



picture-perfect partnership

purpose • To reflect on youth–adult partnerships through the creation of an art form (a mural, collage, or mosaic)

time Approximately 30 to 45 minutes

group size 15 to 20 participants

materials • Flip chart paper or art paper for mural
• Large sheet of art paper or sticky wall
• Colorful paper cut into different geometric shapes
• Magazines, newspapers
• Glue for mosaic or collage
• Markers

prepare ahead Determine which art form the participants will be creating in this activity and have the materials prepared ahead of time. Other art supplies can be used.

trainer note: This exercise is most effective at the end of a meeting or event.

introduction

An enormous amount of skill, talent, experience, and insight comes from authentic partnerships between youth and adults. This exercise creates an opportunity to visually capture the rich efforts and work that come from such collaborations and shared learning.



step one

Explain that in closing the meeting, each participant will have the opportunity to create a piece of a mural (or a piece of a collage or mosaic, based on the available supplies) that depicts his or her own experience or insight about the work that has been done. Give participants 2 or 3 minutes to think about the question, “What do our collective work, efforts, insights, and experiences look like?”

step two

Ask the participants to use the different art supplies and their imaginations to create their own piece of the collective art form (i.e., of the mural, collage, or mosaic). Have participants place their art pieces up on a large piece of art paper or a sticky wall.

step three

Have participants continue to create the larger art form as individual pieces are posted. After 10 minutes of collective “art form design,” have all the participants stop and step back from the wall. Ask each participant to reflect on the image for 1 or 2 minutes.

reflection and discussion

Process the activity in the large group using the following questions:

- What images stand out?
- Where were you moved?
- Where did you feel stuck?
- How does the collective art form depict your work as a team?
- What could be the title of this piece of art? (e.g., “When I look at our mural, I think the title is Power and Passion in Action.”)
- How can you use this information to improve the work of this or another team?