

Design-informed Approaches to Address Complex Challenges

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Module 7 Activity

Letter to Your Wiser Self

Assignment Prompt

Review your weekly case project assignments. Reference notes taken in your [transformational change framework](#). Add details that have been coming into focus. As a reminder, the creative cycle reflects ways that creative practices can enable collaboration across difference in ways that intentionally engage different system levers and foster emergence.

In your letters, I'd like you to address the following elements —

1. What do you understand now that you did not fully understand before about what is hindering change in your project? What can enable meaningful change in your project?
2. What have you learned about the ways in which you are uniquely positioned to contribute to positive change within this project? Where does your power feel strongest? How can you leverage this as a leader? What nourishments do you need to do this?
3. How will you use the insights, principles, processes, and tools introduced by this course? Why?
4. What advice would you like to offer yourself, a helpful reminder or kind words, for when the going gets tough? What advice would you like to offer your fellow students?

Response

Sunday, March 5, 2023, From Me to Me

Good day Self,

I hope all is well and you are keeping it chill. *Leading Transformational Change* with Kyle is concluding and it's time for reflective postscripts. Our attention, me and myself, has been directed at diversity in an academic makerspace. The why's, what's, and how's.

Diversity is a necessary ingredient in vibrant self sustaining ecosystems. Without diverse ways of being and experiencing we are but mere complicated linear singularities. Easily deciphered, we regurgitate predictable and mostly known outputs. Limiting productive collisions, the emergence of new, and ability to adapt to change. Homogeneity Relegates us to a craft space of color by number procedures. We, the makerspace clan, aspire to be a working model of creative leadership and must embrace and pursue diversity to enact and enrich a complex ecosystem. A cyclical ecosystem that transforms polarity, adapts to change and nurtures the emergence of new.

Interestingly, complex ecosystems start with the true and open self. How can one be open in community when self suppressing or impatiently avoiding inner truths? We need to shed the fear of failure, of being perceived as daft, weak, slow, off, or lacking. Releasing the fear and participating in accordance with our uniqueness inspires those around us to be in kind. Invites and frees our community to question, express, mingle, and discover our common values rather than fight over polarity. Binary Polarity breaks the sauce and looks icky. It grabs our attention and flares our fight response. The urge to pounce is taxing and unsustainable.

One of our more challenging assignments involved engaging with our political opposite. The dyad of my disdain. My mind flushed red. *But I don't want to. They're fucking stupid, selfish, stubborn, and hateful. They've nothing to offer...* I walked it off. Literally, and, as I felt the crab grass on my bare feet, observed the neighbors oak tree, and listened to the Titmice bicker, I let it go. Fuck it, let's see what happens. I approached slowly with openness, patience, and respect. Newton's third law. My energy was returned with an equal volley. We acknowledged and accepted our tension of opposing values and converted aggressive energy to creative energy. That energy now permeates and drives our creative space. It opens up our community to empathic listening, collaborative discovery, and makes space for shared creativity.

Speaking of creativity. We were tasked with contemplating the role of the arts and human imagination in understanding social issues. Professional creatives, like artists, can illuminate blind spots in ways we haven't considered and spur our curiosity through their works as individuals. When they share and engage as collaborators in our ecosystem they bring the potential to catalyze creative momentum from others. Particularly those that have given up on or suppressed imagining alternatives. We all need to imagine, to daydream better futures, and to share. So yeah, I feel like diverse community intuitive thinking, cycled with analytical structured approaches is the way to sprout the most ideas and momentum in communities interested in improving society.

In direct contrast to the plethora of engineering logic driven minds in our space, I bring more of the divergent intuitive vibe. I sprinkle in a fair amount of *'lets try it see what it does or how it feels'*.

Over the six week sprint of a course, we looked inward, broadly at system levels, and beyond humanity to recognize our place in the broader ecosystem of earth. Are we humans separate? Can we manifest destiny our way beyond the reach of mother earth. Probably not. We work, work and work to improve, optimize, grow, gain, and expand our way into oblivion. Maybe It's time to chill and convert the ambition of self into cohabitation for all. I don't think I directly answered the initial matter of concern, and I don't think there is one. It's a complex issue that requires an open community to acknowledge the importance of diversity and willingness to address and iterate to equilibrium. My part, your part is to be ourselves, embrace others fully, listen to our ecosystem and put in the effort called for.