Modeling the Creative Learning Ecosystem

The Heinz Endowments
June 2019
What to expect

1. Mapping the ecosystem (~45 mins)
2. Centering equity (~25 mins)
3. Teaching artists & intermediaries (~10 mins)
Creative Learning

• helps to spark new ideas and perspectives in children and youth and their communities
• is a process and approach to learning
• includes art disciplines and practices
• may also include other approaches and emerging areas of learning including experiential, tactile, project-based, and maker-based learning
What is an ecosystem?

In biology: A community or assemblage of living and non-living elements

In common usage: An interconnected system

In learning sciences: A community or assemblage of learners, educators, and learning contexts (e.g., places, organizations, institutions)
The Creative Learning ecosystem in Pittsburgh includes a range of elements, including the organizations, individuals, and places that create, participate in, and fuel creative learning experiences for children and youth.
Fill out the handout, listing creative learning organizations in Pittsburgh.
Circle the top 5 programs and organizations that you believe are most important for creative learning in Pittsburgh.
**Star** all of the programs with whom you are connected.

Here are different ways you may work with another organization:

**Attend:** Representatives from your organizations attend events together

**Resource Share:** Organization shares resources (staff, facilities, etc.)

**Collaborate:** Organizations plan and implement programs and/or jointly fundraise
Debrief

What are your reactions to these pictures we painted together? (things you notice, things you wonder)
Creative Learning in Pittsburgh

Equity and Access
The Creative Learning Equity Problem
“Every system is perfectly designed to get the results it gets.”

We must look beyond surface features to reveal the underlying mechanisms in the ecosystem. In order to address the goals of creative learning for children and youth in Pittsburgh, we must understand the system parts and processes that produce the current results.
Creative Learning Equity Strategy

Young people across Pittsburgh have abundant opportunities for high quality creative learning experiences.

Why is this not the case now?

What needs to happen within the next 5 years for it to be reality?
Rotation Brainstorm

**Walk** around the room and **write** your responses to the questions on each tablet.

Be sure to look at responses from other people.
Thank you for your time!