



Creative Connections

Mentoring for Sustainability: Blueprint for a collaborative project using drama and theatre to promote peace and reconciliation



New Performance-Based Workshop Model

A new performance-based workshop model using forum and image theatre was developed during the lifecycle of the Creative Connections project with drama facilitator Idan Meir and edited by Mary Moynihan. This model demonstrates how an issue-based performance can be used as a starting point for a facilitator to further develop participants' understanding of the issues raised, and to allow for exploration of the events of the performance through drama. The model is included in the Creative Connections project report, available online at www.smashingtimes.ie and can be used in tandem with Smashing Times Theatre Company's main workshop models (also at www.smashingtimes.ie) and this blueprint to develop a collaborative project with your community, school or youth group, using drama and theatre to promote sustainable peace and reconciliation.

Creative Connections is supported by the European Union's European Regional Development Fund, through the EU Programme for Peace and Reconciliation managed for the Special EU Programmes Body by Donegal County Council.

The Creative Connections Blueprint

Developing sustainable positive relations between a range of individuals and communities from different backgrounds and traditions is essential for lasting peace; this blueprint looks at how to build sustainable peace and reconciliation projects that use drama and theatre processes.

Proposal: Two groups (cross-border, cross-community) complete a series of workshops as individual groups, with a drama facilitator bringing both groups together for two joint workshops for further exploration and sharing of learning.

Target Audience: These workshops can be run with youth groups, school groups or any adult community groups. The two groups must correspond with each other.

Time Scale: Three month period.

Project Breakdown: The facilitator will conduct four workshops (two per group) focussing on single identity work through drama games and exercises. The primary focus for these initial workshops is confidence building, team work and creation of a safe and enjoyable learning environment. The two groups will then participate in a joint workshop to introduce the groups to one another and start to examine issues around equality and diversity. Another four workshops will be held (two per group) further exploring these themes. A final joint workshop will bring the groups together one last time for group learning, acknowledgement of the past, and a sharing of joint hopes and visions for the future. There will be ten workshops in total, four individual workshops per group and two joint workshops.

Key Steps

1. Interested group leaders should conduct community outreach or draw on existing contacts, members and participants to find a co-applicant or partner organisation for the project.
2. A professional drama facilitator should be sourced and costing for all aspects of the project should take place (facilitator fee and travel costs, venue hire, insurance, administration, refreshments, group travel for the co-events, event documentation). These details will be needed for budgeting, and for any funding applications you may be considering.
3. Once funding has been secured, a planning meeting should be held to solidify roles and responsibilities of each group and to confirm dates and venues for all activities.
4. It is useful to maintain written records throughout the project, such as facilitator feedback forms and participant evaluations, and other documentation - such as photographs, audio or video recordings of the workshops, for monitoring your project process and sharing learning. Documentation such as this can be important for sharing the outcomes of the project within your community, and to your funder, and can be useful for informing future plans for similar projects.
5. Smashing Times Theatre Company can provide support and advice on using workshop models, how to plan and design services around the accessible use of drama, and how to continue using drama and theatre to promote participation and active citizenship. Additional resources are also available through www.smashingtimes.ie. Alternatively, contact the company directly at Coleraine House, Coleraine Street, Dublin 7 or on +353 (0)1 8656613.