

Activity 5.7 Practicing Collaboration with Others

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Description

Three presenters pitch campus initiatives or community programs they want to keep, get rid of, or flirt with in order to create their ideal shared community. Participants discuss their own ideas while building a collaborative city out of LEGOs.

Learning Goal

- Practice actively listening to and constructively incorporating diverse opinions, needs, or concerns when working towards a shared vision.

Instructions (55 minutes)

<p>Set Up</p>	<p>Prepare for the Activity</p> <p>This activity can be used in a classroom or workshop. It can also be the basis of a community event. If designing this activity as a community event, review the Warm Cookies of the Revolution Event Checklists.</p> <p>The main item needed for this activity is a set of LEGOs. Set up a large table (or group together multiple desks) and lay out the LEGOs in the center of the table with chairs all around.</p> <p>Select a topic that is important to your discussion group, something they are passionate about. Alternatively, you could discuss existing programs or new initiatives that they would like to introduce.</p>	
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¹ **Citation for this activity:** Evan Weissman (2023). Practicing Collaboration with Others. In Hartman and Byrd (Eds), The Interactivity Foundation Collaborative Discussion Toolkit. Retrieved from <https://www.collaborativediscussionproject.com/activities/module-5>

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	<p>If the group has done Activity 5.1 Identifying Your Civic Passion or Activity 5.8 Practicing Deliberation with Others, you could also use the issue or initiatives arrived at by the group in those activities.</p> <p>Also, select three participants or invite three guests who will be presenting pitches for keeping, getting rid of, or “flirting” with initiatives or programs. These might be initiatives or programs for the proposed city that groups are building together.</p> <p>Explain to them that they will have 5 minutes to describe what their proposal is and why they think it should be implemented.</p> <p>Begin by introducing the learning goals of this activity.</p> <p>Facilitator Tip: If selecting participants, encourage them to prepare bold, divergent proposals.</p>	
<p>Step One</p>	<p>Start Collaboratively Building a City out of LEGOs</p> <p>Have participants sit around the table and invite them to start building their version of an ideal city together using the LEGOs.</p> <p>Explain to them that while they work on building this city, they will also listen to the three participants who were selected or guests present their pitches and then discuss the ideas as a full group.</p> <p>As participants begin to build their city, introduce the goal of the event and the three people who will be pitching the campus, community or workplace programs they want to keep, get rid of, or flirt with.</p>	<p>10 min</p>
<p>Step Two</p>	<p>Present Three Pitches</p> <p>Invite each guest or participant to give their pitch, one at a time. Keep track of time and let speakers know as they get close to the 5 minute mark.</p>	<p>15 min</p>
<p>Step Three</p>	<p>Share Responses and Ideas in a Lightning Round</p> <p>When the pitches are complete, invite the rest of the participants to share their own ideas or responses to the pitches in 2 minute elevator speeches.</p> <p>This is a lightning round meant to keep things fast, fun, and playful. Anticipate, perhaps, 10 elevator speeches or pitches.</p> <p>Remind participants to keep working on building their LEGOs city together while listening to others share their ideas. Encourage participants to use “yes, and…” to build on each other’s ideas and collaboratively create a shared vision.</p>	<p>20 min</p>

Step Four	<p>Debrief as a Full Group</p> <p>Reflect on the ideas shared and discuss:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What were some common themes that came up in the three main pitches and/or the lightning round? • What kinds of features did folks build in their ideal LEGOs city? • What surprised people about the ideas shared? 	10 min
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Reflection Journal

- How important were the LEGOs in this activity? What does that tell you about how people collaborate or work together?
- Which additional or follow-up elevator pitch impressed you the most? What did you observe about the follow-up pitches?
- What if citizens came together to discuss and collaborate? What would be required by people and society to make this part of our democratic culture?

Practice Journal

This week, practice collaborating with someone but do so while your hands are being occupied. That is, try discussing a topic that requires building on the ideas of others and generating new ideas together, but do this while engaged in another activity (perhaps a sport, art, craft, walk, etc.) Reflect on the importance of engaging in another activity while collaborating. How does it change the process and the outcome?

Dive Deeper: Additional Resources

- [The LEGO® Serious Play® Method - SeriousplayTraining](#): "The LEGO® Serious Play® Method." *Association of Master Trainers in the LEGO® Serious Play® Method*, The Association of Master Trainers and The LEGO Group, seriousplay.training/lego-serious-play/. Accessed 9 Sep. 2023.
- [The shift inside your brain when practicing LEGO® SERIOUS PLAY® | Seriousplay blog](#): Semo, Jean. "The shift inside your brain when practicing LEGO® SERIOUS PLAY®." *Association of Master Trainers in the LEGO® Serious Play® Method*, 1 Oct. 2019, The Association of Master Trainers and The LEGO Group, www.seriousplay.training/blog/2019/10/01/the-shift-inside-your-brain-when-practicing-lego-serious-play/. Accessed 9 Sep. 2023.
- [Play is central to human development](#): Andrès Lòpez Garcìa, Jaime. "Ludo Sapiens People = LSP = LEGO® Serious Play®." *Association of Master Trainers in the LEGO® Serious Play® Method*, 28 May 2019, The Association of Master Trainers and The LEGO Group, www.seriousplay.training/blog/2019/05/28/ludo-sapiens-people-lsp-lego-serious-play/. Accessed 9 Sep. 2023.

Activity Cluster

5.7 Practicing Collaboration with
Others

[2.8 Encouraging Bold Imagination
\(Telling the History of the Future\)](#)