

You Are Already an Advocate!

Collaboration, Community,
& Autistic Advocacy



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Presentation Agenda

01

Background (5 min)

- Project Overview
- Community-Based Participatory Research Principles and Photovoice

02

Partnerships (5 min)

- Roles & Contributions
- Lessons Learned

03

Impact (15 min)

- Visual Storyboards

04

Activity

- Creating personal advocacy storyboard
- Break
- Big group discussion

01. Background

Guiding Framework for Collaboration

*Grounded in **Community-Based Participatory Research (CBPR)** principles:*

- Equitable power-sharing between researchers and community partners
- Shared decision-making at every stage
(idea generation → implementation → dissemination)
- Focus on mutual benefit, trust, and capacity building

Guiding Framework for Collaboration (cont.)

*Informed by **Neurodiversity-Affirming** and
Disability Justice Frameworks*

- Centers autistic perspectives as expertise
- Values accessibility, autonomy, and lived experience as valid forms of knowledge

Participatory Methods in Action: Photovoice



- An arts-based participatory action research method combining photography with group dialogue to empower individuals and communities
- Purpose: Empower participants to document, reflect on, and share their realities by creating a platform for collective insight, critical reflection, and social changes.

02. Partnerships

How We Came Together



Reflection and Growth

Researchers' Perspective

- Recognized value of **Shared leadership**
- Gained insight into **Navigating role overlap**
- Deepened our understanding of **Neurodiversity-affirming practices**
- Realized need for **clearer boundaries, communication flow, and sustainability planning**
- Committed to strengthening **cross-campus and community alliances**

Reflection and Growth

Community Partners' Perspective

- **Community building & motivation**
- **Respect for lived expertise**
- **Trusted** venues & faces
- **Meaningful Outputs** (photoboard, quotes, emerging recommendations)

03. Visual Storyboard

Abram Becker



Abram Becker



[illegible]

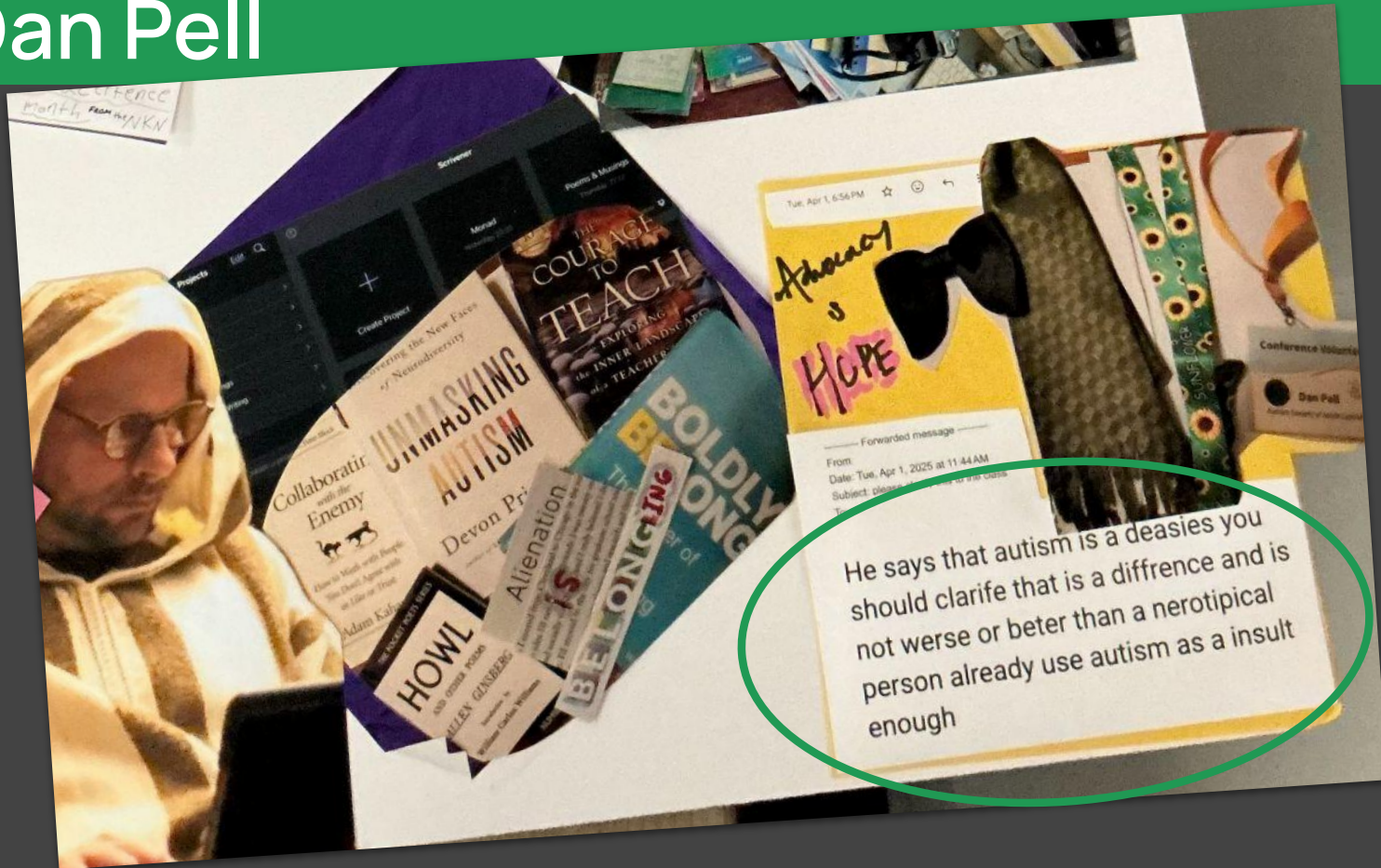
Tara



Dan Pell



Dan Pell



04. Activity!

Your own image of advocacy: Step 1 (5 minutes)

Find an image that reflects part of *your own* advocacy journey.

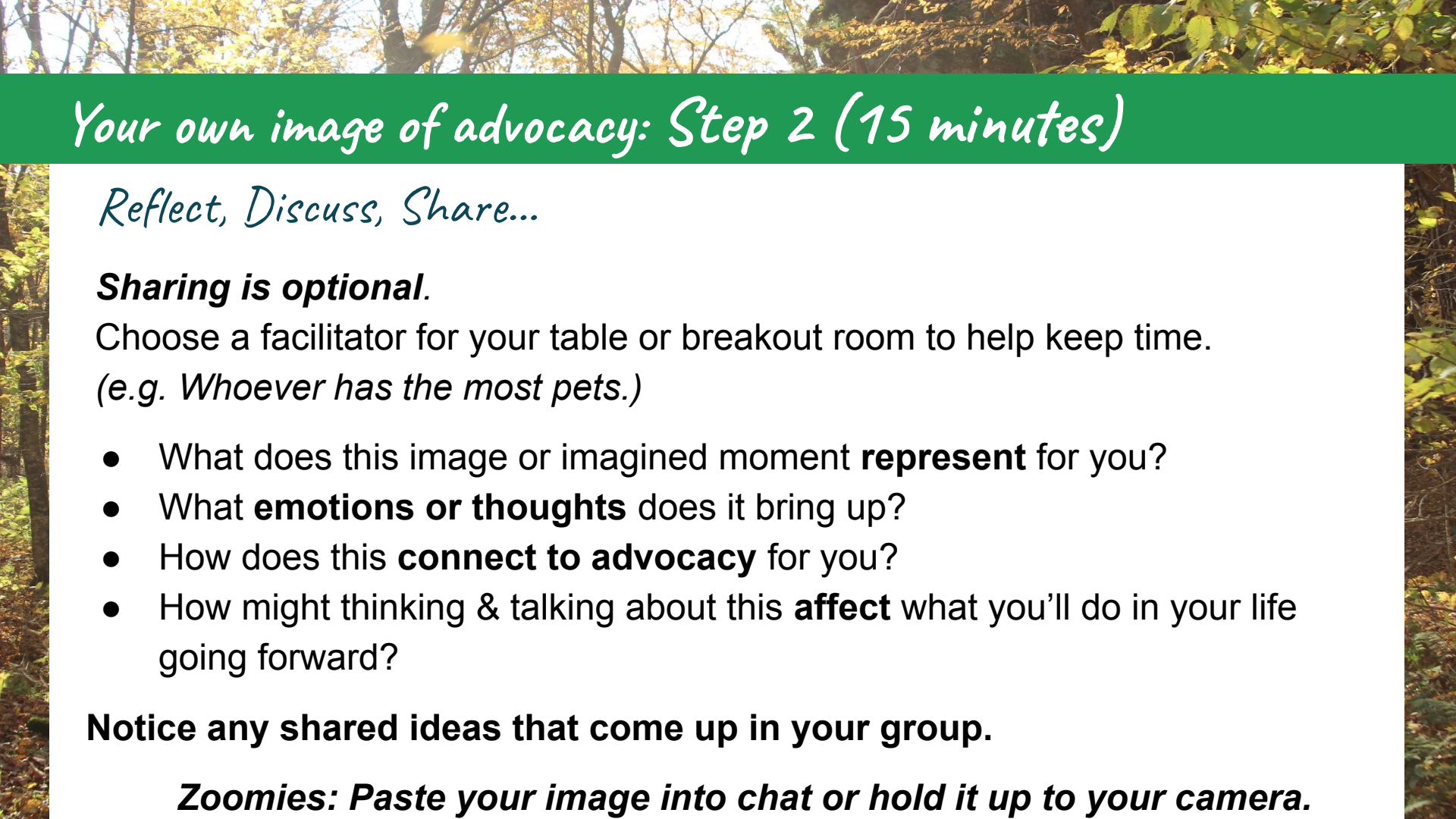
Think about the actions, spaces, people, or feelings that show how your autistic identity or advocacy are part of your life. ***Work silently.***

You can...

- Choose a photo from your phone (OR)
- Draw something (OR)
- Write a few words or sentences (OR)
- Simply imagine and reflect on your experiences.

There is no single right or wrong way.

What matters is how you experience and express advocacy in your own life.



Your own image of advocacy: Step 2 (15 minutes)

Reflect, Discuss, Share...

Sharing is optional.

Choose a facilitator for your table or breakout room to help keep time.
(e.g. *Whoever has the most pets.*)

- What does this image or imagined moment **represent** for you?
- What **emotions or thoughts** does it bring up?
- How does this **connect to advocacy** for you?
- How might thinking & talking about this **affect** what you'll do in your life going forward?

Notice any shared ideas that come up in your group.

Zoomies: Paste your image into chat or hold it up to your camera.

Your own image of advocacy: Step 3 (5 minutes)

Collective Vision Board

Sharing is optional.

Choose ONE image or idea from your table or breakout to share.

- Upload it to our community Vision Board using the tool Padlet.
- **(Optional)** Add comments or details in text if you want.

Feel free to browse the board during the break!

<https://padlet.com/nkantor/INTEGRAL>



Scan me!

Short Break

You can continue uploading to the community Vision Board if you want to!

Feel free to browse the board!



Scan me!

<https://padlet.com/nkantor/INTEGRAL>

Big Group Discussion



Closing Thoughts

Join this Wooclap event



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Event code
AMMTRO

What does advocacy mean to you?
What might your next steps be as an advocate?



THANK
YOU!