

Aspirations Facilitator's Guide

Instructions for leading a conversation about aspirations

- For this exercise you'll be asking the three questions shown below and helping to identify patterns or themes from the answers given.
- Make sure everyone has a copy of the Aspirations questions.
- Give your participants ten minutes to read and write down their answers to these three questions.
- Go through the questions in order and for each, record their answers on a flip chart and identify any patterns or themes that emerge from their answers.

① What are your aspirations your community?

Record your participant's answers on the flip chart. Capture the key words they use.

Ask the group:

- What patterns do you see?
- Are there any themes emerging? Name some of these themes.

Make sure that you've captured the essence of their thoughts and responses.

② What challenges do we face in reaching these aspirations?

Record your participant's answers on the flip chart. Capture the key words they use.

Ask the group:

- What patterns do you see?
- Are there any themes emerging? Name some of these themes.

Make sure that you've captured the essence of their thoughts and responses.

③ What needs to change in the community to reach our aspirations?

Record your participant's answers on the flip chart. Capture the key words they use.

Ask the group:

- What patterns do you see?
- Are there any themes emerging? Name some of these themes.

Make sure that you've captured the essence of their thoughts and responses.

(continued on the back)

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How to summarize:

Once the three questions have been answered and the responses recorded, summarize what your participants have said by telling a story.

We began by saying that we wanted a community where _____
(aspirations) but we face _____ (challenges). So if we want to reach
our aspirations, we need to create _____ (new conditions/change)

HOW TO MAKE IT WORK

- 1 Record the themes and post them where people will frequently see them. Ask: If this story about our shared aspirations is true, then what does that mean for our work together?
- 2 Share this exercise with others - with your co-workers, at your place of worship, with friends, your PTA, your board, etc. Ask: What are the implications for our work? What other groups could use this exercise for their own work?

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