leddy and Slagus developed an art project based on a fundamentally different idea of what it means to be a sexually functional person. Their art-based curriculum allows teens to explore these ideas in a safe environment.

They searched for a school to host their art work.

Washington Irving High School Campus
(Six schools)

1. Defining Consent
   - Art + Sex Ed Curricula and Classroom Sessions at the International High School
     - Discussed the topic of consent
     - Developed 7 definitions of consent in 7 different languages

2. Wearing Consent
   - Workshops with 422 Health Center After-School Discussion Group
     - Discussions co-facilitated with Health Center staff
     - Students created t-shirts using those definitions and online imagery

3. SexEd Salon
   - Event to share the work with all six WIHSC schools
     - Consent-themed t-shirts, temporary tattoos, live remixing of students' consent definitions with DJ SpazeCraft One, manicures, and a runway to model the Wearing Consent projects

Outcome

The art project was transformed into a fully tested curriculum that's packaged and ready for distribution elsewhere.