



“Imagining Liberation”

Group Exercise

Level: Advanced

Author: Michelle Caswell but heavily influenced by a visioning exercise created by Melina Abdullah, as described at: “Information, Access, and Activism,” UCLA Information Studies Diversity Council event, Los Angeles, February 9, 2017.

Supplies needed:

Paper and pens.

Time: 30-45 minutes

Activity:

1. Group leader asks the group to close their eyes and ask: Imagine liberation in archives. What would a liberatory archives look like? What would a liberatory archives feel like? What would it sound like? What would it smell like? What would a liberatory archives do? What would a liberatory archivist do?
2. After 5-10 minutes of imagining, group leader asks participants to open their eyes and draw or write about what they had imagined.
3. After 5-10 minutes of writing and drawing, participants share their visions *on a voluntary basis*.
4. Participants then brainstorm: What concrete steps can we take to get to our visions?

For more information on imagination as methodology, read:

- Marisa Duarte and Miranda Belarde-Lewis, “Imagining: Creating Spaces for Indigenous Ontologies,” *Cataloging and Classification Quarterly* 53 (2015): 677-702.