

Brief Description

A workshop blending critical reflection and practical application harnesses creativity as a product and process of building sustainable positive peace. While the cultural implications of arts-based education have been clear, its applicability as a peacebuilding vehicle is only recently being explored as an interdisciplinary process with import outside of therapeutic and creative expression.

In this workshop, participants will engage around three strands of the educational process: the teacher, the content and the learner. Built upon an unavoidable asymmetry--the artist teacher will typically have more experience than the learner--this workshop seeks to democratize, decolonize and create empowerment through how the arts are taught, what is taught and how learners utilize that information.

Through reflection and critical analysis, participants will evaluate their educational approach juxtaposed with principles of facilitation, mediation and negotiation. Through this examination, participants can assess their current practices, capabilities and needs for accessing deeper layers of arts and educational leadership.

Additionally, considering not only what content is taught, but its delivery with an eye toward power dynamics in the classroom can provide valuable data for developing more effective strategies for long-term transformation in learners.

As participants engage with their personal and professional processes, we will engage in imagining new ways to engage with learners across a wide swath of capabilities, perspectives and backgrounds.

This workshop will include elements of presentation, reflection and practical application in alignment with experiential educational and performance studies theory.