

Community Brainstorming Notes

4/23 UWM

Images:

Katie

- Giant structure with people hanging off bunging
- giant monsters
- fun loving, introducing to community so they have fun while they're there to interact with the parade
- healing/laying hands; character that bows and has tendrils that extend into the crowd
- (max)having a character that exists through out the parade, to tell a story of one person
- (jeff)alison and wonderland...
- (barbara)balance idea, giant teeter totter people helping people stay up, giant revolving, people jumping on and off, bringing up and down
- moving ongoing work of art that is created as we walk (giant canvas)
- octopus with different arms balancing different fears/hopes
- putting pieces together and how do you get to the place where you are healed
- the end result of the parade is to get people to feel good, give them hope
- different age groups (the game of life) different stages of life, giant board game
- larger than life artist at his easel with the parade logo on his canvas

4/28 Urban Underground

Hopes:

Katie

- like to see a healthier urban ecology, infrastructure of the city, schools, gov't, to get healthier
- go green
- more peace, do much domestic violence
- less judgmental
- less self hatred
- better future
- more leaders and less followers
- get my opinions out there, i have a positive view, adopting children so they won't feel like no one wants them, most people want younger kids
- hope to get my college housing done
- eliminate thugs, not cute, no thugs everyone would be smooth
- break the cycle of absentee fathers in my family, man up and get a job and school
- break the cycle of black me going to jail in my family
- better economy
- break the cycle of politics and how they affect communities, gentrification, system that does the same thing over and over
- creating documentaries of people's histories, relate it more to youth so they can understand where they're going
- those without a voice can find their voice, and they are heard and people will care
- everyone including me that has goals to reach be successful, no worries in all ways, no regrets
- barack obama
- people have already said what i want to say, less men cheating on their wives, celebrities can have a private life, they're still human, treat them like it
- cool if there were curvy woman in victoria secret commercials, real woman aren't sticks
- more peace
- young people are valued and not seen as a liability or a problem, erika badu, window seat , group think, hope that people can go back to think for themselves, hope more people see the value in education
- people pulling together more and turn it around
- people stop being so ignorant
- graffiti is more positive and people stop seeing it as a negative

Challenges:

Katie

- What I should do with my energy, too many things going on, didn't know how to prioritize, lots of things going on with family, gov'ts crazy, couldn't find enough time in my life. Lots of people had a lot of pressures and didn't know how to prioritize
- took a lot of time for me to find a job
- learning how to let the past be the past
- planning for the future, college, scholarships
- adapting to the college life
- figuring out what i want to do in college, where
- not being so helpful cause some people don't wan to be helped
- letting go of an old friend
- michael jackson's death
- trying not to say stupid stuff, dropping bad habits and people
- father's death, balancing work and school
- adapting to high school
- academics
- making the right decisions
- time, don't have enough
- death of father, school struggles
- finding ways to get people to talk with each other and not at each other, putting public discourse into productive avenues
- find myself and being one with myself, helping others first
- don't know how to be an adult and what being an adult means to me
- being less cynical, more of a tiger and less of an eyore
- good grades in school
- time management is on drugs, not conforming to the world, conforming to value that's put on money, always around it, always see it, having your own self definition of what success is
- staying out of trouble, good grades
- stress in my life
- thinking before I act

Go around again:

Katie

- unhappiness with the transitional period of life, don't know if i'm here or there. finding my own definition of success, less value on money, break from group thinking that money=success.
- if i have a lot of money in my pocket but I got it illegally then that's not success
- adults are saying go to college, but it's not that easy
- a couple of months to get obama to change the world after years of bush
- cycle of black men going to jail and absent fathers, value young people making change, and not as a liability
- absentee fathers and going to jail, my father wasn't there, grew up fast, and i don't want to be like him
- michael jackson and success. mlk will never be forgotten, that's what success is, that's what I want to be. I want to be that famous, to make that difference
- talk of happiness, what it means to be happy/successful, how does one look at that, if this is happy what is unhappy and how do we find the answers for ourselves
- what is success and what is happy. just because your wealthy/educated doesn't mean your happy
- we take peace for granted, some people live with war constantly. here we have a lot of violence, watching tv yesterday in chicago, almost as many gun shooting yesterday as all of last summer, balance of peace, do we create an environment where there can be peace, how is that created, people's mind sets?
- chicago, nothing compared to mexico, 200 in one day
- for me to be happy i want to do music in chicago, but i can't b/c national gaurd was called in, without peace there is no happiness
- michael jackson, saying he was from chicago and not from indiana. never gave back to where he's from. feels clinton should have won cause obama is inexperienced

- obama, can be the next best thing, everyone has to know that politics is dirty, at the end of the day it's always going to be about money. a president is someone that the public sees and is comfortable with, but if congress isn't having it then it won't happen, corporations will still have control, he is just a person
- happiness, we are so used to feel pain we don't know what the true definition of what it means to be happy. When you are happy all you feel is pain and sorrow
- you might have a lot of money but you still got to do what's good for you. peace with yourself, people won't work against each other
- happiness, michael jackson bought animals because it made him happy; obama makes people happy because he has melanin in his skin
- happiness, everyone has a different means of happiness
- happiness is mysterious, not having a definition,
- (max) breaking the cycle, revolutionary
- transition of life

Images:

Katie

- real hip hop: break dancing, dj, graffiti, real mc
- young people having that voice, rallying
- float of guy holding a baby, looking and smiling, dancing
- was there last year, had to think too hard to know what it symbolized
- person on a float holding a box with a question mark coming out of it, what can you determine that is inside or outside of the box
- really unhappy then really happy to get a contrast. wanting wanting wanting, and then i get it, which brings happiness. sun coming up in the morning, finding happiness in everything around you, jack in the box, pop up box. hip hop waying down on the other types of music, for this to be happy then something else has to be unhappy, see saw
- big peace sign, two fingers in a peace sign, you can't misunderstand
- really simple, and complicated. interpretation, people can interpret differently and that's a good thing.
- float with human of one race/gender helping another with different race/gender. showing someone with lots of money, heaving over with lots of money
- dancing, african american woman doing ballet. big condom b/c of milk having lots of young mothers.
- dope mc's. speakers on a float and mc's walking along
- picture of pregnant father, "if you don't talk to you someone will". two men, one with baggy clothes and one not. thug vs. man
- dance, different cultural dances, african, ballet, afro Caribbean, praise, combined in to one big dance
- jimmy dean where planets are rotating around the sun. all the topics we talked about are orbiting something creating a utopia, model for good living
- condom, pregnant teen, instead of using protection, you can help make the correction

5/4 Core El Centro

Hopes:

Katie

- seeing people sharing makes encourages me to walk more (disabled person)
- each week he sees a person practicing her spanish and getting better and he is inspired
- forgiveness gives me hope
- healthcare
- she enjoys visiting children who have been abandoned by their parents and that gives her hope
- community garden; the growth of the plants gives her hope
- grandkids and watching his wife love being a grandmother
- this group; people learning another language
- i found happiness in just keeping going, finding happiness in the world as I keep going, looking for the kind of happiness that is overwhelming
- when i received my citizenship, my family was there; makes me feel free to walk in the streets, not afraid around police or other people who look at me strange when i speak spanish, or think i'm different

- the birth of my third child, young people because the answers to the big questions come to them so easily
- being involved in my community development in my community, always thinking positive about things keeps me going
- i work on a lot of projects, and i don't know how it's going to happen but then it does and it always amazes me, the community process
- work at a community health center, toured different facility, talk with them about differences, that give me hope, two opposite sides of the city growing and connecting
- little faith and a little wanting/expecting, in God/ in people, new drug for diabetes that seems to work, it's very aggressive how people treat diabetics and when you don't know what's going on. Have hope because in two weeks it has already gone down a lot.
- everyday when she leaves her office she sees the blue sky and she thinks that everything is beautiful, everyone can see the sun and that's a type of hope
- loves to share time with other people and learn english
- learn more things and learn a little more about health, loves learning here
- seeing all your faces
- Seeing people at the may day march

Michael

- Saturday's march (immigration demonstration); so many people in need gathering together
- passage of healthcare reform
- forgiveness gives me hope
- growth of garden plants
- grandchildren
- grandchildren; this group
- finding happiness in the every day, hoping for joy to emerge from life
- receiving citizenship; feeling freedom from fear of judgement when speaking spanish
- birth of third child this year
- involvement in many orgs and to know people care and are passionate about so many things they are passionate about
- little black girl who said, 'I didn't know white guys could be nice.'
- the creative process and how things come together
- groups from centers on opposite sides of town visiting each other to see the work their doing; breaking down boundaries in different sides of town
- i have hope it is wanting/expecting; family seeds from Mexico, bringing healing from diabetes
- being here at this meeting
- Passionate marchers on Sat (immigration march)

Challenge:

Katie

- To get people to see and hear and relate to one another in a positive meaningful way, so much disorganization, distrust, find a fault and that becomes the all, find ourselves in each other
- problem in Arizona; racism and the people who are spanish speakers who are white and brown and how we are all the same.
- Racism and ignorance as an obstacle
- Gulf of Mexico, degradation of wildlife, our water, a challenge that we need to come together and face or we will destroy each other.
- Gulf of Mexico, make sculpture with very few resources
- student groups that are fighting for their right to higher education, brought to this community when they are little and they have no idea that they can't do it until they are older.
- trust between people, neighbors, we need to show more friendliness to strangers
- discrimination against people in latino communities
- i helped a person with everything, to move, and receive a call that she violate her privacy and open her mail but she never did that, it made her very uncomfortable; she was trying to help and it came back to get her; nice when people can repeat back when she pronouncing wrong, teach and learn from each other, when she makes mistakes she wants the help to get better

- big challenge is the health in the community, pollution, big priority that we need to be healthy
- differences in health between the races in the city
- people being able to see beyond their own circle, the ability to see the whole
- interruptions, fast pace of our lives causing a lack of mindfulness
- in my neighborhood lots of people have been using drugs, and the dealers are in all the bars and people are so polite that no one wants to stand up, people can be judgmental and stand up for social issues but things that are doing most harm people are ignoring
- culture of the individual, hard doing things for the greater good
- looking for a mission that is big enough that is probably not conquerable, looking for that new mission, helps us to get up in the morning and do what we got to do
- people need to laugh more, big smile to watch down the street, people should focus on the positive
- lots of bad things in my neighborhood make me scared to walk around

Michael

- To get people to see/hear and relate in a positive way you need to find ourselves in each other
- the immigration problem in Arizona; racism, many spanish speakers of all colors; i want to show the reality of multi-ethnic spanish speaking culture
- racism; ignorance; illustrated by Arizona
- gulf of mexico; oil spill; threat to wild life; people must come together to solve a problem
- gulf; make a parade with as few resources as possible
- undocumented immigrant children reaching higher education
- when people meet in the street they should say hello but they don't; isolation from each other
- discrimination
- related to someone who helped her move than accused of violating her privacy, opening her mail; nice when people help each other when there's a language gap with out judgement
- huge different in health levels between different races
- social isolation; people not seeing beyond their own circle
- interruptions of life; lack of mindfulness in the moment
- retired; looking for a mission that matches that my talents; looking for a reason to keep going
- we need a big smile to walk down the streets
- i feel encouraged by seeing big groups like this to keep walking around outside, staying alive

Go Around Again:

Katie

- health of the community and the earth
- people aren't very friendly, so i make sure to say hello to people who don't want to talk to me, feels more isolated, try to wake them up
- the earth, the land, mitchell park
- touched by the solidarity of people to work together and overcome challenges
- people working together to experience oneness
- community, addressing how different our community is, seeing different neighborhoods and feeling like an outsider, different busses feel different carrying people from different sides of town, it's hard to come out of implied differences
- becoming a citizen, very tough to walk around as a mexican, if we could hold hands as mexicans, we're all together in this
- more answers we can find with young people
- different areas of the city coming together in a meaningful way
- isolation coming out in different ways, leaving their block and feeling isolated, creative processes help with that, sense of humor
- people shifting their perspective to seeing seeing the whole city as a collective
- we don't create garbage we just move it around, planting and growth, healing individuals and communities, renewal
- very important that people have a big smile, people don't smile enough

Michael

- people being isolated from each other trying to break barriers
- the land/earth
- strongly affected by arizona immigration measure, very dumb move by state gov't
- difficulty trying to connect; feel a sense of unity
- i see in this city a very different mood in different neighborhoods; hard to come out of isolated groups to collective whole
- a sense of liberty after gaining citizenship; solidarity with mexican experience
- different people coming together in different parts of the city; it's happening all over
- coming together through creativity/fun/humor
- planting/growth/healing individuals/schools/each other/nation

Images:

Katie

- float with all the flags on it
- big rain storm and people scurrying to take care of everything
- people smiling faces putting it all together
- kids/babies and gardens, playpen on moving wagon of different colors/races in different flower suites, garden of kids
- happiness and life and the positives in milwaukee
- tug-o-war between large corporations and people trying to pull rope of money with tax arrow and people are pulling in different directions, lobbyists running back and forth,
- group of different people/ethnicities holding hands, smiling
- adults walking alone with question marks above their heads and their holding signs with dollar sign or hand cuffs or 'flag' and their walking around, behind them are children holding hands and smiling
- tree of hope, represent the whole city coming together to grow this might thing that is very impressing and much stronger than individual weeds
- dogs wearing costumes
- people hiding behind big shields of fear and race and ability/dis, there's a flip side that forms a roof over their heads that brings them in solidarity
- two tables, one mix of people, pieces of stuff, no one has anything, and one has a 'balanced diet of brotherhood'
- dogs playing poker where their stuff happening under the table
- big mountain of all of us growing and getting to the top 'we made it'
- a way of showing the children engaged in things that make life so beautiful and adults wearing masks and being able to cast aside their fears so that they can act like children
- colored string that attaches everything, web of string
- movement, people dancing throughout, color and people being joyful and having fun, mas musica
- evolving or progressing and people discovering that we are different than animals and that progressing to us discovering that we are different from each other, going bigger until it's global and we come back to where we started from
- larger than large, rainbow that extense the length of the parade, characters that dwarf the buildings
- plant new plant that is super full of power even when it is a seen
- people tied up with yarn and someone comes and unties and and creates a blanket of brotherhood

Michael

- smiling faces
- a garden of children; huge with flowers on their heads
- a tug of war between citizens and banks
- multi ethnic group of people holding hands and smiling
- idea of people walking around with, above their heads, symbolic images like money/tea pot/materialistic things; they're running of all these boundaries/complications, they're at odds with each other; contrast with group of children who have clarity/sense of unity/no confusion of how to work together
- a big blue canopy representing the sky and all people under it
- large 'tree of hope' made up of the whole community; people who are most essential to the city would be the base of the tree; seeing the support network; made up of people

- people behind big shield somehow labeled as fear/race/sex/gender
- mountain; reaching the top; being above the conflict/differences
- engage the audience with music/dancing
- negative things happening then connecting threads forming a thread of connectiveness; creating a web of connectiveness that shields people from the negative
- joyfulness and more music than last year
- enormous rainbow that would go from one end of the parade to the other
- new plants growing but very huge; giant seed with giant sprout coming out of it

5/5 Agape

Challenges:

Katie

- the way that people talk to each other, people don't really listen to each other, blowing little flaws out of proportion, instead of trying to find out what we have in common to move forward. Most important to find comrodery
- not enough teen programs, if they were there it would keep them off the streets
- equality, people being unequal, mom fired from job for speaking for what she thought was right, now she's trying to find another job in a bad economy
- lack of parenting to our youth of all ages, joblessness, underemployment, under-education, disconnect between parent and children, they don't see the need of the child instead of engaging with the child, people need to realize that our children is the american dream, huge addiction problem that crosses all socioeconomic class, as a result of people working so much they are getting sicker, not eating right and not taking care of themselves, issues around race, we need to talk about things that are real and not skirt issue, male/female equality, woman are making so much less
- inability to change ourselves and therefore the community around us, we are all a product of how we are raised/taught, in order to be a free being, we need to throw that aside
- in education we afraid for our jobs, the kids that we serve there are issues with culture, our families have changed but the education system has not changed to accommodate
- problem with not being overwhelmed by all the problems. look at the big picture but keep breathing and a sense of humor and take it one thing at a time
- friend who is immigrant and can't get scholarship, person who i really care about

Hopes:

Katie

- a lot of people that can ignore the big picture and can be one on one with the children, making connections and professional people caring about kids day to day despite everything that is going on around them
- success in small programs, CR21, 500 average high school students, 93% get into college every year, first generation college grads, health care bill
- my skills in basketball/football increase and that gives me hope for a college scholarship
- people of all ages/backgrounds have a lot more in common than we give them credit for, i've become more accustom to talking with teenagers, hope that will extend to other people's experience and we can find a greater sense that we are all in it together
- the changes in our us politics, health care, right for humans to have basic healthcare, likes that they are looking at our basic educational system and talk about it's failures and hopeful that they will evaluate and begin to make changes for our kids, to be competitive
- to be around other people who share a sense of hope, who are making positive changes, inspiring, kids are inspiring because they are so open to the moment and possibility, try to keep that sense
- high school graduation, go on to be successful in college and in life

Go Around Again:

Katie

- how personal peoples responses are, teens/college/relating to others, personal challenges to overcome, issues of race/ethnicity/education, the issues weren't specifically spoken, it's not clear what the issues

are, in order to have an image to parade down the street we have to actually know what the issues are (max)

-teen pregnancy, there needs to be more education

-too much violence with teens and people dying, there needs to be more programs

-telling teens to not have sex isn't working cause people are doing all sorts of crazy things and they need to learn

-figuring out ways to open up and for teens to talk with people who have more experience and then relate back to their younger siblings, generations and the connective tissue and the things that push them apart, better conversations.

-being to see myself as an older person, used to thinking of myself as an older person, me walking with a cane people see me older, i start thinking of myself as older and then it starts to get more difficult to talk to younger people and that difference needs to be addressed. i remember my teens and how scary that was. teens are our future and we need to make sure you grow up healthy, but we don't focus on teens, we focus on babies cause their easier to deal with.

Images:

Katie

-intergenerational/interracial representations of fighting and coming together, fighting and coming together, things that change, they both witness something and realize that it could have been them, series of events that allow people to see how things happen and how it changes the way you look at things

-image to represent oneness, don't know what that could be; image of hearing the young people

-mural going down the street and have people as we walk help paint, graffiti, trick is to frame it so it's a positive image

-connective tissue

-image of fighting and coming together and the catalyst being music and the fighting becomes a dance

5/10 UEC

Challenges:

Katie

-talking to mom, seeing flaws in yourself, afraid of change, procrastinating until the last minute

-oil spilling into the Gulf of Mexico, pristine caribbean, threat to coast, challenge transfers through me from national/sociatal to person when i think about the 30 years it will take to clean up this mess, I don't see an easy answer, in a deep way because i don't see myself changing my own life in a way this it would demand

-loss of my job of 20 years and having to start over, ended up being a good thing because i've had a lot more opportunities and i'm using them all

-the kinds of things we can see as being problematic no one is argueing for these things, bringing people to a point where we make sure that something gets done 'it's not my responsibility' challenge to motivate people

-everyone does a good job of informing people of their opinion and no one wants t take responsibility for stuff. younger people don't have an ownership of what's going on in our society

-find a way for their own way of life to make sense. to try and do things in a smart way, the multimedia panders to the consumers, narrow path of life for sustainability, ex:stuff in smokey mountains, mountaintop removal, destroying wildlife to get access to coal so we can have power. chasing one goal and destroying so much in the process.

-community integration

-listening, i'm very talkative, remembering names/faces; garlic mustard moment along the river, at a hospice moment and seeing our environment die; already degraded from what it once was just in my lifetime; struggle to not get angry at people who don't see it; the discussion about where anger comes from.

-we didn't think of the world getting to a hospice moment; it's becoming a more frightening thing for me

-complacency; worry if people are getting hooked into their technology, their elected saviors are going to help everything

Michael

-complacency; worrisome; people might forget and stop caring

-procrastination

-oil spilling into the sea; threat to coast and Caribbean waters; personal shift from nationalistic view of the economy to a personal long term view; realizing solutions require personal change from individuals; oil spill is a wake up call

-lost her job of 20 years; seeking new opportunities; feels like she's using up all of the opportunities she's saved up over the years

-finding agreement with what is highest priority and working together and finding collective motivation/will to act

-lack of personal responsibility among people for world circumstances

-overcoming personal injury from bike accident

-listening; feels like we are watching the earth die; hospice moment; spoke of it being even worse than in past generations; so bad that people don't even notice, changes are so slow

-community integration in MKE; people are scared/angry/worried

Hopes:

Katie

-meet people that don't know their neighborhoods; hope that people try to be more aware of their surroundings and how they move and interact in their communities.

88.9 neighborhood project. just a start, helpful for the city

-joys include family, stretches out to friends/community. awareness of things are becoming wider known, although youth are mostly concerned with themselves and how they fit with peers that there's a hidden generosity of spirit that reaches out. often hidden by surface glitz.

-thankful to be here

-moving in the right direction, people are more aware, of what they can do individually so they feel they are making a contribution. hope that we find ways to get together and create people power that can stand up to gov't and monied/corporate interests. the reason things like oil spill/mountain tops get blown isn't just about the way we do things it's that they can get away with it and no one stands up to it and holds them responsible in a meaningful way.

-Being here, UEC. Remembers there being a vacuum of people's relationship to the river. critical to have a place to bring people together and engage, we have disparate/segregated community

-new community gardens, hear talking about the reality of life, done away with fossil fuels, looking at land first and the resources we already have. dominant discourse is that the grid is there/cars have gas, more and more population view shifting to see how we can establish a balance

-hugs/ open source software, linux based software, pickup games of soccer in parking lots, buffets that give away their foods, comic books, all the great youth we get to work with, decentralization that the internet affords us, sex

-working with people about urban food and transitioning to a post carbon world; community, meeting people who are also afraid about fuel and global warming; blessed with friendship

-how the crisis/terror of the world is waking people up

Michael

-people will expand their bounded and explore other communities and neighborhoods around them; 88.9 neighborhood project

-Joy; family/friends; many high point in the last year; community is reaching out; more info about environment is available; hidden generosity of spirit found in youth

-people are more aware; hopes people will get together and stand up to larger powers in the world; needs are not the only control factors; need accountability and public action

-UEC itself is a positive sign and higher awareness; city needs to open up/become more in touch with the land

-hugs; open source software; linux; pickup games; smiling; free lunches; comic books; young hard workers; the internet; sex

- researching artists programs supported around the world; excited to see so much happening
- working with people on issues of urban food and global warming; on a personal level side by side with others to create change

Next round:

Katie

- being in the UEC, the things they are doing
- sense of fellowship, being here, sense of realism and a want to change things, have this being a process for change and not just an event
- seeing how everyone was interacting beyond just what people were saying
- people gathering, becoming more aware, being frustrated together
- gathering and sharing, doing things that help support change
- how deeply people care and how strongly committed they are/frustrated that they can't make it better quickly, so much resistance
- earth at a hospice moment; more putrefaction than examples of this building; scale of change, accountability vs. one out of a hundred people doing stuff; so many people with head up their asses; elected saviors, should be forced into community service, people aren't paying attention and they didn't take the time to show up
- hospice moment; see the desire/will to take positive action then look around and seems like we're in the minority, but maybe it's not that way; scale of destruction as apposed to the efforts of individuals, will it ever be enough, how do we create effective solutions

Michael

- being in this inspiring space (UEC)
- energy of the people in this room
- desire for change among these people here
- the way the meeting was conducted., the way it felt; atmosphere of inclusivity
- people gathering and sharing
- doing things that help
- caring committed but frustrated people
- the comment of the hospice moment and thinking of the scale of the environmental degradation globally; the idea of using the potential of people acting responsibly; following up on political actions with representatives in gov't
- the earth being sick or ill; in hospice

Images:

Katie

- Hospice represented by hospital beds rolling down the street with plants/globes in the beds being pushed by people in hospital garb
- elected saviors: half deity/half politician
- discussion of bringing people together; threshold that we need to step over, passage we need to go through; oil slick/dark side on one side of a door and light/people holding hands on the other
- scary; technology; police states/camera's everywhere, omnipresent, comes on so slowly people don't know it's happening. green stuff coming back alive in industry, green man stag/beast, wood nimpfs; green stuff cracking concrete and coming up from under the world we've built on top of it; junky computers reporposing; hybrid dog/hybrind that scoots around sniffing out toxic fumes
- healing/breaking the cycle; earth in hospice. 40 foot earth hooked up to iv and choking for air, sitting in an oil slick; healing/laying hands on earth, coming together; in order to heal you must break the cycle
- don't usually think in doom and gloom; don't usually think that way, like the idea of doorway, with light on the other side
- parade participants to interact with parade; give something to help make transformation; provide with tangible of how we can have an effect
- house, painted like an earth; degradation of our earth is the degradation of our home; oily people, oil spills on everything, iv with oil coming into the vein, oil junkies; people with horse blinds/headsets on and then opposite, unplugging them; first water activists 'river ran through it' dream that crying and the tears

cleans the earth; earth would be plugged in at the hospital and to save it we must unplug and our tears would sprout and form new life

-first section natural abundant clean/beautiful, canopy of blue sky, water full of fish, wild grass, beautiful earth; starts to slowly denigrate in different ways, pushing people aside, taking land, parking lots, breaks up as it moves down the street, to the point where it looks hopeless; then hospice, closes with a little bit of stuff coming back

-people standing around patch of earth with farming tools each trying to defend their own patch of earth and they each think they're alone facing mad max type characters dressed like 80's punk rockers; giant earth defending land; transition of people recognizing that others are working too, turning around and laying hands on earth; cycle of nature, just when you think it's done something sprouts, you leave it along long enough it will start turning green, stuff in your fridge

-passing out leaves/seeds to parade watchers and they can put it on the earth later when it passes by; having bad images as pinatas and people can come up and smash them and thieves will come out/seeds will come out

-giant world and people with hand paint to create green/blue to have a collection of hands to create stuff

-hospital beds that have people and animals in them; defendants that are fighting for mommy earth

-want to make sure that it's not solved by the end of the parade; hope is not enough; passing out trees

-end they have orgs that make their own floats that represent them and what their doing in the community; letting people know how they can connect

-hospice means hospice mothers/grandmother/water; offering people a glass of water

Michael

-Hospice

-people defending hospital beds

-hospital beds have pieces of land/earth or giant earth

-beds filled with all sorts of different animals/people

-giant global earth being sick or ill; audience gives something/does something to make a difference; use candy wrappers as illustration of our environmental impact; trade wrappers for something that people in parade are giving away instead of throwing them on the ground

-earth as house/home

-wanting the problems not to be solved in the end but showing the beginning of growth/change

Woodland Pattern; 5/15

Challenges:

Katie

-getting people to show up for meetings; getting from the point of good idea to action and change

-maslow's theory, 7 stages, self actualization; because people's basic needs aren't getting met and those things are relative; u.s. people not having homes, sense of security, jobs, commercialism, relationships; to reach nirvana; stumbling blocks on a sustenance/survival level

-hard to say just one; healing, how do we heal, individuals, school system, collective group; so much happening that's tragic, huge opportunity to change and move in a different direction

-ability to communicate and exchange thoughts and ideas in a way they can look at themselves/situations through other people's eyes; not being so judgmental, no simple answer. a lot of people sacrifice to make the world better but they are not communicating, they have a strong opinions, they don't allow others to come to the conclusions themselves. writing people off, preaching; bullying, making fun in the media, abusive relationships all stem from inability to listen.

-global level the exchange of information; saturation of information makes collective consensus impossible. subjective sources that validate other peoples opinions creates fractures; digital divide globally. disproportionate access to information.

-overwhelming to experience everything; just trying to pick one and try to accomplish something, trying to find funding/people to make a difference. personal anxiety. need to learn to relax and trust.

-Dad passed away, funeral right before my birthday; not taking life for granted; being grateful for what people have taught me

-Healthcare; the one we passed was minimalistic, everyone gave in to others demands; recently had to have surgery like 47 million, owe 30.000, work as a face painter; went from 3 mo physical therapy to 6 mo; spend 3 days in london and didn't pay a thing

Michael

- Health Care; needs surgery, no insurance
- Moving people from a point of concern to taking action as an effective group. climbing the ladder of self-actualization (Maslov) many stumbling blocks at every level, on a global scale.
- So many- healing: planet, schools, Milwaukee, nation; globally huge challenges; disasters.
- Growing up as an individual; friend is not; college frat-boy attitude; separation from friend.
- Communication; empathy; non-judgment; no simple answers; people who make great sacrifices are too preachy; looking down on others; need more listening; compassion
- Info exchange; info consumption; too saturated with opinions designed to "agree" with a mainstream view point, not fostering meaningful dialogue; info access controlled by money.
- Overwhelming to experience all of these issues, then choosing a focus; finding funding; finding people; doing the task.
- Father's death; funeral day before my birthday; but also a hopeful inspiration to be grateful for life and grateful for all the people we have learned from.

Hopes:

Katie

- there are people that are committed to improvement; people who care deeply and who work really hard; marshaling their creativity, without that where would we be; take inspiration from that; recently able to regain that, get back on track; i need to reconnect to that part of myself, creativity/passion.
- people's creativity; hopeful that more people will learn how to be good leaders; hope leaders don't look at themselves and look at what needs to be accomplished; not being preoccupied with ourselves
- faith in humanity helps me not to get overwhelmed; common people, marginalized people organizing to create positive change
- persistence; autobiography of ray crock (started mcdonalds), talked about persistence; things are really terrible right before they're about to get better; historical context
- working with people that represent the next generation; working with pierce street school through story telling; asked them why we tell stories and they new all the answers; planting seeds of change and creativity. saving seeds and being able to grow twice as much next year, that's the pattern of life.
- tom barrett; the fact that he didn't walk away; that is a leader, inspirational; led me to connect with the idea that leaders, when they are doing the right thing it makes me feel good inside; simple thing that obama isn't downing the muslim world and how much they appreciated that; lots of loss of life in my world lately, supposed to be picking scholarship winners, raised thousand dollars at the class reunion for scholarships, girlfriend's mother died, other friend drove down from boston to jersey and that meant a lot to her; small gestures make the biggest different
- inspired by last years parade/people/variety of people; great homage to rapheal; multidimensional; there was hope and pessimism and as long as there's hope then that's all you need.
- spend a month at gazuntite (patch adams clinic); going renegade and healing with laughter

Michael

- People who are committed to improving the community/working hard- "Where would we be without them?"; these people a stabilizing influence.
- Small community projects, like: Dream Bikes; very inspiring; Agape Center also inspiring; small neighborhoods/ groups, doing good things.
- Hoping people will learn to be better leaders and focus on encouragement of the good; need to be more humble; less self-absorbed.
- Faith in humanity (personal) society will evolve; just needs patience, persistence.
- Persistence; stories of: Ray Croc(persistent) vs. Herman Melville(discouraged by failure); lowest point is also point of change toward the good.
- Working with kids; teaching and encouraging self-expression, art; planting my garden.
- The heroics of Tom Barrett (street assault); personal story of pres. Obama; world politics changed by U.S. Pres. showing respect for other world leaders more as equals; overcoming family challenges;

scholarship awarded in memoriam to a friend (a teacher); kindness; respect; people reaching out in small ways to make a difference.

-This event and last year's; the people involved; the diversity and multi-dimensional message; the meaning.

- Visiting the "Gesundheit" Clinic; Dr. 'Patch' Adams using clowning (laughter) as a healing tool in his practice; bringing real attitude of healing to the medical field in general.

Third Round:

Katie

-trend developing being moved by individual choices that people take on to make a difference on a community level

-a lot things about people caring, community/creativity

-how people treat one another; whether they listen or not, someone notices and takes a stand; the glue that holds the social fabric together is caring and commitment to others

-patch adams; getting kicked out of harvard; when you can get people to laugh you can add 3 minutes to the end of their life. question is how can we reach more people; it's all about the invitation, how do we invite more people to become a part of all aspects of the process; having some kind of winterum project to sustain people's interest; there's a lot of energy in young people; go bigger and bigger using that energy

-action in the sense of small acts of kindness all the way to extending the parade into a second year; persistence, without that there's no commitment; humor, without that it gets to be gritty, making people laugh at midnight when we're all exhausted it becomes the grease that keeps people moving

-standing up for your beliefs for positive change; idea of action, persistence

-kindness is huge; memories of traveling alone and people smiling at me and it changes my whole day; going from kindness to friendship; persistence is nothing without that caring

-'Never underestimate that a group of committed individuals can bring about change. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.' margaret mead. knowing the world around you, having conviction.

Michael

- Community; caring; sustainability; growing movements.

- How people treat each other makes a difference; respect vs. treating others as an outsider/enemy; caring and commitment to others.

- Moving from idea to action.

- 'Patch' Adams story; laughter brings healing.

- "How can we reach more people?"; bring more involvement to larger population (this event); how to sustain interest? Try to make movement larger? Year-round involvement opportunities? Grow bigger, develop a Foundation?

- Action; small acts of kindness; doing the parade again, another year; commitment; persistence; humor.

- Standing up for your belief(s) in positive change; action/acting on beliefs; persistence.

- Kindness; so many memories of simple kindness/smiles, politeness; persistence vs. real commitment and caring attitude.

- Self-knowledge; conviction; dedication; the Margret Mead quote: ["Never under-estimate the power of a small group of dedicated individuals to change the world. In fact, it is the only thing that ever has.

Images:

Katie

-dancing bedpans; dancing wheelchair brigade; talking about healthcare; flashing fake buns as they walk down the street; 12 foot tall buns

-mob of children seedlings

-making fun of insurance companies; healthcare providers are at the bottom of a totem pole.

-safety net; we feel like there's no net but there is, the workers are our safety net; it also keeps us connected

-seeing one object that takes a lot of people to move; bicycle puppets

-connecting people with pantyhose; large/massive piece of people connected and moving together (jeff stole my idea from an earlier session); using connectivity to create a dichotomy; going beyond healthcare

so that images also work for other issues (jobs) so it becomes easy to connect with; hip hop, the dichotomy of the response to that genre.

- idea of living life through the abstract (comp screen/technology) vs living through the land and seeing people directly; complimentary opposites that can't exist without each other. change never seems to take place in the center, it happens on the edges and flows to the center. giant ameba
- central core of people/entity where there's a lot of people milling about the outside and there's a flow in and out. artist cristo who wraps everything, it links everything
- big puppet with various expressions that can be slid over his face that you can pull a string and his expression/race changes
- strength, in numbers/diversification (eco village)/color
- lazy boy chair on wheels and people being propelled/catapulted out of the chair
- head that can turn in 4 different places, jaw/nose/eyes
- have an army of small something to give a sense of mass; need to have some sort of unity in that (example: size/color)
- bodies painted in non-human colors
- alice in wonderland (jeff)

Michael

- Dancing wheelchair parade; dancing bedpans; use humor to relate to issues; giant flashing buns under hospital gowns.
- "Planting the seeds of change" cliché but, large field of many many children dressed as sprouting flowers, seedlings and plants (mentioned earlier)
- Include the Workers of our City and the World in imagery.
- People as a living "safety net"; depict the structure of localized support networks made up of caring professionals in many fields within a community.
- Something so big that it requires many many people to carry/operate it together walking down the street; bike-powered creations.
- People physically connected as a giant web or "safety-net" (lycra tubing/nylon pantyhose); complimentary opposites in society, inexorably connected, creating the need for each other's existence; show in many forms: desperate opposites taking from each other, taking from one web to give to another, mutual fulfillment, one person's happiness making the other miserable and vice versa, etc.
- Large group of people acting as an "organism" (single-cell) show how behaviors of specific parts affect the whole, as a reflection of society's dynamic; people also physically connected to each other; Cristo's wrapped islands; very long wide ribbons; using natural humor/visual humor as a part (as opposed to satire or joke-telling humor).
- Like Scrolling Face Change puppets (Mumenchance): Giant heads with rotating changeable facial features and face parts.
- Images of "strength"/strength of numbers, moving forward, overcoming adversity; diversity of images; bold colors
- Catapulting 'Lazy-Boy' recliner chair; puppets that get flung forward out of chair to face challenges of life along parade route.
- A cannon shooting people over the border (from other countries); Giant rotating multi-faced head.
- 100s of small puppets all different but unified somehow.
- 'Alice in Wonderland' themed parade; associating all symbolism of social themes represented in parade content to corresponding imagery within (Lewis Carrol) story structure and characters.

5/18 Bay View Library

Challenges:

Katie

- Road Construction
- Litter; it disappears with the snow and it reappears with spring
- Create a better and more just world; help those who are exploited; corporations; being aware of how we can be sustainable
- not feel overwhelmed with everything; concerned about kids in school, violence in neighborhoods, oil spill and extinction in beings; ok what can I do and not feel overwhelmed

- Monsanto; misinformation and control over youth in school; censorship; today superintendents from fake psychologists saying lgbt can be re-modified so make sure you tell them that; corporate exploitation; chain stores you lose the human contact and you don't realize what you're losing; future generations won't know any different
- job security in MPS; have been painting in house, how do I move that out of my home and make money
- death of family, uncle, mother, mother-in-law, father, no more homestead to go back to. losing job was hard, where do we go from here
- trust in simple sense and on world level; overwhelmed how people don't see each other; expand to earth/plants/dirt; stacks up and overwhelming; i don't understand; don't understand how people can litter
- marquette 'celebrating the year of the woman,' felt like saying 'year of the straight woman'. how can hypocritical university celebrate woman with what they did to the dean. it's easy to complain, but the people who created the mess are just people too; if I lose my humanity in the situation (chicken little) there's always been bans, i would like to identify as sacred clown; people need to be woken up again; riding the horse backwards
- technology removing our ability to communicate; texting, family talking on facebook; great movements are shared with 100 of your closest friends
- trying to multitask; family/work/community; would like to focus more on getting things accomplished vs. being everywhere; watching the news right before I came and it's so depressing; terrible things, so it's good to put positive out into the community
- Keeping up hope

Hopes:

Katie

- friends and family/birth of 3rd child; playing/coaching soccer; opportunity to work with good people regardless of challenges there are people who are ready to rise to the challenge
- see families no matter what who don't have a lot but who put school as a priority; teachers putting their soul into their work
- friends who are supportive/helpful who are worse off than I am; still positive
- making of art; stoking others to make art; remembering to make it; community helps; knowing that I can share/open up/allow people to express through art; gardens;babies;spring;reading;friendship;love
- camp granny; taking kids away from my kids; no technology; taking public transport everywhere; camping in back yard; everyone helping out; getting back to being creative and knowing that creative people aren't kooks
- we went through trauma; see evidence that we're healing; thrown forward by the efforts of people; 95% of college readiness program where all kids are impoverished inner city kids who end up in college
- feel blessed; wonderful job working with special needs population and artists; pass on goodness with everyone I can
- children wanting to learn; good teachers; puppies; frank zappa; people who are doing good things
- seeing community come together
- babies; friends babies; friends; trees/flowers blooming; as down as we can get realizing that we all have the ability to do something; volunteering; affecting more people than you know; conquering bigger problems in larger groups
- friends who i love; meeting new people; my circle of well being; realizing what is important; hoping diversity helps us grow and not separates us; working with youth; kids i knew having kids; learning to speak teenager; sharing resources in a way that isn't just for the strong and powerful
- exuberance of spring; joy of children dancing/singing; funny voices that poke me on the inside what I'm feeling down

Go Around Again:

Katie

- joy with sharing and investing in youth through art/teaching/time/creating
- we all want the same things; desire to be hopeful; trying to figure out how to do that; good things happen with the bad
- desire to get together; solve problems together
- need for humor; glimmer that opens up people's eyes; thinking about kids is key; finding people have parts of themselves that they were never able to express

- HOPE; coming together; humor; fun; sacred clown; art; community; multi generations; what makes us grow; how do we renew; community renewal; generations coming together
- people looking at their problems with less outrage and more looking for solutions
- pointing at the bad guy leaves three fingers pointing at you; we're pointing at ourselves; celebrating life; old people in renewal is a celebration of life; opening up to seeing things in a new way; seeing what could be; finding new worlds/new life
- hope/love/family/friends
- hope/joyous parade; black bad guy in the gulf of mexico and we should all be oil skimmers
- community; family/neighbor/friends/people you don't know; we are this milwaukee community; idea of growing, urban gardens/victory gardens; food sustainability; pulling people in
- when you identify a problem then it's something inside of you; create your own reality of what's in your head; it's not like you can ignore the world's ills; can remain hopeful in a world of dealing with things, not just the things that are easy; when you see something wrong you have to build a voice, that creates hope
- what makes us grow; picking up the litter, small gesture but it's something that everyone can do; using what's already there for creative means; not getting stuck in your head, reaching out to the community, we create our own reality
- people think we need a safe/better world and then we can all rest; what makes us human is that there will always be something that forces us to be resilient; much more interested in building warriors; not to be lulled into sleeping; how do we strengthen ourselves cause there's always going to be bad things; dance on the edge as the drop of water falls; human resilience; not afraid of difficulties; what are we going to learn from this one, how can we come together in this tragedy

Images:

Katie

- we are trained to be in our heads; within each of us there is a truth in the heart; if we are with others who believe in that the whole community will benefit; heart with roots
- giant head reaching out and holding on to other people (don't be inside your head) making a circle, working together
- heart with roots; adding wings; the fool riding the horse backwards; they see what's really going on and point it out in a way that is funny so that you won't kill them; circle of arms and hands coming together
- avatar; tales that link with animals; shoes that have fingers; people who are also animals that link with everything in all ways
- tree with roots that roll out and grab on to people and pull them in; gather of people together and giving them shade and warmth; coming close to the center
- participatory image with the parade watchers
- grow; gigantic carnivorous plants (little shop of horrors) that lean down and kiss people/bite their heads off
- train that is individual cars that are on a path and get to a specific destination
- grow; letters that are individual; R=rosemary someone who is covered in rosemary and you could go into the crowd and people could smell it; letters that run around and create different words; incorporating water into the tree image
- planting political/economic seeds; encompassing stranded people; planting a stronger community
- containers/pots, breaking free from our box and doing more, roots are growing, getting larger, split the container and go out into the larger world (jeff:russian dolls)
- walking the tight rope of dilemmas; juggling of job/income/debt; actors in a financial circus
- dancing grannies, old age as something not to be afraid of; wheel chairs, inspiring to see people with severe disabilities putting on a bake sale for me; most amazing sense of humor; people are afraid of people with disabilities/old people; decorate wheel chairs
- take the cane and play it like a flute with the finger holds (max: 20 people walking down the street playing canes)
- including deaf people in ways that they can see
- big dog with human being on collar
- multigenerational, riddle of sphinx, giant sphinx with circles going up with children on bottom and older people on the rings as you go up; giant seed; people dressed up as seeds; folks around the seeds that are handing out seeds that are books/smiles/other things that are needed/ wisdom of older people; matching ti chi outfits walking by; huge beast that represents forest god, massive; resistance,

representing heros, heros on parade, people dressed up, people that meant something to them, encouraging everyone to be the hero, asking them to be a hero; juggling things that say debt/job/family
-giants surrounded by lots of little people (gulliver's travels)
-super heros from other culture, genesh/krishna/gahndi/spider man/ we becoming the heros

City Hall

Challenges:

Michael

- increased social tension due to lack of income
- home loss; wide spread in other states
- cynicism;cruelty/violence among youth and how it affects larger society
- young people, artists, finding lack of mutual respect or ability to focus together
- partisan rancor in press and gov't
- many voices but little agreement; polarization creating less meaningful dialogue
- from a high school teacher sees kids trying to adopt limited/narrow minded views; cancer, several family members in the last year
- lack of comity (commonness) in general between people; turning to the powers that be instead of each other; lack of real solutions or cooperation toward meaningful change; needs more community dialogue
- 2009 in financial community; see people at all different levels from march of last year then financial meltdown; difficult to deal with knowing there are so many; programs beginning to work but generational low in market inflated expectations in recovery; permanent damage to wealth; change in life habits needed for real progress
- friends can't find work; much talent, no opportunity; schools losing librarians
- personal economics; hate my job but feel forced to stay at job because of lack of opportunities
- world in hospice; energy issues; environment; difficulty in changing lifestyle in order to break resource used patterns on a large scale

Hopes:

Michael

- professional level excited about cultural alliance bringing more work and them making a difference in society
- husband well again; retired; nanny for 2 1/2 year old; in touch with a sense of joy/innocence; desire to have all children know joy
- personal; very grateful for boyfriend; many health challenges; surviving; grateful to be able to do this event
- witnessing a paradigm shift in education away from role marking and testing and toward individualized toward the child in every aspect of their lives
- wars fought with extreme examples; dichotomy; sensationalism must come to a focus/balance in intellect on issues
- grand children and 4th & 5th on the way; children becoming adults; parents still alive; people learning to be more responsible with their money; more savings; fewer credit cards; less spending; boads well for the economy as a whole
- historically we are in nirvana; george washington had wooden teeth and outdoor toilet; in the past celebrating community was on no one's agenda, people were all competitive
- john stewart; ability to satire worst aspects of life in a clever way
- all of us getting together to do this and the vision to do it; grandkids, desire to keep innovating
- experiencing new tribe of 10 year old girls; great experience to mentor and guide them; creating work space for music for the kids; creating opportunities creates hope; seeing girls running free literally and metaphorically

Second round:

Michael

- bothers me to see parents over-structuring kids lives; girls running free resonated
- we know so much more and can be more concerned but everyone thinking very individually; need to understand how personal actions connect to the big picture

- this group of people motivates me
- change; nirvana; breaking free; starting a new; inspires vision of progression of happiness being chipped away at physically and ideas all connected
- do it yourself movement; community action; children; my 8 year old son; how to break from fear and the confining need to protect one's child; wants to set her own child free
- children bring hope; personal action making a difference
- child overcomes fear of audition in front of other kids and then vomits when she gets home; thanks MPT for opportunity
- thankful to Baba Leigh; loving influence; much hope generated by being at these meetings and this project; opportunity to share love/joy/piece/unity

Images:

Michael

- Creative economy; art as a medium of exchange for transactions; dollars replaced by creative ambition; physical efforts
- book 'rise of the creative class'; more than just profession and artists and creatures
- bartering with gifts; exchanging values instead of things of value
- greed/fear/controlling markets; heard mentality depicted as congo line from banking industry, chain of events, federal reserve on down, people join in like sheep
- bears and bulls make money/pigs get slaughtered
- film projection on rolling screen down the street; possibly hand cranked
- limbo; how low can you go; once you can't go any lower than going over than skipping rope than jumping through hoops; centered around who's controlling the dollar
- play; nourishing the soul; images reminiscent of Shakespeare midsummer; wild playful scenes
- from the simpsons; episode where homer gets injured and only sees through television; carries around television screen so everything he sees is as if it's on tv
- gigantic hats bursting with ideas
- me watching you on tv, you watching tv, people watching each others; idea of how energy of others changes the disposition of the group; from happy to afraid; job to no job, home to no home, all inspiring different patterns of behavior; duality and transition