

HOW TO SPARK CIVIC IMAGINATION

Civic imagination—the practice of envisioning a better future and mapping steps to get there—is a tool for both creativity and collective action.



ACTIVATING CIVIC IMAGINATION

Consider the tips below for sparking civic imagination in your community:

Celebrate specificity

Center the unique experiences of individuals and groups to uncover universal lessons and create solutions that meet everyone's distinct needs, in the spirit of targeted universalism.

Use storytelling

Encourage participants to share personal narratives to build empathy, understanding, and a shared vision for action.

Practice perspective-taking

Invite participants to see through the eyes of others—neighbors, community members, or different age groups—to see challenges and possibilities from multiple viewpoints.

Visualize and map ideas

Use maps, diagrams, or physical layouts to make abstract concepts tangible and spark collaborative thinking.

Play, imagine, and act

Use humor, games, and creative "what if" exercises to spark imaginative thinking and envision new ways of being.

Turn imagination into action

Help connect creative ideas to real-world solutions by building action plans, identifying paths forward, and mapping steps to achieve them. These exercises help individuals see their own power and ability for collective problem-solving.