

WORKING GROUPS

ARTISTS WORKING TOGETHER TO BUILD SUSTAINABLE LIVES

We show up every time, on time.

We do assignments fully and rigorously.

We give and receive confidentiality.

We are skills-based, not need-based. Assume we have the skills and resources to address all the challenges we face.

Every artist knows what is best for her. Instead of telling people what they *should* do, we say:

"Here's something that worked for me..."

"You might want to consider..."

We balance our talking and our listening, making space for new voices.

Building conversations and community takes leadership on all sides. It can be messy. Consciously speak up, listen, step forward, step back.

The host sends reminders to the group one week and one day before each meeting, keeps time, and keeps the meeting on topic.

Hold the meeting times sacred. Emails that say, "Hey everybody, can we reschedule the meeting because..." lead to scheduling meltdowns. If there is a blizzard or natural disaster, the host decides about postponing.

WORKING GROUP DAY 1

Date/Time: _____

Location: _____

Host: _____

Assignment

- ▶ Read *Making Your Life as an Artist*.

At The Meeting

- 1. Introduce yourselves.** ~15 min
 - What do you do artistically? And what is something you're working on now that you are excited about?
- 2. Watch the short Strategic Planning video.**
- 3. On your own, do Strategic Planning step one, Workbook p.10-17.** ~60 min
 - What do you want personally, professionally, and artistically in the next two years? Spend at least 45 minutes writing.
- 4. Come back together and discuss. You can share specific goals or talk generally about the experience.** ~25 min
 - What did you learn? What surprised you?
 - Was any category easier or harder to answer than the others?

WORKING GROUP DAY 2

Date/Time: _____

Location: _____

Host: _____

Assignments

- ▶ Reread the Planning chapter in *Making Your Life as an Artist*, p. 94-111.
- ▶ Do steps two and three of Strategic Planning, Workbook p. 18-23: choose three goals and break them down into steps.

At The Meeting

1. Discuss the Strategic Planning process.

~20 min

- Choosing three goals and breaking them down into steps: what surprised you? What did you learn? What was easy or hard?
- Did you have trouble finding first steps for certain goals?

2. Watch the short Artist Statement video.

3. Do the Artist Statement process, Workbook p. 32-35.

~90 min

- Write a list of ten words to describe your work and mission.
- Share the words with the group.
- Write a one paragraph artist statement.
- Pair up and take turns sharing your statement with your partner: ask questions both ways and take notes.
- Revise your statement based on what you learn.

4. If there's time, come back together, and anyone who wants to share their Artist Statement can read it to the whole group.

- You can ask your group specific questions about your statement, and they can ask you clarifying questions.

WORKING GROUP DAY 3

Date/Time: _____

Location: _____

Host: _____

Assignments

- ▶ Do one step toward each of your three goals.
- ▶ Read the Money chapter in *Making Your Life as an Artist*, p. 131-157
- ▶ Do money tracking, Workbook p. 39-41.
- ▶ Figure out your annual salary needs and your hour, day, and week rates, Workbook p. 42-44.
- ▶ List your revenue streams from last year, Workbook p. 45.

At The Meeting

1. Watch the short Money video.

2. Discuss the financial assignments.

~60 min

- What did you learn that surprised you?
- What revenue streams are working well for you? Are there new revenue streams you are considering or working on?
- Going forward, do you have any specific revenue goals?
- What has worked for you in managing your finances? Are there tools/tactics/systems you can share with the group?

3. Check in about your Strategic Plan.

~45 min

- What steps have you taken toward your goals? What have you learned?

WORKING GROUP DAY 4

Date/Time: _____

Location: _____

Host: _____

Assignments

- ▶ Do one step toward each of your three goals.
- ▶ Read the Time chapter in *Making Your Life as an Artist*, p. 160-175.
- ▶ Do time tracking, Workbook, p. 56-64.
- ▶ Write down everything you're doing, Workbook, p. 65-67.
- ▶ Write your dislikes, Workbook, p. 68.
- ▶ List your team, Workbook, p. 69.

At The Meeting

1. Check in about your Strategic Plan.

~30 min

- What's next? Are there resources, partners, connections you are looking for? A group brainstorm can be helpful. Share your networks, make connections.

2. Watch the short Time video.

3. Discuss the time assignments.

~45 min

- What did you learn? What surprised you?
- When do you do your best work? When is your art time? When is your down time? Your vacation?
- What are your dislikes? How can you get others to do those things?
- Who is on your team? How do they help or support you?
- Does anyone have an advisory board or want to create one?

4. Discuss the next meeting.

~40 min

- What do you want to talk about?
- Do you want to give an assignment? Do you want someone to prepare the next session? Do you want to invite a guest/outsider? Do you want to revisit an earlier topic?

**WORKING
GROUP
DAY 5**

Date/Time: _____

Location: _____

Host: _____

It's up to you.

Write your Working Group's plan for the fifth meeting here: