

Re-Emerging Together: Amplify & Ignite



Created by

Gillian Epstein and Elisa Hamilton

Who We Are

[Elisa Hamilton](#) is a socially engaged multimedia artist who creates artworks and community-centered projects that emphasize shared spaces and the hopeful examination of our everyday places, objects, and experiences. She holds a BFA in Painting from Massachusetts College of Art and Design and an MA in Civic Media from Emerson College. She is Visiting Community Artist at Olin College of Engineering.

[Gillian Epstein](#) is Associate Professor of English at Olin College of Engineering and Co-Founder and Director of The Story Lab @ Olin. She cultivates writing and storytelling across curriculum and across communities, with a focus on fostering self-awareness and awareness of others as a means to build empathy and connection.

Our Shared Purpose

We originally met through a grant from Olin's [Sketch Model](#) program, and instantly connected through our shared belief that everyone has stories and everyone can share them. Our ongoing work together seeks to inspire others to explore stories embedded in everyday life and to provide approachable and creative ways to share these stories and foster connection to one another.

Why We Made This

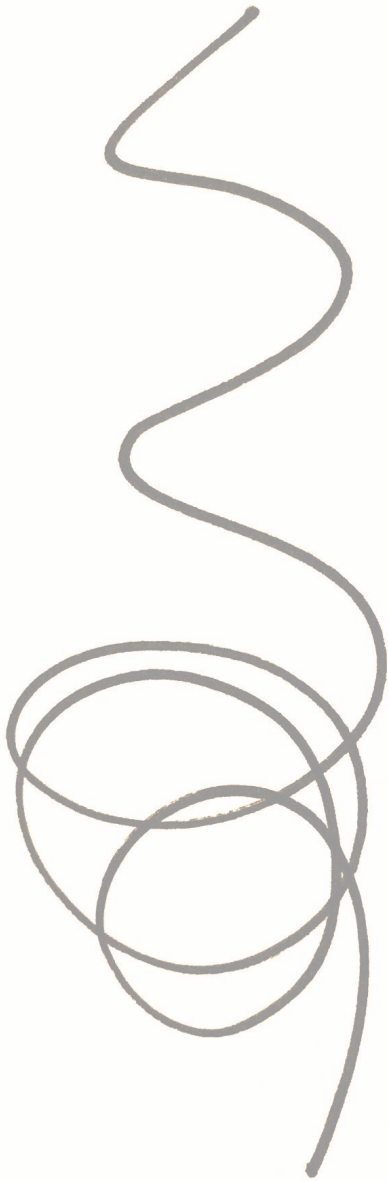
We created “Re-Emerging Together” in the Summer of 2021, funded by the Sketch Model program at Olin College of Engineering. After experiencing prolonged social isolation due to the pandemic, we felt that reconnecting in groups was particularly meaningful. We wondered if there was a way to mindfully come back together as a way to honor the significance of the moment, peel a few layers past small talk, and get to know one another in new ways. In 2025, four years later, we’ve adapted this model to speak to our current moment. While the original activity asked participants to look back and consider their internal experiences of the pandemic, the updated activity has more of an outward focus on our present moment. In this playful activity, participants will ponder timely questions, share, listen, learn, and engage with others in meaningful conversation.

How to Use This Activity

- Gather in a group of 2–6 people.
- Print and cut out all the Activity Cards. You will see:
 - 12 Prompt Cards, plus 12 blank cards
 - 3 Foundation Cards:
 - ❖ What do you embrace about...
 - ❖ What do you challenge about...
 - ❖ What do you imagine about...

If you don’t have access to a printer, you can write out the words on cut pieces of paper.

- Flip the Foundation Cards face up and place them in a row from left to right in the following order: 1. Wonder 2. Learn 3. Celebrate.
- Set the blank cards aside for later. Place all of the other prompt cards face down in a group.



Round One: EMBRACE

Each participant chooses one prompt card and looks at it, keeping it face down after reading. Each participant thinks about this prompt in conjunction with the first Foundation Card:

*E.g., **What do you embrace about...**arts and culture/education/play...*

Go around the circle and have each participant show their prompt and then answer the question aloud. The group remains silent and listens to the speaker, moving onto the next participant once each speaker has finished.

Once everyone has spoken, reflect and talk together about anything that came up for you in this “What do you embrace about” round.

You may choose to stop here, or decide to keep going for Round 2.

Round Two: CHALLENGE

Each participant picks a new prompt card from the cards remaining after Round 1 and thinks about this new prompt in conjunction with the second Foundation Card:

*E.g., **What do you challenge about...**family/nourishment/the future...*

Follow steps from the previous round.

You may choose to stop here, or decide to keep going for Round 3.



FINAL ROUND

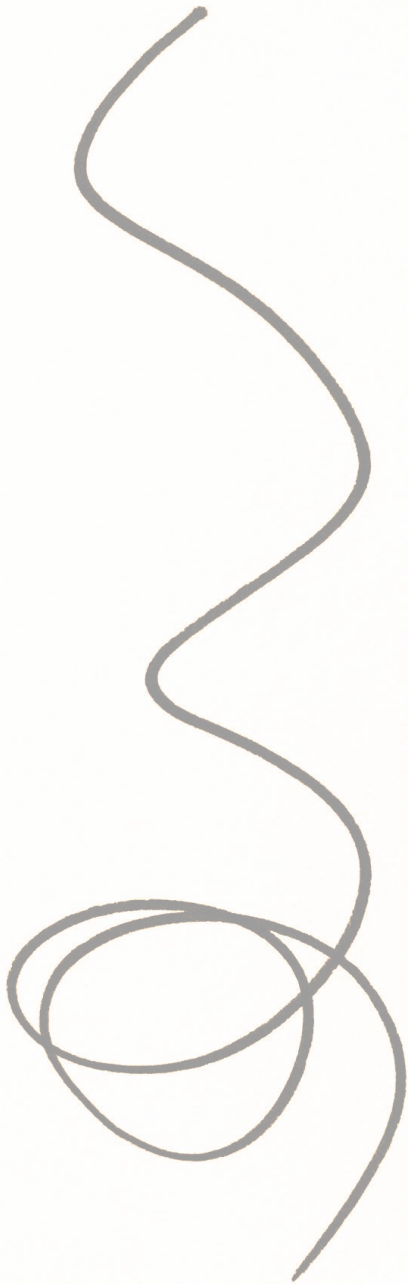
Round Three: IMAGINE

Each participant picks a new prompt card from the cards remaining after Round 2 and thinks about this new prompt in the context of the third and final Foundation Card:

*E.g., **What do you imagine about...**your job/your country/ritual...*

Follow steps from the previous round.

Once you've completed this Third Round, feel free to brainstorm prompts and use the blank cards to put them in the mix for next time...or try them out now!



Foundation Cards

What do you
embrace about

What do you
challenge about

What do you
imagine about

Prompts

young people	your country	your job	play
education	your community	ritual	family
arts and culture	nourishment	the future	the past