



Imagining Together

Imagine the arts, culture and conflict transformation field, supported by structures and processes designed to help it make increasingly effective contributions to the transformation of conflict.

Imagine, for instance, a fully staffed virtual archive, where, young artists and cultural leaders from zones of violent conflict and ongoing oppression can learn about how opposing communities are engaging through the arts in other parts of the world, about how artists working in a variety of media are addressing conflict in their own neck of the woods, about where they can find mentors and propose conversation groups on issues that challenge and excite them.

There might be real resource centers as well: physical spaces where artists and peacebuilders could meet, exchange ideas, view films, offer trainings, etc. These ‘anchor institutions’ would arrange for the documentation of practice in their regions, and develop educational and training materials from this documentation.

Imagine funding and other resources for peacebuilding initiatives based in arts and culture increasing every year, as the field of arts, culture and conflict transformation sustains a smart, effective communications initiative aimed at funders and policy-makers in different regions of the world.

Imagine being part of a trusting and interconnected eco-system, where artists, peacebuilders, researchers, policy-makers and funders trust each other and collaborate to great effect. Imagine progressive businesses supporting arts-based initiatives that address the underlying causes of conflicts in their communities – including poverty, environmental degradation, and unresolved legacies of past violence.

Imagine working with others to develop shared understandings of what comprises excellence in this work, and a repertoire of recognized assessment and evaluation approaches designed to account for both aesthetic and socio-political effects, adapted to different cultural contexts, conflict dynamics, and kinds of community engagements with arts and culture.

What is your vision for a supportive structure for the arts, culture and conflict transformation field?

- **How could you and your community benefit from such a global infrastructure?**
- **What tasks would you prioritize?**
- **How do you see the overall structure designed?**