PROCESS ARCHIVE FOR EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

Archive your Experience

You are to maintain an archive of your process and experience throughout the duration of this community-based engaged learning (CBEL) course project. All group members are expected to contribute to the archive by taking or locating and saving images, videos, sounds, observations and reflections using a variety of media and tools. You may designate one group member to manage the organization and format of the archive, but the depth and richness of the archive will depend everyone's contribution. You will later draw upon this archive when creating a video report at the end of term.

The purpose of the Process Archive is two-fold:

> 1) it is a place/hub where you can share/organize aspects of individual and collaborative research and experience that is not just text-based; and,

> 2) it is a place where you can demonstrate an awareness of what and how you are learning in the context of this community experience, which will ultimately help to create a strong video later on.

Following technical guidelines provided in class, you are to set up your digital archive location during the first week of class and have several items/artefacts including images by the third week of class. There will be an in-class workshop on how the archive can be used for your video report; the workshop will enable you to learn more about the purpose of the archive and inspire you to think differently about the potential it provides.

Getting Started:

Collect > Select > Reflect

When starting your archive, especially for the first couple of weeks, don't think too much about what to look for… just collect. If you can, go to the location of the organization you are working with and take pictures of buildings, public space, signs, anything. Grab screenshots from their website and from different social media sites.

Create a folder on your computer where you store everything. Then later create different areas in the digital archive where each group member can contribute. Perhaps eventually you will organize the archive by different topics and themes.

Throughout your process of collecting, you are encouraged to start selecting certain items/experiences you identify as more significant than others. Spend some time reflecting on why? Why does it stand out to you? What does it represent to your process? Figure out how you would like to document this reflection process and where you can make notes about the items that stand out to you.

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Some reflection questions that might help you to start documenting, collecting and archiving.

Some ideas relating to images and multimedia from your process archive:
- What comes to mind when looking, watching or listening? Does it remind you of anything?
- What is the main element/ focus/ object? How do you usually see this element? What does the element mean to the majority of people?
- What does the image / media represent or capture about your process? (a challenge, a success, a negotiation, a skill, a feeling, an idea, etc.)

We will expand on this area in the in-class workshop

Some ideas relating to community, space, place:
- What is the neighbourhood the organization is in and how is the organization integrated (or not) with the community around it?
- Who is the organization or building space for? Who is it not for – or – who is left out? Who is allowed to be in the space?
- How does the space/place of the organization differ from other spaces/places?
- How does the organization's online space(s) relate to all of the above?
- How do you personally feel within the physical and online space/place? How do you think the targeted audience feels when encountering the physical and online space/place?

Some ideas relating to groups and meetings:
- What assumptions or expectations do you have about working with your team members?
- What assumptions or expectations do you have about meeting the community partners? What do you think will happen during the meeting?
- Can you identify some goals for your first meeting with the community partners?
- What did I learn from the first meeting? What will I do moving forward?
- In what ways did I succeed or do well in the meeting? What personal characteristics helped me to be successful? In what ways did I experience difficulties? What personal characteristics contributed to these difficulties?

Some ideas relating to personal and professional self-reflection and values:
- How might this project, and inform my identity? How might it inform the profession I choose?
- What personal characteristics do I hope to better understand and develop through this experience?
- What skills do I hope to gain through this experience that will help me in my future career? How can I ensure this experience allows me to gain some of the skills needed for that career?