



CONNECTING THE DOTS
HEALTH AS ART

Capture Your Community

An art-based social-emotional health activity
for peer leadership-based learning.



What is peer-leadership based learning?

Peer leadership-based learning is all about inspiring others through healthy behaviors and actions, and providing guidance and support for our peers to do the same. It helps us develop self-confidence and personal agency, as well as collaboration, communication, and goal-setting skills. Peer leadership-based learning helps us enhance the world around us through collective action and prosocial behaviors!



Connecting the Dots

Organizing and leading an awareness campaign such as photographing what makes our community unique - and what makes it home for us and our neighbors - helps build social cohesion, personal agency, and a feeling of collective empowerment. By using art to spread awareness, we can encourage different perspective taking and reach people with our message in a more inclusive way. And when done through the lens of a peer leadership project, it allows us the opportunity to grow as an individual and to create something new, meaningful, and beautiful for our community.



Capture Your Community

Peer leadership opportunities provide you the chance to combine important skills, like communicating, organizing, collaborating, and group facilitating, with a passion or something you may be interested in, like photography.

Further the impact of the opportunity by using it to highlight what's special about your community with our Capture Your Community campaign! Discover how taking on a leadership position among your peers and organizing a photography campaign can be used to showcase the uniqueness of where you live!





Planning a Photography Campaign

1

When organizing a group photography campaign to showcase your community, first create a team to help organize and support your efforts. This may be some classmates, teachers, caregivers, local business owners, or others that share a similar passion.

2

Next, decide on a theme or some question prompts that will encourage others to participate and to each bring their own unique ideas and perspectives to their photos, highlighting the diverse cultures across your community. Some example prompts may be:

- Places and spaces that define my neighborhood
- Places and spaces that hold memories
- Places and spaces that teach us new things
- Places and spaces that feel like home





Planning a Photography Campaign



3

Decide how you'll get the word out! How will you promote and advertise the campaign? Do you want to create posters and hang them around your school campus? Send an email and share it on social media? Ask your principal or other teachers to announce it?

4

Work with your team to decide how to finish the campaign and showcase all of your peers' photography skills and the uniqueness captured of your community! How will you wrap up the campaign? Do you want to have printed photos on display around the school, or a "photo night" in your gymnasium or art room? Who else do you want invited to the campaign wrap up?

5

Celebrate! There's much to celebrate at the end - your success in organizing and leading a campaign that highlights how special your community is for so many, and the talent, growth and passion that you and your peers have shown. Be proud!

Leadership in the Classroom: Mixed Medium Art Campaigns

Students can also be given the opportunity to grow leadership skills with an art campaign at the classroom level. Create small groups of 3-4 students and have the groups each assign one person per role:

- Student to lead selection of which art medium to use (photography, paint, poetry, collage, etc.)
- Student to lead creation of an advertising/promotion plan
- Student to lead creation of a wrap-up celebration plan
- Student to lead creation of a community engagement plan (if needed)

Leadership in the Classroom: Mixed Medium Art Campaigns

Once roles have been assigned, have the 3-4 students in each group work collaboratively to decide on their campaign's theme and/or question prompts. Once the group work is complete and all students have led their individual elements of the project, have each group present their cohesive art campaign to the class.

When designed as a class project, art campaigns like these allow opportunities for important skill building, like small group work, conflict resolution, collaboration, and team work.



Art-based Leadership at Home

Although schools and communities are wonderful environments for teens to advance their leadership skills, these skills are developed and refined at home. As a caregiver, you can provide the kids in your life with the space and the tools necessary to grow into confident leaders among their peers using variations of projects like an art-based awareness campaign.

Collaboration, motivation, organizing others around similar goals or interests, and modeling positive behaviors, are skills important for peer leadership that can all be encouraged at home. Provide opportunities for the teens in your life to foster these skills using ideas such as:

- Creating a family schedule collage to organize household appointments, tasks and activities
- Organizing and coordinating a family trip to a local museum or art exhibition
- Writing a story, song, or poem to showcase a cause important to you



Reflective Wrap-Up

Questions for student leaders to reflect on their experience:

- How may the campaign have had a different impact if you'd used paint instead? How about poetry?
- How did you feel in your role as a leader of the Capture Your Community project? What parts felt natural? What parts felt like a challenge?
- What did you learn about yourself while in this leadership role? Did any of this surprise you? Why or why not?
- How else can art be used to showcase the uniqueness of your community?



Reflective Wrap-Up

Questions for student participants to reflect on their experience:

- How may the campaign have had a different impact if you'd used paint instead? How about poetry?
- How did you feel being a part of the Capture Your Community project? How do you think this project can be used to benefit your community?
- What did you learn about yourself and about your community during this project? Did any of this surprise you? Why or why not?
- How else can art be used to showcase the uniqueness of your community?

