

# REMINDERS: COMMUNAL GATHERINGS

In the following pages, we provide outline templates that we recommend for gathering wisdom, stories, and insights from our community. We designed these templates to provide a basic structure that supports us in facilitating spaces that foster learning, harness community wisdom, and gain valuable insights. We are embarking on a journey that will take us from vision to action, back to vision, and then to action again. We offer **gentle reminders** as a way for us to remember the importance of thinking through and reflecting on:

- **Our Resources** - How have we considered the resources available and the resources we need to hold space and gatherings for our community? **Remember:** Resources can be cultural, social, or financial.
- **Our Capacity** - How have we considered the amount of psychological, physical, and emotional energy and time we need to hold space and gatherings for our community? **Remember:** We are healing while our community heals; we may hear stories and messages that can be overwhelming or take a toll on us.
- **Proximity of Our Community** - How have we considered and plan to include community members who have direct experience with the issue(s) we care about? **Remember:** The closer individuals are to living through an experience and witnessing it firsthand, the more they become experts in that experience.
- **Intersectionality Representation** - How have we considered including community members who represent intersecting identities? **Remember:** Taking an intersectional lens enhances our understanding of advantages and disadvantages beyond concepts of race or gender alone.
- **Power** - How have we considered ways to share power and power over decisions between ourselves and community members? **Remember:** By practicing or creating ways for community members to make and inform decisions with us, we foster shared power.

## DRAFT YOUR OWN: COMMUNAL GATHERING

- What materials will you need?

- How would you like to open the space? Will you open with introductions, an invitation to engage in a collective breath, a mindfulness exercise, or something else?

- What will you have in the space that reminds people to love, heal, and dream?

- What main activities will you use to generate collective meaning, build community, and set intentions and actions? Small groups, large groups, or something else.

- How would you like to close out the session? What kind of collective activity invites others to celebrate, honor commitments, and care?