

ART HIVES

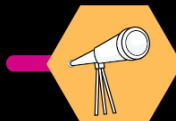
APPRECIATING THE CONTINUUM

through a collective visioning inquiry

Workshop Series Report 2020



JUL 31



discover

AUG 7



dream

AUG 14



design

AUG 21



move forward



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The Workshop Series

The main purpose of this 4-part workshop series was to bring the facilitators of the global Art Hives Network to pause and reflect on the current functioning of the network and envision strategies to move forward towards greater impact and resiliency. Another purpose that brought this group together was to increase the network's capacity to evaluate its impact and build capacity across individual Art Hives to do the same.

This report is a summary of the four workshops and the various stories, perspectives, opinions and strategies surfaced by participants in each of the sessions, which took place between July 31st and August 21st, 2020. Participants' thoughts were grouped by overarching themes for better readability and meaning-making. A natural next step would be for the Art Hive Headquarters and facilitators to use the data gathered here to prioritize action plans and move towards concrete next steps.

Introduction to Process



Discover

Through sharing stories of our experiences with the Art Hives, we will discuss impact of our work.

Dream

Let's engage in an experience of creating shared images for a desired future.

Design

What are some possible futures for the Art Hives? Let's collaborate to design some scenarios.

Move forward

Help each other and the network implement some of the ideas surfaced in the previous workshops.



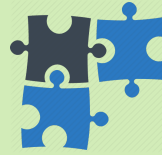
Workshop Participants' Overview



Participant Overview

26 Participants attended at least one or more of the 4-workshop series.

90% of all participants were **female**.



Location

Half the participants were located in Quebec, the other half was split between other attendees from Canadian provinces and two from the United States.

All workshops were held online on Zoom.



Diversity

About 70% of the participants were primarily **Anglophone**, and 30% primarily **Francophone**.

25% of participants identified as members of a **visible minority** community.

Main professional background: There were 9 art educators, 6 art therapists, 4 artists; and 7 participants from other backgrounds (business, urban planning, coaching etc).



Workshop 1

Discover



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Workshop 1 Agenda- Discover Phase

Purpose: To understand, appreciate and celebrate what gives life to the Art Hives Network.

Agenda:

- Introduction and Check-in
- Peer-to-peer interviews
- Plenary Discussion
- Check-out



Motivations/

What are participants hoping to get out of this process?

Workshop 1 Check-in

Wanting to be involved with the larger network because it brings a lot to me

Connection to the larger network

Contribuer à réunir les parties anglophone et francophone du réseau

Has been involved in evaluation with in person Art Hive, wanting to learn how this can work online

Needing evaluation tools

Running an AH in a rural area is isolating, this CoP is very meaningful and helps me feel connected

Understanding how other AH are doing, figuring out a future for Open Mic Hive

Besoin d'outils d'évaluation, pour faire le bilan (après un an d'activités)

Needing to learn evaluation tools to meet funders' requests

Undertsanding/ sharing the impact of art on our lives

What the general public perceives our work to be

Questions sur la suite des choses suite à la pandémie

Questions sur la distanciation sociale, pour prévoir la suite des choses (ruche d'art à l'intérieur du Centre d'Art)

Understanding the impact of an Art Hive and helping the public demystify what is an Art Hive and how it works

Defining what an Art Hive is & Communicating it to the public

What does AH post pandemic look like?

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Peer-to-Peer Interview Questions

Question template for Dyads (in breakout rooms) in the Discovery Phase.

- Can you tell me the story of a time when your Art Hive had a deep impact on you?
 - How did you feel during that experience?
 - Were others involved? If yes, what do you think it felt like for them? Did you hear any stories about it from them?
- This question is about relationships. Can you share the story of a time when you or a participant experienced a deepening in relationship with those around you/them? What did that bring? How do you feel thinking about that time?
- Can you share a story or experience of how have you seen the Art Hives impact the larger system or community around you through the lens of (choose one):
 - Individual leadership
 - Economic development.
- What impact has the Art Hive HQ had on you and the journey with your individual Art Hive so far? Has your relationship with them affected your commitment to the Art Hives? In what way
- What has been the role of art in your Art Hive / your life during the pandemic?

Generosity and openness, "non-jealousy", non-competitive, the Art Hives HQ provides knowledge for all to run with.

"Drops" coming together to create a larger body, a community.

Le mouvement local, national, international, comme une grande vague, irradie comme une goutte d'eau à partir du HQ.

Constat que nous avons les mêmes intentions à travers diverses ruches

Importance of a strong network

Grandes similitudes dans ce qu'on vit, dans nos façons de voir les choses, dans ce qu'en retire la communauté, dans la perception de ce que vit le participant

Generosity and reciprocity

Becoming part of the community ourselves. Not only share but receive. Learn to ask for support as we would offer it to others. A sense of reciprocity that we don't see much outside Art Hives. Seeing the ripple effects in the rest of community beyond the space.

Felt accepted as an outsider (non-art therapist) by Art Hives HQ, knowledge shared generously, it is an open concept.

Themes from plenary discussion

What gives life to the Art Hives?

Listening to the online art hive, chatter, helps ground people during lockdown.

Online art hives open the possibility of starting an art hive without needing to have the means to rent space, etc.

Beyond each of our personal art knowledge, and our willpower to create space, we can underestimate the power of the intention of just being who we are in that space and to collaborate.

Access

Participating in virtual hives all around the world. Able to go anywhere. Building a community that is more International.

Being able to connect with others doing this work because of/ thanks to the pandemic.

Trustful atmosphere to share vulnerable concerns

Overlap of power: museum setting in a very colonized area, challenging relationship between indigenous and settler communities. The museum as a space to address trauma in a holding environment of the AH.

Equality

Seeing people who habitually are in a power position entering the art space, and suddenly being in a position of not knowing, not being the expert. Flipping narratives: art hives allow to see the vulnerable as strong and the strong as vulnerable. Art is an equalizer.

Sharing leadership. In other realms of our lives, we are controlled by bosses and other authorities. Art Hives offer so many opportunities for sharing skills and leadership.

Thinking back to training in very clinical art therapy at Concordia in the 90s, and observing the real shift currently happening with Public Practice Art Therapy.

These types of initiatives are defying the type of power seen in conventional systems.

Students can feel like outsiders within the uni. Many power challenges inside the university. AH produce counter power to this. Space where we can easily connect with others across academic departments, cultures, etc.

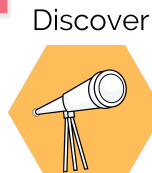
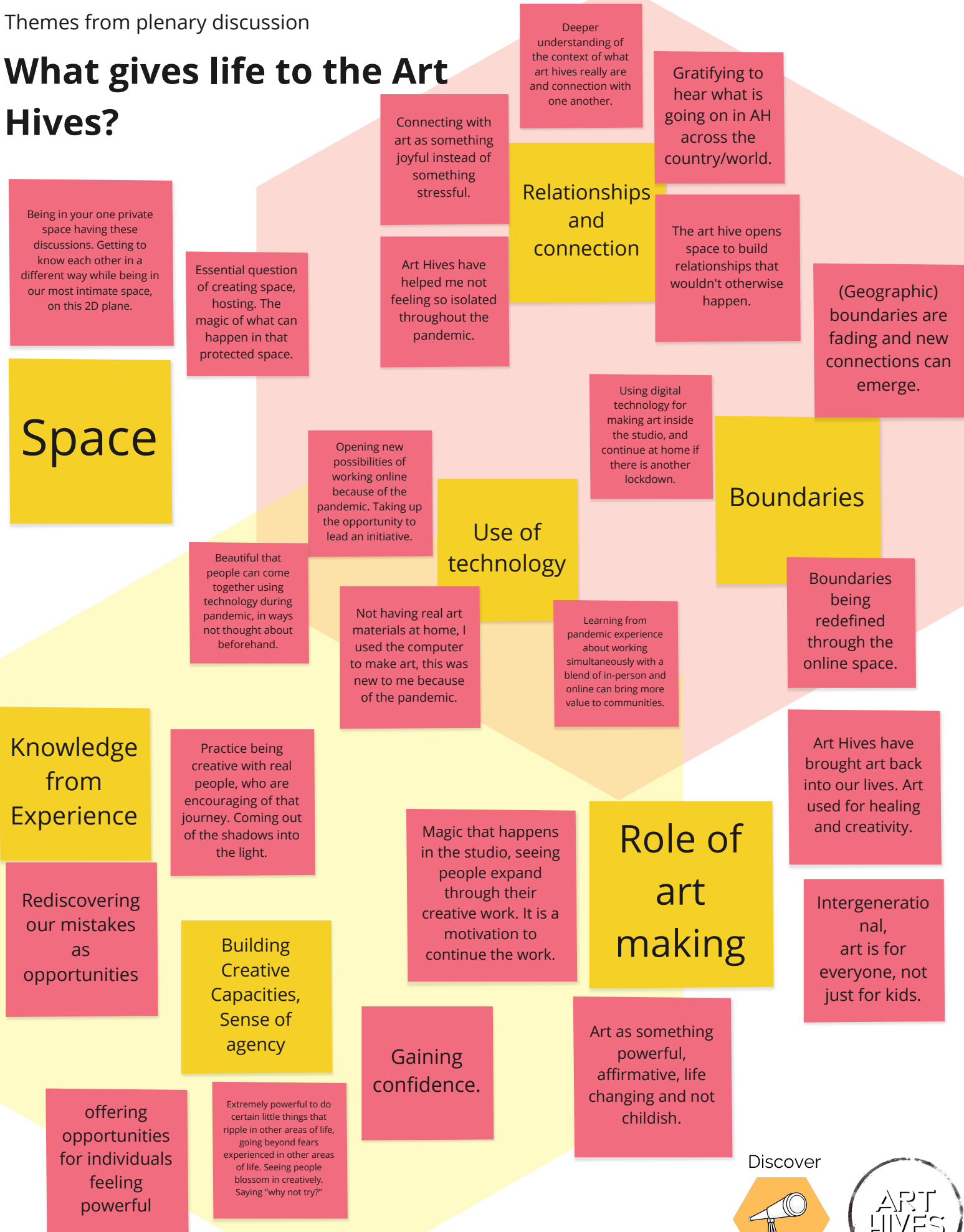
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What gives life to the Art Hives?



"I attended the Art Therapy Conference at the Art Hives HQ in Montreal. I had the opportunity to share my art hive experience as a speaker. This was impactful, fulfilling, and challenging. Participating in the Art Hives 101 training gave me a chance to connect and network with other facilitators and I felt a sense of "coming home." -Dana Stefanson

"When the communities of practice moved to the online world, it allowed me to be more involved with the HQ, and to feel more connected and energized. They have been very helpful in answering my questions."
- Cynthia Morin

Role of the Art Hive HQ

"The HQ was important in terms of training through their Winter ArtHive Institute - help to guide us and reassure us that we were on the right track for our newly formed ArtHive at the time (2019). I find it gives greater validity to what we do to have a Network that we are part of - primarily in the eyes of sponsors/funders and it helps us to feel connected to something bigger than our immediate Hive" - Maria Parrella-Illaria

"The connection with HQ has been really valuable. One of the facilitators at my art hive came from Montreal and had direct experiences with the Montreal art hives. Her contributions were so valuable. I also was able to travel to Montreal and found the experiences of connecting with the HQ and network of art hives there to be invaluable. I find that when I am confused about the direction of the art hive I am able to reach out to HQ for guidance."
- Laura Rowley

"The time I went to the A.H. headquarters office at Concordia, I had had a bad experience as a student and I wanted to share a critique. I was happily surprised to learn that critical thinking was highly valued in that office. Rachel not only listed to me, but she made an appointment to speak in depth about my experience, where she transformed my critique into a dream and project of having my own art hive in my home country. Rachel was very supportive, helpful, and encouraging in a very real and concrete way. It was a wonderful connection and since then just more amazing things happened."

"I'm a living proof of economic development thanks to the Art Hive's internship awards that I received, and the job I had for a year with the Art Hive HQ. It allowed me to stay in my program at Concordia University when I was having big economical struggles, it allowed me to have a job in a city where I felt it was rough to get a one as an international full-time student and also it was not only a job, but a job that I loved"

"· Voir les différences et les similarités dans l'expérience. Partout, en Ontario, aux USA et ailleurs, de créer une communauté de personnes qui partagent, sans le savoir, des visions et des rêves similaires.
· Pouvoir influencer les décideurs un peu partout à différents niveaux. Effet boule de neige en s'inspirant des succès les un.es des autres .
· De plus en plus de gens maintenant connaissent les ruches d'art (en ont entendu parler ou connaissent un peu le concept). C'est la force d'un mouvement."

Peer-to-peer interview data

What gives life to the Art Hives?

"J'ai eu beaucoup de support du HQ des ruches d'art tant au niveau de la documentation que pour les demandes de financement. Je participe depuis 3 ans à plusieurs des activités (symposium, évaluation, expositions, communauté de pratique, etc.) J'y apprend des notions et des trucs et je bâtis ma propre communauté. J'y développe des liens humains, des amitiés, des connaissances et des pratiques. Le réseau des Ruches d'art a aussi un effet d'appui pour mon action solitaire. Ce n'est pas juste moi qui porte un projet de Ruche d'art, il y a tout un réseau derrière. Associer l'action de la Ruche d'art du Plateau au Réseau des ruches d'art a été très bénéfique pour nous." - Hélène Arsenault

"J'ai découvert le principe d'une ruche en participant à une activité de la ruche Yéléma à la bibliothèque Marc-Favreau. L'objet que j'y ai créé m'a tellement plu, que je garde encore cette petite poupée talisman près de moi. J'ai fait des recherches en ligne pour mieux connaître les ruches d'art, et j'ai découvert qu'il en existait tout un réseau. Voyant que la formation universitaire offerte par Janis Timm-Bottos à la Ruche d'art St-Henri était encore ouverte, je me suis inscrite. J'ai eu envie de créer une ruche d'art moi aussi. Trois ans plus tard, dans mon nouveau quartier, j'ai porté mon initiative et j'ai collaboré avec un organisme communautaire du coin, La Maison d'Aurore, où j'y ai installé un ruche d'art qui s'anime dans le Jardin et dans la Maison d'Aurore depuis une année (malgré la covid-19, nous avons des activités cet été dans la cour). Nous avons présenté une demande de financement auprès d'une fondation caritative et en janvier, nous avons une subvention pour mener les activités de la Ruche d'art auprès des ainé.e.s du quartier." - Hélène Arsenault

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"I also wanted to share in relation to the pandemic that my art hive has been gathering outdoors in the last few weeks, and how impactful and emotional it was to see people gathered on their blankets, socially distanced and all working on their own art but creating together again." - Laura Rowley

"While I do not make much art on her own, the pandemic has given me time to complete home renovations while caring for and improving my living space. These projects involve lots of creativity. The Art Nest during the time of the Pandemic has given me a way to help my community by creating and distributing art kits. They have included building planter boxes, making masks, and more- which respond to the things we need to keep safe."
- Dana Stefanson

"The pandemic has brought highs and lows. Like a rollercoaster, it is hard to know what is around the bend sometimes....Social connection is important for me as I am a big extrovert. Connecting with other creative people where we can make and converse has been paramount for me staying sane during quarantine. The pandemic has reconnected me with my practice for making art just for myself. It has given me the space to attend Art Hives as a participant." - Carly McAskill

"Individual leadership- both facilitators (in the case of my art hive, artists and art therapists) and participants are able to contribute and bring their ideas and experiences to the art hive. Leadership is not centralized and the experience is created by the participants."
- Laura Rowley

"My art hive has been gathering outdoors in the last few weeks – it is so impactful and emotional to see people gathered on their blankets, socially distanced and all working on their own art but creating together again." - Laura Rowley

"Comme j'ai dû fermer la Ruche d'art dès la mi-mars à cause de la covid-19, j'ai dès lors commencé à publier des images que je faisais sur la page Facebook de la Ruche d'art du Plateau, et des collègues ont aussi publié des idées de récupération créative. Une facilitatrice de la ruche a tenu des ruches d'art virtuelles. De mon côté, j'ai continué à créer tous les jours et à travailler sur la façon de faire post confinement. En collaboration avec La Maison d'Aurore, nous tenons deux sessions de ruche d'art par semaine durant tout l'été, avec des mesures sanitaires serrées, des matériaux présentés en kits, et nous faisons toutes les activités dehors, annulées en cas de pluie. Je demeure sensible au manque d'inclusivité ou d'accessibilité des ruches d'art virtuelles, quand le seul accès aux ruches d'art est en ligne. Pas tout le monde est branché sur l'Internet. Mon rôle est de chercher et de faire émerger des solutions à ce problème de confinement et d'accès." - Hélène Arsenault

"I work directly with a teen with Autism who stutters which makes it difficult to form relationships with her peers. Bringing her to the art hive enabled me to build relationships with the other facilitators and participants in the art hive."
- Laura Rowley

"Art Hives have re-connected me with my art practice, my love for improvisation and storytelling."
- Carly McAskill

Role of art & Art Hives during the pandemic

" Une sorte de soupape, de bouée. Un phare dans le brouillard. L'art est un baume, du réconfort à travers le deuil, la peur, l'isolement. Par exemple, le projet des arcs-en-ciel aux fenêtres nous a relié à tout le monde dans le quartier et au-delà.

Connecter avec la communauté des ruches a été bénéfique, ça m'a fait me sentir moins seule. Rencontrer des gens que je n'aurais pas rencontré ou moins connu autrement.

Faire de la peinture a fait du bien, à chaque fois je me disais que je devrais en faire plus. "

"The pandemic helped me to make more art, in a more reflective way and participate with more determination as an artist in her art hives. Art is accessible for everyone, not just those who studied art. I did not study art in school and therefore believed I was not an artist. Excited to share the arts and wellness connection to others." - Cynthia Morin

" The pandemic made everything so uncertain and stressful. It was so good to see familiar faces and reconnect with the people from the Art Hive. I felt connection, relief, fulfilment, and happiness." - Laura Rowley

"It is a grounding force amongst the uncertainty and stress of the pandemic. The journals I make enable me to organize my thoughts and find a sense of calm." - Laura Rowley

The pandemic has given me the opportunity to recharge from burnout from running an art hive of 20 or more children by myself. I have been able to attend online events such as the Art Hives Institute in Ontario, that I would not have been able to attend previously due to time and travel." - Dana Stefanson

Peer-to-peer interview data What gives life to the Art Hives?

"Many issues about my program at Concordia made me disconnected from my artistic self. With the pandemic coming just when I graduated, I was able to put time on opening my own virtual Art hive that brought back the art and creativity to my life."

In it for our own healing

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"Il y a beaucoup de moments où je sens que la ruche a un impact profond sur moi. De voir ces femmes s'épanouir, se sentir assez en sécurité pour parler d'elles, pour créer avec d'autres personnes, l'authenticité. Des cœurs à l'unisson !

Une participante vit de la honte à s'exprimer. Elle a vécu beaucoup d'humiliation enfant et ses manières sont plutôt « rough ». C'est un défi pour elle d'exprimer ce qu'elle est et ce qu'elle ressent. Lors de notre dernière rencontre, quand une des participantes qui n'était pas sortie depuis le mois d'avril à cause de la covid-19 m'a répondu à la question "comment ça va ?" par, "je suis en train de devenir folle !" Cette participante l'a entendue verbaliser, et elle nous a dit que ça lui avait fait du bien d'entendre ça, qu'elle était impressionnée par la franchise et le courage d'expression de cette autre participante. Bref, un grand impact sur moi de voir les participantes avancer sur le plan personnel (en plus du plan créatif)." - Hélène Arsenault

"It has a deep impact every time I see that people keep coming and connecting with others and with art, especially inspite of their age; I remember in particular one testimony of a senior participant that said that he hadn't make art since he was a child and that now he had the chance to create again in a safe, gentle environment. It just warms my heart. I felt validated, happy and proud hearing that."

"Participants in my hive are mainly young people. Many of these children and young adults are on the fringes of my small town. As an outsider, they do not have many social connections, but the art hive space has become a place to volunteer and create friendships." - Dana Stefanson

"I met a person when I facilitated the Concordia Art Hive that became not only my friend in a time when I needed deep connections, but is also my co-facilitator right now in our project of our own art hive. I feel its magic."

Peer-to-peer interviews

"My kids collaborated with me at the pop-up art hives. They were able to reconnect with art, to model art making and to share their art skills with others in the community." - Cynthia Morin

"Doing pop-up hives in the park was a significant experience. Building a space for people to create and connect with others that otherwise would never meet. The environment was perceived safe and engaging: a participant let one of the facilitators hold her baby while she sat and created for a good length of time. " - Cynthia Morin

"An elder woman that recently lost her husband, and lives in a country where she doesn't feel comfortable the language, is coming regularly to our online art hive and she is one of the only two people that has done skill-shares. She has actually done two already (out of the total 8 hives). It is rewarding to see her motivation to teach and her bravery to do it in an intergenerational environment where the younger people haven't yet dared to teach something. It is touching not only for me but I've heard from other participants how deeply touched they feel about her taking the leadership to share her skills with us."

"Lors d'un des ateliers dans le parc, quand tout le monde fut installé à 2m les uns des autres et que tout le monde a enlevé son masque, de voir les visages souriants des participants quand ils se sont regardés mutuellement. Après trois mois de distance et d'absence de la ruche, les retrouvailles ont été touchantes de simplicité." - Hélène Arsenault

Relationships

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Opening an Art Hive has given me a sense of agency in these times when it is hard to get a job."

"My work with the Art Hives HQ has given me the experience that I have right now and has allowed me to create my own Art Hive, that has the vision to be successful enough to pay myself and my co-facilitator salaries (fingers crossed)"

Self-agency

"When my Art Hive was first open, I was often alone without many participants. On one hot summer day, a boy visited and I taught him to sew a pillow with black fabric and silver thread. He was a boy without many social connections and he played me a song that referenced suicide. Over time, the boy continued to attend Art Hives and began socializing and making friends with other children at the hive. I felt humbled, connected and a sense of purpose by creating a space for this boy to belong."

- Dana Stefanson

"We had a participant who carried items for physical comfort despite not necessarily having a physical issue. She took up a lot of space physically and metaphorically. Verbally she spilled her experiences, traumas without regard for others. We did our best to contain and limit oversharing, keeping the space safe for others. Her visits were sporadic. About a year later, she came back. Something had shifted – she was in better shape, took up less physical and metaphorical space. She was more considerate of others and of being respectful to the space." - Maria Parrella-ilaria

"One participant was a girl that was very socially awkward. As she spent time at the art hives, she developed skills making Peg Dolls. She taught her peers at the hive with lots of enthusiasm. When she visited her grandparents in another town, she decorated the forest with many dolls and dollhouses. Her grandmother was so grateful for art hives. In addition, our Art Hive held an event celebrating cultures around the world. Volunteers from the Philippines and Brazil had the opportunity and space to share their unique skills and take leadership."

"Apprendre à connaître les gens sous un autre jour. Changer la perception des gens qui vivent dans la pauvreté ou d'autres formes de marginalisation. Découvrir toute la richesse de ce qu'ils peuvent offrir (autre que monétaire). Ils sont créatifs et beaucoup à dire, à partager. D'un autre côté, voir les collègues (à l'université) sous un autre jour, voir leurs passions et intérêts en dehors du travail. Les voir s'amuser, mais aussi faire des erreurs et se salir. L'art est un égalisateur."

"The Art Hives methodology has helped me get in tune with how to create space, listen and slow down." - Carly McAskill

"It's great to see people take ownership of their space and actively engage in the process." - Maria Parrella-ilaria

"I have worked with an Art Hive dealing with women who have survived trauma – it is gratifying to see how they gain a sense of ownership and confidence through the art hive space and to see them change and develop. People who have survived trauma tend to be closed in and feel isolated in their experiences. The hive helps to draw those people together, help them heal parts of their past." - Maria Parrella-ilaria



Gratitude

Really grateful to be here and be able to listen to these important testimonies and questions.

Great to hear from other art hives to inspire formulating our own art hive and best practices

Being a part of this movement is wonderful, nice to see familiar and new faces. Art hives are an easy and comforting manner to work.

Sensation très forte du pouvoir des relations. Ce qu'on a vécu ensemble ressemble à ce qu'on peut vivre dans une ruche. C'est un privilège de participer, de partager nos espoirs et nos peurs.

Gratitude is a word I often use to describe my experience of art hives. I am often worried about inclusion or lack thereof. I leave with a sense of hope.

Extreme gratitude to discover the wonderful humans that carry this incredible movement.

Strength in building relationships & connection

Renewed sense of the value of art hives, whether in-person or virtual.

What participants left with

Workshop 1 Check out

Everyone has something good to bring to society and community

Power of the collective

Similarity in experiences

Power is in the intention to create space.

Peu importe l'espace, physique ou virtuel, c'est l'intention de créer un espace commun, sécuritaire.

Creativity and community go really well together.

Power of connecting with each other

Strengthen collective experience

Intention

Fascinating to explore how people actually choose to show up without being coerced to. So much that the rest of the world has to learn from this approach.

Amazed at how much community and belonging can happen in an autonomous network.

Value of being present, communicating, spontaneity, flexibility, play.

There is beauty in silence.



Workshop 2

Dream



AUG 7



Workshop 2 Agenda- Dream Phase

Purpose: Collective visioning for a preferred future

Agenda:

- Introduction and Check-in
- Create images/poems/haikus for a preferred future around the question, " What is the world calling for our network to be in the next 5-10 years?"
- Discussion in small groups
- Discussion in plenary
- Check out

What are some essential qualities of an art hive facilitator?

Workshop 2 Check-in

Welcoming

Greeting,
Inclusiveness

Radical
Hospitality: the
importance of
welcoming,
first contact

Active
observing

Reading the
room, being
sensitive to
moods

Being
receptive of
what people
have to offer

Being an
octopus
(multi-
tasking)

Listening
skills

Open-
mindedness

Sensitivity to
the individual,
the group, the
environment

Having
boundaries

Devotion,
availability

Resilience,
problem-
solving

Compassion,
empathy

Dream



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Unlocking public spaces that are otherwise inaccessible (reducing fear of the other).

Protected bubble to cultivate hope and creating a sample of the world that we want to live in, which can then have ripple effects into the broader society.

Large companies with capitalist agendas are exporting their models from the North to the South, why not do it with something that brings hope and healing (said by someone from the South).

Scaling impact

Transforming conventional institutions through creative spaces like Art Hives.

Bridging individual, community, city, province, etc. - change at different levels.

Sharing economy built in the Art Hive influencing the larger system and challenging capitalism.

Each Art Hive should be well connected a local level.

What is the world calling for the Art Hives Network to be in the next 5-10 years?

In 5-10 years time we should not have to convince' people about the merits of Art Hive, but it should be a 'given'!!

Inviting politicians and other influencers as active participants (show, not tell). As an art hive is something to be experienced hands-on.

Psychologies of Liberation: come from Latin America, how can Latinx communities reclaim it back?

Diversity and inclusion

Decreasing isolation and increasing integration.

In such a connected world, we are still so isolated.

I hope that in 5-10 years, we will see lots of men in art hives! We need to hear their voice too.

Intergenerational community spaces where seniors can interact with children.

How to avoid Art Hive be a colonizing force when the model is exported to other countries outside Canada and the US? How to center local cultures in an art hive abroad?

Dream



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The Art Hive provides an experience as a whole person, beyond occupations, labels, etc.

Not outgrowing the social and grassroots foundations of Art Hives.

Art Hive as a "way to unlearn back to your own brilliance".

Creative spaces keeping the playful and explorative spirit of childhood alive through art making.

Intercommunication / connection through our mutual roots (like trees).

Creating without the fear of exploration.

Preserving the essence of the Art Hives

Not losing the 'for the people, by the people' aspect.

What is the world calling for the Art Hives Network to be in the next 5-10 years?

Sustainability in the Network

HQ helping with more structure around benchmarks (financial, HR, etc.)

Network sharing more financial support opportunities.

More global conversations and exchanges within network.

Combining fundraising efforts of individual Art Hives across provinces in rural areas.

In the future, having a system for community members needing an Art Hive to easily locate their closest one.

More outreach to isolated communities and broad-scale visibility.

How can we spread the sharing economy of Art Hives to other sectors?

Dream



AUG 7

What participants left with (in one word):

Workshop 2 Check-out

Agency

Appreciation

Breaking
boundaries

Change

Connection

Empowerment

Energy

Generosity

Gratitude

Horizontal

Interconnectedness

Many
thoughts
to process

New
possibilities

Open-
heartedness

Peace

Resiliency

Synergy

Trust



This represents the dream of art hives existing in many systems, school, community centres, hospitals, dr.'s offices, institutions. Part of the social system web - Cynthia Morin



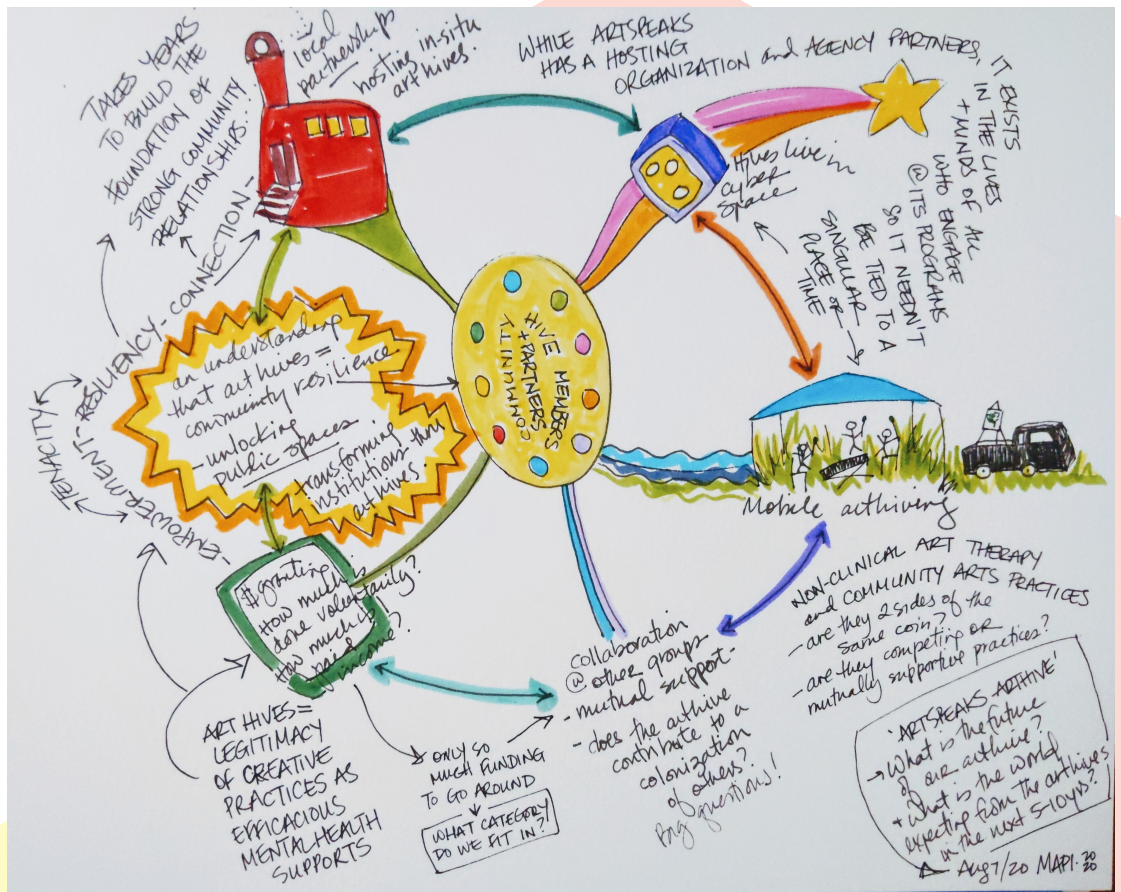
Enracinée/Well Rooted - Hélène Arsenault

Dream



AUG 7

Where do I see my Art Hive in 5-10 years? The above is a picture of the struggle to get going but overall, we're certainly growing and evolving - Maria P.I. (ArtSpeaks ArtHive, Sault Ste. Marie, Northern Ontario)



Connecting through our roots - trees connect and nurture each other through their roots - Malaka Ackaoui

Dream



AUG 7

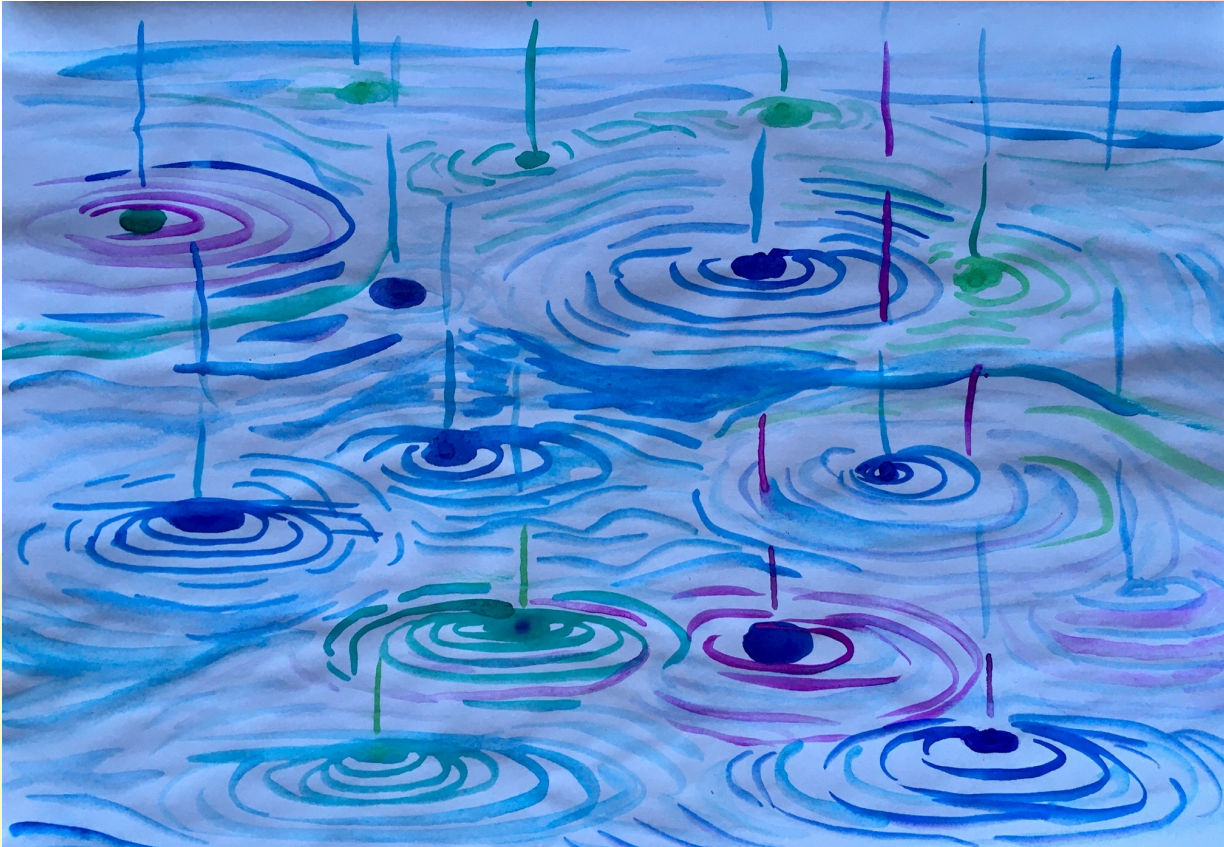


Dream



AUG 7





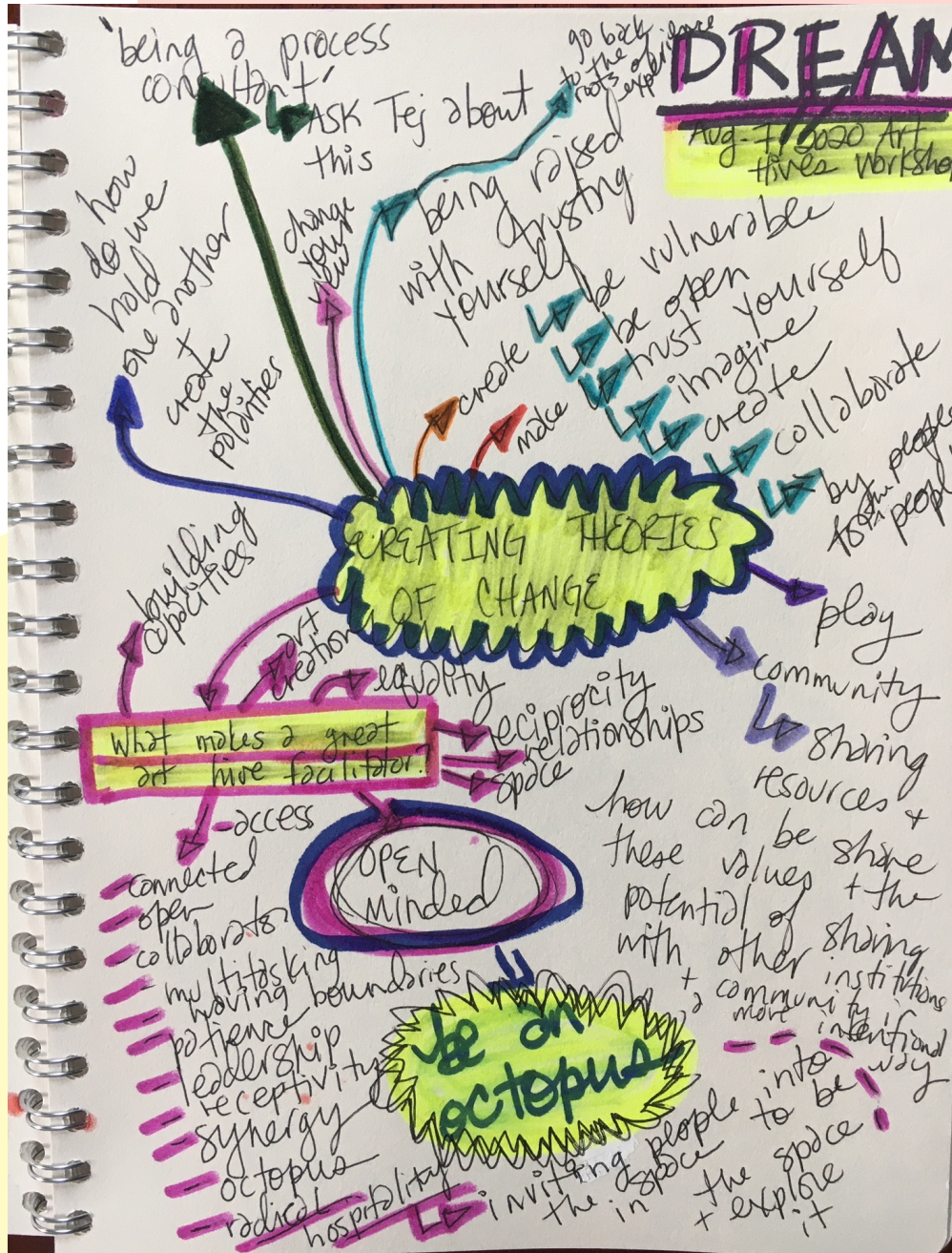
Inspired by one image that Claire offered me when everybody was chatting together:

Le mouvement des Ruches d'art pourrait être imaginé comme plusieurs vagues concentriques qui s'étendent et se joignent les unes aux autres.

All the waves formed by drips of water are joining and connecting to each other - Isabelle Gagnon-Zeberg



Brainstorming notes



By Carly McAskill



Workshop 3

Design



AUG 14



Workshop 3 Agenda- Design Phase

Purpose: Draw from the collective visioning process in Workshop 2 to co-create possible futures for the Art Hives Network.

Agenda:

- Introduction and Check-in
- Scenario planning for individual Art Hives
 - Identify unstable or unpredictable factors that may affect individual Art Hives
 - Create strategies based on likelihood of uncertainties
- Check out



What inspired us to get involved with Art Hives?

Workshop 3 Check-in

Long-standing relationship with two agencies whose clientele needed to work with the arts; responding to a community need.

Started to work as an outreach worker with the clientele and saw creative needs which are responded to by having an art hive within the organization.

Decided to get involved as I saw the benefits to participants, each day is different and there is so much to learn.

Benefits to seniors and others to participate in the arts (been doing similar type of work since 2002).

I have been an active participant for a few years, and started to work with online art hives during the pandemic. I would eventually like to work in art hives with kids in hospitals

Started art making as therapeutic tool for myself while going through illness, then discovered Art Hives and became involved to expand my experience with the arts with others.

Need for sharing positive experience with the arts.

Connecting generations together.

Breaking individualism and isolation. Creating neighbourliness in community.



Not having enough participants (x4). More difficult to outreach for online Art Hives.

Pandemic / Lockdown: Physical proximity with others. Masks vs communication.

Partner organization prioritizing clientele's basic needs over art studio needs.

Scheduling conflict with other online Art Hives.

Pandemic bringing about other uncertainties: what to do with outdoor Art Hives once it gets cold.

Uncertainty of having space in partner organization because of pandemic.

Isolation of seniors who cannot attend indoor Art Hives due to pandemic.

Effects of Pandemic

Unavailability of funding in pandemic context.

Outreach complexified in the context of pandemic.

Uncertainties for individual Art Hives? Unstable or unpredictable factors

General social context

Social, political and environmental crises (violence, suicide).

Economic Uncertainty

Shifts in cultural perceptions, trends.

Public perception (stigma around the value of community art, as well as around mental health).

Limites de temps et de ressources humaines

Human Ressources Limits

Limited individual energy to contribute to a project, burnout.

Lots of weight on the shoulders of one person or a few individuals.

Access to free or affordable space.

Access

Access: mobility, materials, technology.

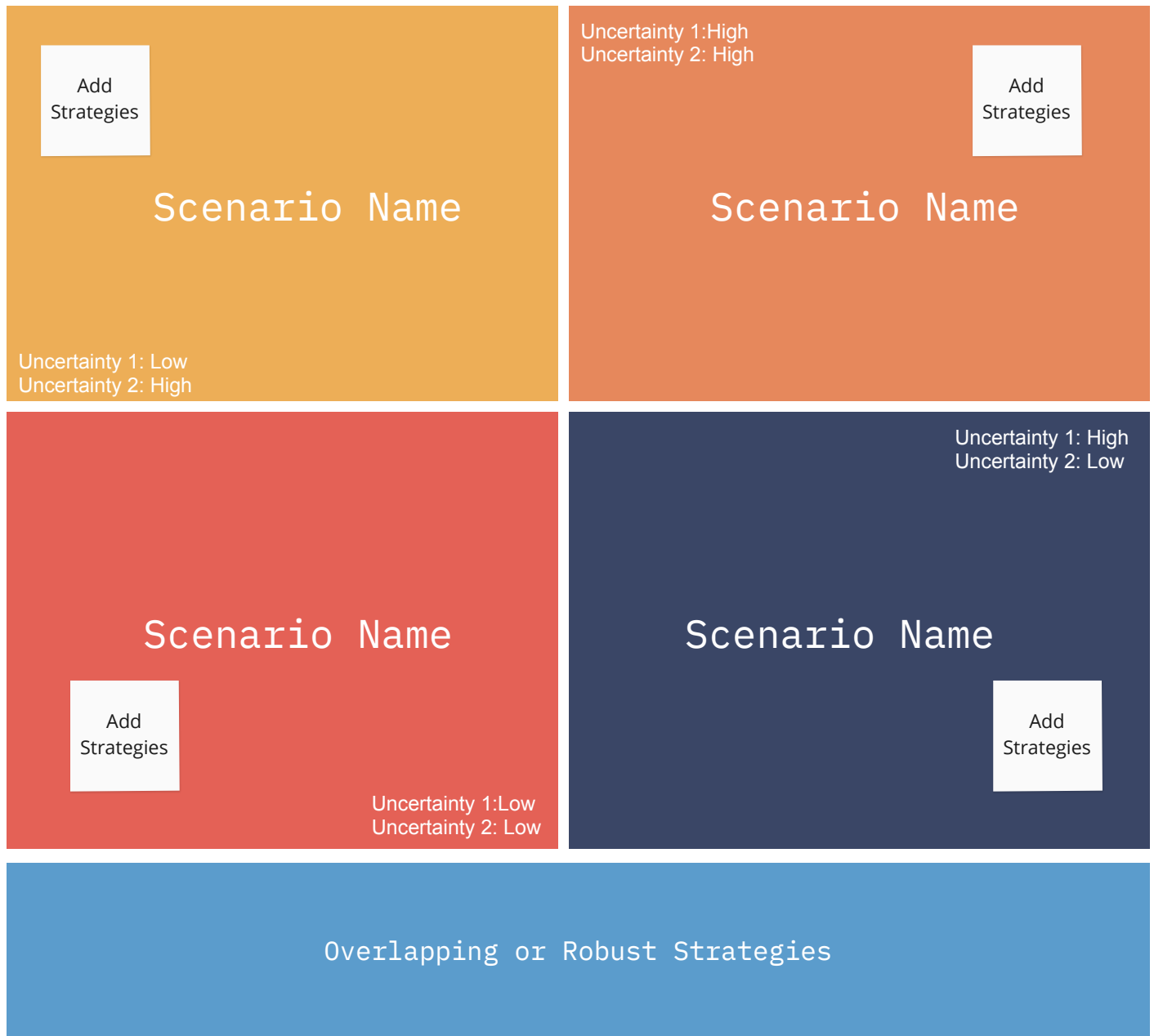
How to prioritize art when not accessing basic resources (food, shelter, shower) for people living homeless during a pandemic.

Participant mobility.

Design



Template of the Critical Uncertainties Model Used in Workshop 3 for Scenario planning



Designing plausible futures

It's ok to take a break! Being mindful of self-care. Having retreats with colleagues to regroup.

Redefining space as transient, fluid, metaphorical.

Maintaining relationships to each other in the network throughout flux of circumstances.

Cannot emphasize enough how meaningful and important these network-wide gatherings are.

Sustainability in the Network

Finding comfort in knowing that this is a transition time, a hallway, a portal.

Most important thing is the community of care, finding ways to connect and enact it.

Considering different scenarios to keep our minds and possibilities open.

Stepping back to move forward. Relying on other art hives' presence to be able to take a break.

Looking at our uncertainties from different angles to imagine solutions.

Preserving the essence of the Art Hives

Creative reuse and environmental accountability in the context online art hives

Prioritizing mental health just as much as physical health.

Art touches people in a holistic way: heart, body, mind.

Design



Being ok with number of participants being lower during pandemic

Diversity and inclusion

What can outreach and access look like during pandemic second wave / winter?

Finding creative ways to reach out to more isolated and marginalized demographics.

Designing plausible futures

Collaborate with essential services such as food banks for mutual benefit and leverage essential role of Art Hives.

Doing pop ups in different sectors for intentional outreach.

Essential services: we consider art hives are an essential service, how to campaign for the public's understanding of this?

Mentoring about outreach, communications strategies for newer art hives.

Combining online offerings to enhance participation.

The Art Hive being a place of respite during stress of back to school, second wave of pandemic, cold season.

Scaling impact

Collaborating, looking for other people to join and support in other areas.

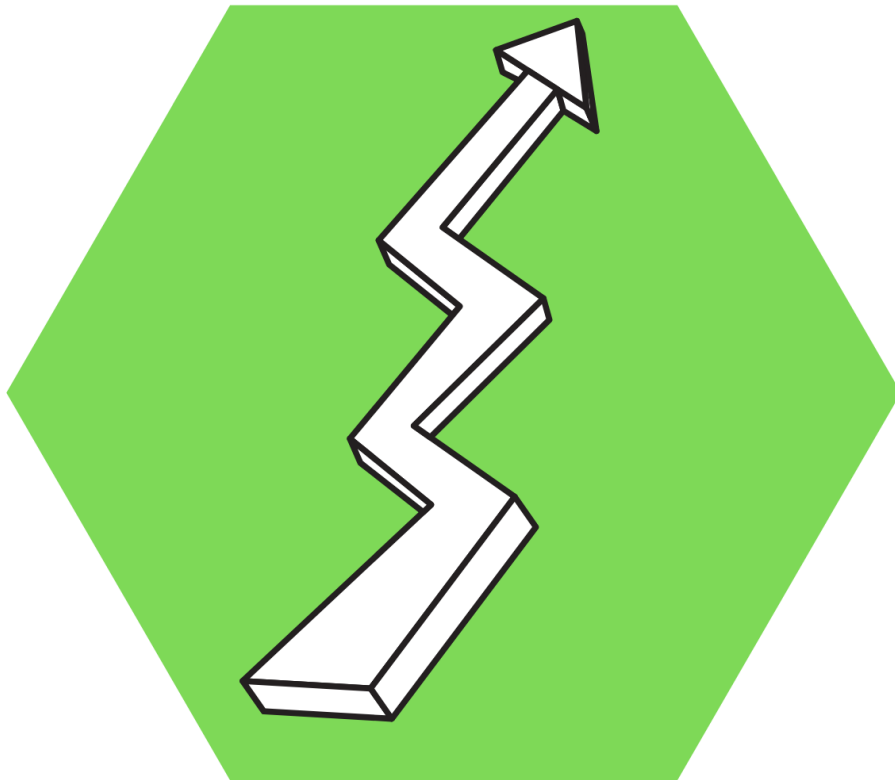
Building connections with other organizations serving similar populations or having similar goals.

More storytelling, videos, to make the work more visible.



Workshop 4

Move forward



AUG 21



Workshop 4 Agenda- Design Phase

Purpose: Draw from strategies identified for possible futures in the previous workshop to move towards individual and collective action in the network.

Agenda:

- Introduction and Check-in
- Understand and discuss the current role of the Art Hives Headquarters and its implications to the future of the network
- Discussion to identify Individual and collective needs and offers
- Check out



What are your favourite art media to work with?

Workshop 4 Check-in

Watercolours, dry pastels, acrylics: mixed media on paper

Pastels, enjoying blending with fingers

Zines, zine-exchange, watercolour + sewing. Zine about sewing during pandemic

Markers and paper, detailed drawing

Using Sharpies because this is what I had available at home in the pandemic

Mixed media collage, acrylics, process of building organically

Watercolour (environmentally friendly), making jewelry, working collaboratively with kids

Collective Acrylic Painting with large art hive group

Peinture huile et acrylique, collage de divers matériaux accumulés, au fil du temps

Paint / Colors

Pastels, enjoying blending with fingers

Abstract watercolour on creative reuse surfaces

Watercolours

Fibers

Quilting, making greeting cards

Needle felting, replicating local birds and other animals

Sewing and embroidering paper

making jewelry, working collaboratively with kids

Origami

Learning to draw, graphic facilitation

Online, digital art with paint apps

Teaching clowning online

Arranging things to look nice together,

Touche-à-tout, découverte, travaille avec les branches présentement

3D Art

Nature photography

Digital Art and photography

Instagram Photography

Building 3D artwork using tools, wire

Still life arrangement in art hive and acrylic painting as a group

Cyanotypes



Perception of the role of the Art Hives HQ in a growing network?

Importance of the supportive, training role of the Art Hives HQ at Concordia

Role of Concordia University, whether or not they choose to continue to prioritize the Art Hives HQ fragilizes the continuity of the Network.

Everything made by the HQ is amazing, useful, flexible, and especially outstanding considering the small number of staff.

Imagining the multi-layers of the network spanning the globe.

These workshops have been really helpful, we hope they can continue and grow.

Importance of the HQ in the networking, sharing of information.

Forming regional clusters to support one another.

How can we create resilience that is not related to the decisions of a specific institution?

What is already there is working really well, more staff is needed to support the growth.

It is very appreciated to have someone to help you start your art hive and connect you to other Art Hives or resources.

We are inspired by the HQ to create our own initiatives: for instance a Facebook group for francophones facilitators.

Developing relationships with other organizations and agencies sharing similar values, mandates to create synergies.

We are realizing that we need to rely on another, support each other across the network.

Increase strength of HQ (with more resources), to reflect the growth of Network.

The HQ does a great job of sharing what individual art hives do.

Importance of building autonomy and resilience within the network

Principle of Each-One-Teach-One: relying on each other across the network.

Individual art hives relying on HQ for theoretical foundation, principles, guidelines.

Having more resources, staff, help for the HQ.

Grateful for role of the HQ, they have been very accessible for answering questions and providing support over the years.

HQ getting funding to provide regional coordinators to areas with significant growth.

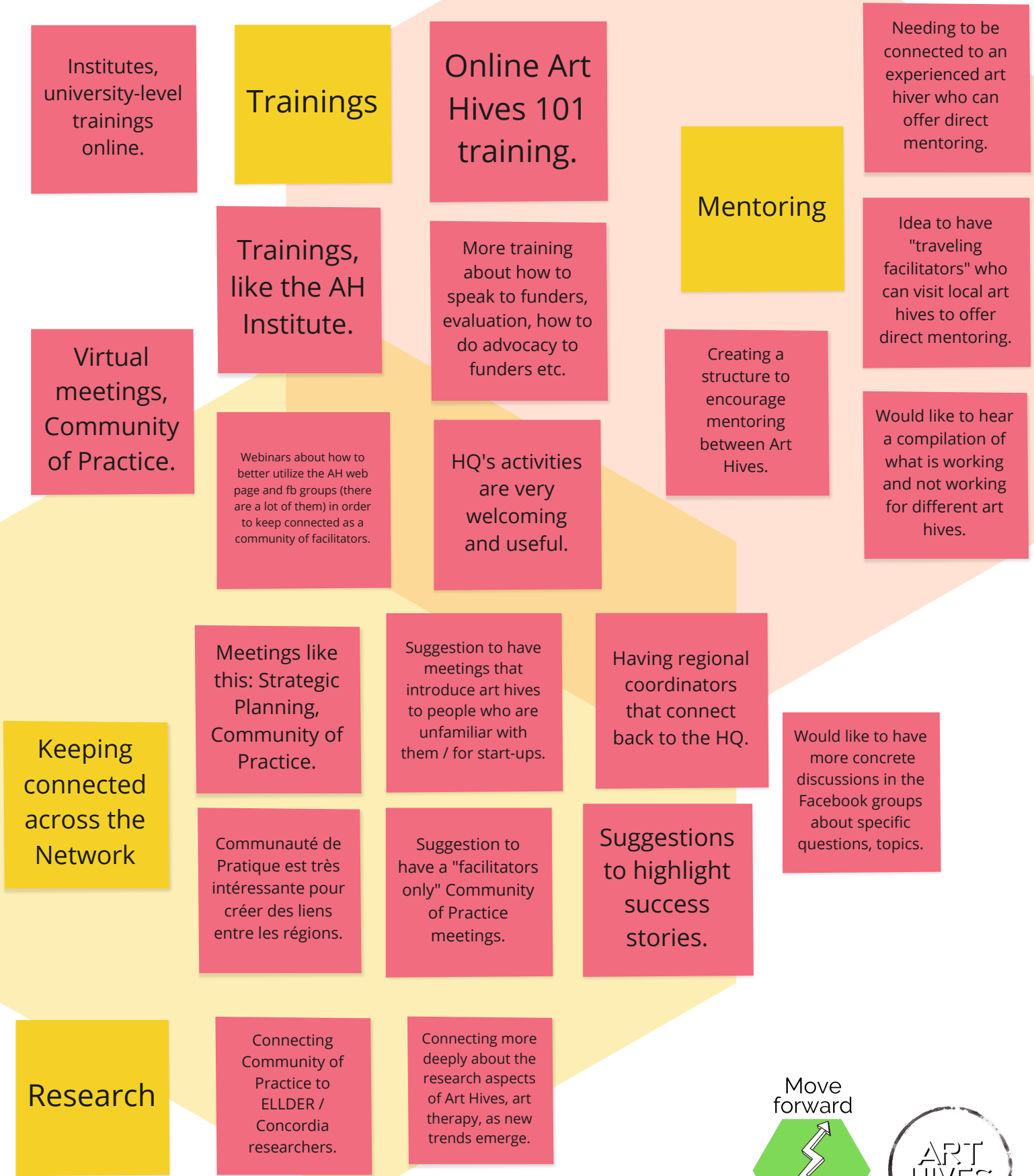
We could have a centralized calendar of activities coming up.

Facing uncertainties (pandemic, funding), if we rely on each other across 200+ art hives, we will be much more resilient.

Move forward



What is one thing you need from the HQ moving forward?



What is one thing you can offer to the Network as a whole moving forward?

Staying in touch, showing up

Participation

I will be contributing to creating the regional (Ontario) clusters (Maria).

I will be making connections at the regional level (Prairies) with universities, governments, etc. (Dana).

Participating more actively, as it is very motivating

Regional Clusters

I will promote and coordinate Spanish speaking new networks (Ana).

Promotion, networking

I will promote Art Hives on social media and talk to other people about them (Peter).

I will contribute mentoring skills with start-up art hives (Jennifer).

I will help strengthening the Art Hive connection with other social innovation centers and NGOs like B7 (Moh).

I will encourage people to connect with the engAGE Living Lab Digital Era Response project at Concordia University as well as attend other AH activities to co-create and connect (Carly).

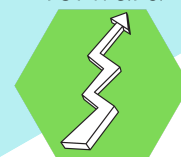
I will offer mentoring and benefit from mentoring (Helene).

Mentoring

Website

I will help restructure the website to facilitate searching for information (Vero).

Move forward



What word of encouragement would you like to share with each other in the network?

Workshop 4 Check-out

Let's continue making connections and helping each other.

Grateful for being so warmly welcomed and included in this initiative. You have all inspired me. I look forward to connecting again in the future and learning from each other. Thank you!

"They tried to bury us, but they didn't know we were seeds." - Greek proverb, also used by Zapatistas in Mexico

Trust yourself, be bold, reach out, be the change that you want to see!

These meetings give me spiritual sustenance and philosophical nourishment!

"Unlearn your way back to your brilliance"
-Kelly Rae Roberts

Keep going, we need Art Hives more than ever!

Conviction

Holding space interconnectedly

Art Heals - spread the word :) wonderful meeting you all, thank you to everyone.

En ces temps incertains, la force naît de l'union de chacun.e.

C'est dans la création qu'on se découvre / it's in creation that we discover oneself.

"I wondered today if all the things I am making with my two hands, my ten fingers, my one mind, are actually making me? As I bring more into existence out of the nothing that lives around me, are more pieces of me being brought to life at the same time?" - Tyler Knott Gregson

A quote that helped me start and continue my art hive is "start where you are, use what you have, do what you can." attributed to Arther Ashe.

I am so grateful to witness the magic that happens in the studio, and so grateful to be a part of the inspiring community that is the Art hives Network.

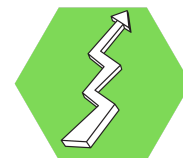
You are stronger, more resilient and open to new possibilities than you know.

I feel that this creative community feels like home to me. Lets keep building it up!

Be able to connect with each other and work together to build the network that can benefit more people.

Connecting to wonderful people who care about their community and themselves.

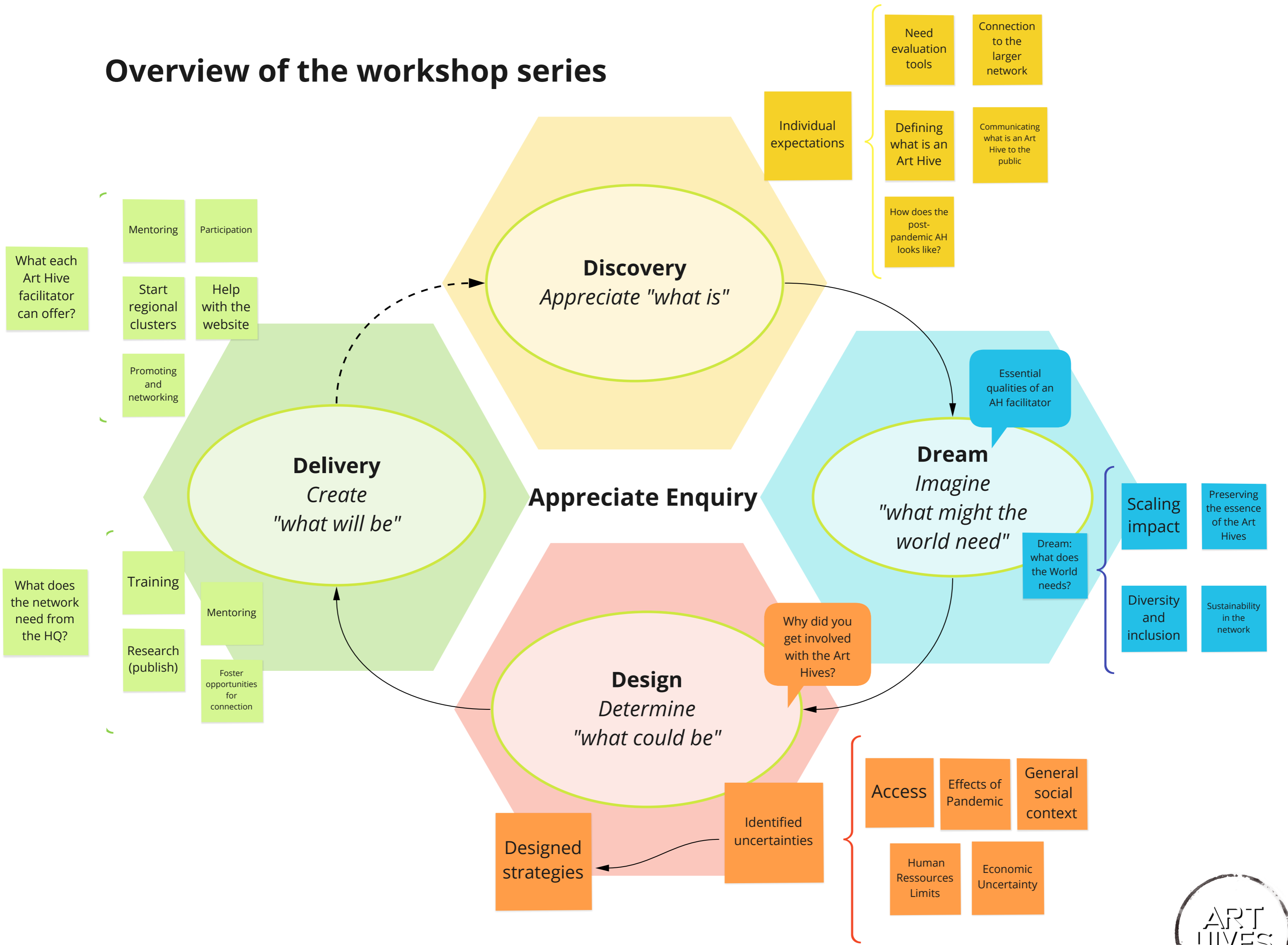
Move forward



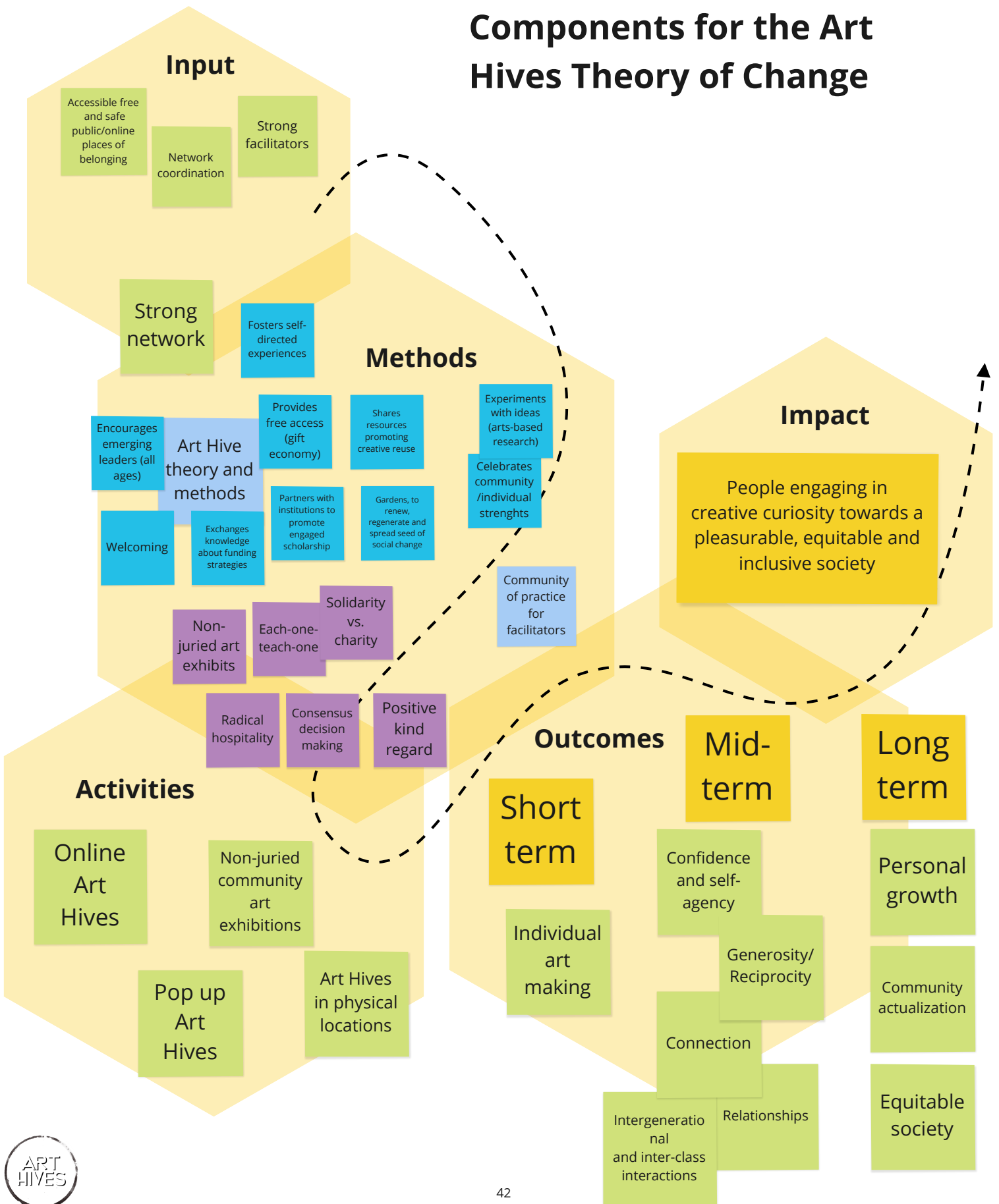
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Overview of the workshop series

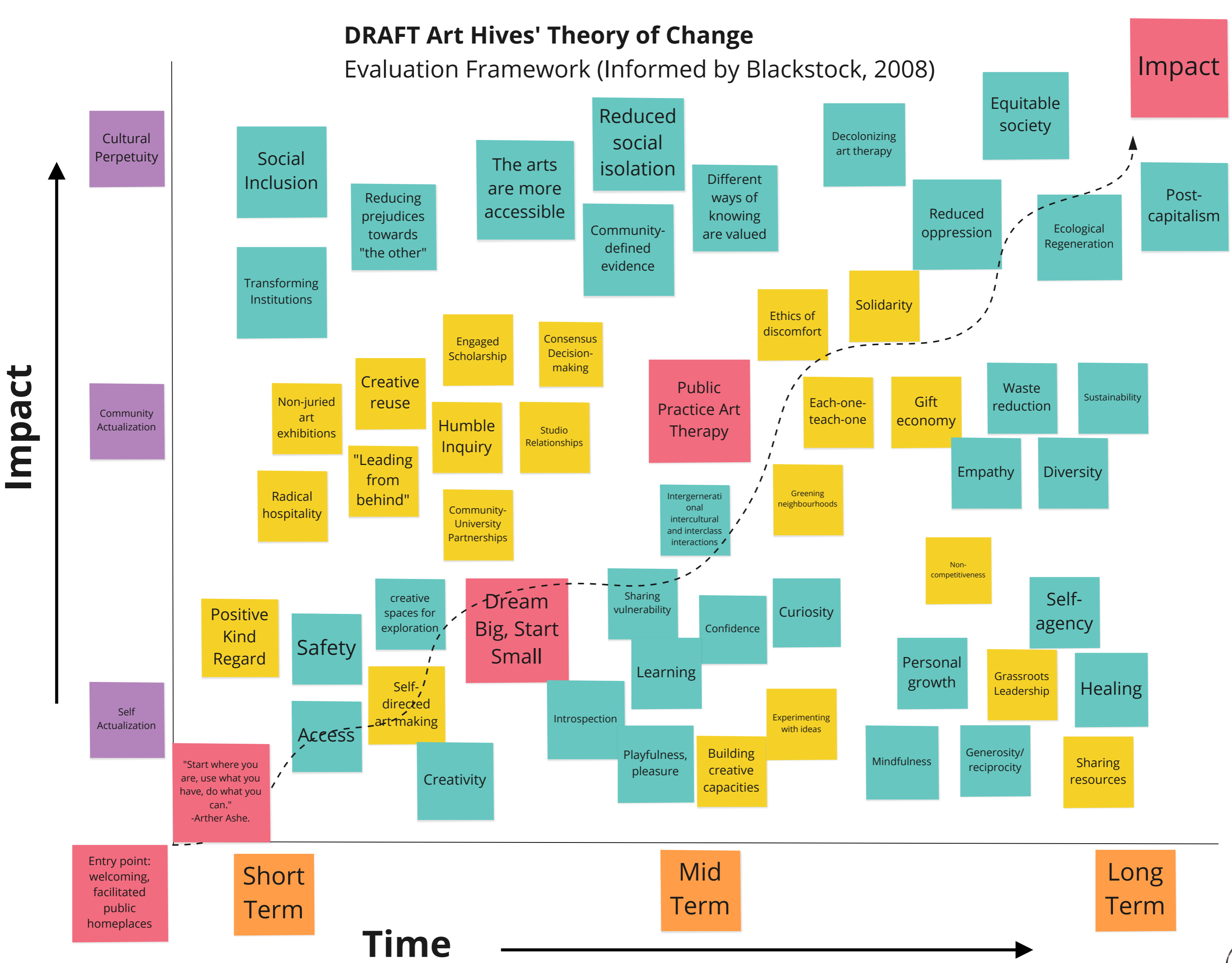


Components for the Art Hives Theory of Change



DRAFT Art Hives' Theory of Change

Evaluation Framework (Informed by Blackstock, 2008)



List of Workshop Participants

Ana Garcia	La Colmena de Arte (Austin, Texas)
Angela Lubino	LaBulle - Ile-des-Sœurs Verdun (Montreal, Quebec)
Carly McAskill	engAGE Living Lab Digital Era Response, Concordia University (Montreal, Quebec)
Claire Chouinard	Ruche d'Art La Page Blanche (Boucherville, Quebec)
Cynthia Morin	Virtual Art Hive Pop Up (Toronto, Ontario)
Dana Stefanson	The Art Nest (Wynyard, Saskatchewan)
Hélène Arsenault	Ruche d'art du Plateau at La Maison d'Aurore (Montreal, Quebec)
Isabelle Fortier	Ruche d'art La Page Blanche (Boucherville, Quebec)
Isabelle Gagnon-Zeberg	Ruche d'art du Centre d'exposition de Val -David (Val-David, Quebec)
Jennifer Jalal	Creative Community Hive (Oakville, Ontario)
Joanne Racette	Atelier d'Art de la Mission Communautaire Mile-End (Montreal, Quebec)
Katrina Suchostawski	Concordia University Art Hives (Montreal, Quebec)
Laura Rowley	The Open Art Hive (Ithaca, New York)
Malaka Ackaoui	Rendez-vous créatifs virtuels (Montreal, Quebec)
Maria Parrella-ilaria	Art Speaks Art Hive (Sault Ste.Marie, Ontario)
Mary Krohnert	The Livingroom Community Art Studio (Oshawa, Ontario)
Mohammad Abdolreza-Zadeh	engAGE Living Lab Digital Era Response / Persian Art Hive (Montreal, QC)
Monica Escobedo	Art Hives HQ Administrative Assistant (Boucherville, QC)
Patrick Landry	Volunteer for translation help (Montreal, QC)
Peter Zhuang	Online Open Mic Hive/ Concordia University Art Hive (Montreal, QC)
Rachel Chainey	Art Hives Network Coordinator (Montreal, Quebec)
Raphael Comte	La Ruche d'Art les Créatifs (Thetford Mines, Quebec)
Simone Cote	McGill Art Hive Initiative (MAHI) (Montreal, Quebec)
Sophie Vinette	University of British Columbia Okanagan Art Hive (Kelowna, BC)
Sue Proctor	engAGE Living Lab Digital Era Response (Winnipeg, MB)
Veronique Emerand	Ruche d'Art de Longueuil (Longueuil, Quebec)



Workshop Facilitators

Rachel Chainey	Contents Facilitator	<i>Art Hives Network Coordinator</i>
Monica Escobedo	Technology Facilitator	<i>Art Hives Headquarters Administrative Assistant</i>
Patrick Landry	Language Facilitator (English to French translation)	<i>Volunteer, English to French translation</i>
Mohammad Abdolreza-Zadeh	Visual Facilitator	<i>engAGE Living Lab Digital Era Response Research Assistant</i>
Tejaswinee Jhunhunwala	Process Facilitator	<i>MA Human Systems Intervention Candidate, Concordia University</i>

*Revision: Janis Timm-Bottos, Art Hives HQ Director
& Associate Professor, Faculty of Fine Arts, Concordia University*

