

Session Title:

“If you believe you can change your community, does that make you a dreamer?”

Convener:

Francesca Zepeda-Gutierrez

Participants:

Francesca Zepeda-Gutierrez

Anthony Plaskowy

Jasmine Cardenas

Tiffany Bullard

Betsy Quinn

Session Notes:

Many people in the professional field often see big ideas as impossible dreams that would only work in a “perfect world.”

After thinking that for so long, the questions ‘can my ideas really happen?’ arises.

How do you work with those who are multi-faceted, and make sure that goals are met?

Support is the best thing when working on something that may seem impossible to others.

The role of the dreamer is to be competitive and repetitive in order to succeed. To generate new ideas, it is important to have support from others.

How does the community find value in who is involved?

Although you don’t necessarily need to be completely successful in what you do, it is leaving the ‘normal’ framework of people or corporations and forging the path for newcomers down the road that makes you a success.

There is only so much you can do and so far you can go in order to get results (especially in relation to working with kids) until it's time to go home and for the most part, the kids forget what they've learned with you.

The idea of allowing people to do what they want to do can bring great results. On the flip side, identifying people who have strong attributes and driving them toward a certain career path is almost a little utopian. There's a constant battle between people doing what they love versus doing what is needed of them.

With someone that works primarily with feelings (apart from the numbers, and logistics) there is still hope to get people to be universally ok. Maybe at times, being a dreamer is a good thing because it doesn't necessarily mean that being a dreamer equates to inaction.

The founder of the Shanti Foundation for Peace is a good example of someone who is a dreamer and a doer.

In comparison to the 1960's peace marches, peace today is generally viewed as a symbol. Then, it was good to be a dreamer, now it's time to be a dreamer in the same sense that it was in the 60's.

How do you find people, in a city as big as this one, who believe in what you believe in?

There are so many pre-requisites nowadays that may cripple possible dreams that could turn into doable projects.

Somewhere along the line, communities no longer have the basic knowledge of building and project codes that would further progress the 'dream' at hand.

The government, it seems, on both federal and local levels has made the means of protesting and marching extremely difficult to do for the 'greater good' of the American people.

Social norms have changed over time, and it's things like not being able to go the departure gate at the airport to say goodbye to a loved one, or being looked at strangely for doing certain actions (singing in public, sitting down on a curb, etc.) that cripple the opportunity to dream and allow us to do only those things sanctioned by society.

Cities like Chicago are almost limiting the amount of talent that can be performed on the street corners.

Even in organizations like Shanti; some artists don't know each other very well with regard to recognizing each others' craft in order to collaborate should the opportunity arise.

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