

# Arts Collaboration and Community Engagement

## Evaluation Brainstorming

For this assignment, we'll work together to brainstorm a list of ideas to evaluate the following community-engagement project.

*The project is in an African-American neighborhood of single-family homes in a large city. Most residents are senior citizens, and many are caretakers for their grandchildren because the parents work and either can't afford daycare or prefer to have their parents care for their children. There is no local park for senior citizens to take children to, and the streets in the area are very busy with lots of car traffic. There is an empty lot that was paved with concrete as a basketball court many years ago, but it is no longer used. It is surrounded on three sides by concrete walls that are covered with graffiti. The concrete paving is cracked and missing in places. The basketball hoops and poles are broken and rusting. The lot is an eyesore, and people often dump trash there. Following research and community input, you and your group see that some problems that this community needs to address are:*

- *The empty lot is an eyesore and attracts dumping.*
- *Safe places where children and their senior-citizen caretakers can gather do not exist in the neighborhood.*

*After exploring alternatives, your group, with the community, decides to clean up the lot and create an outdoor artspace with activities for children and seniors. The art activities include visual art and dance. You intend to launch it in two months.*

What types of evaluation activities would you propose for this project? In doing so, frame the question in the following terms. State:

- What do you want to know? (What information are you trying to get at?)
- Why do you want to know it? (What information will be supplied?)

- What would you do with the information? (What concrete benefit will it have?)
- How will you elicit the information? (Explain how you will get that specific piece of information, such as survey question, observation, photovoice, or other.)

In the course discussion section, post two evaluation suggestions, then comment on the suggestions of at least three other students. Critique their posts in terms of how well their suggestions address the above points. Make sure to be very specific in your critique of both what is good and what needs to be improved. Cite course material and quote where relevant to emphasize the points you make.