



## Together Creating A Future Where We All Thrive

We have all been through a tough time. But there is hope, as a new beginning has just begun. Over the last year, in addition to great loss, we have all witnessed the tremendous fortitude of people throughout our city, our country and our world beating the odds and moving forward stronger than before. At LA Commons, we believe that everyone has the power to help meet the challenges we are facing in our communities. Through the connections we share, we can join with one another to imagine and build the future we all want to be a part of. Creating Our Next LA is about tapping the superpower that we all possess, our imagination. With the help of the most imaginative among us, artists and youth, we can unleash our abilities to envision what we want to see and to advocate to make this reality come true.



### A Campaign with Youth at the Center

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Youth are vital participants in the process to build the world that we want to see. Their energy, hope, and creativity transcend the limitations of the past to inspire us all to courageously envision a new future. Youth + Artists + You transform stories into an artistic vision for a post-crisis city in which everyone thrives. Art is a powerful tool, to share narratives and create change.



### Stories = the Change We All Seek

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Join us to engage (virtual) circles to share stories of challenges and triumphs in these pandemic times, as we identify how we are moving forward and what we need to make things better on the other side. Regardless of race, economic and social status or conditions, everyone is needed to bring our visions forward and play a role in bringing them to life.



### Host A Story Circle

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We all need to take up the challenge of creating the change we seek. A great way to do this is by hosting a story circle. Gather family, friends, neighbors, colleagues and new connects for a zoom chat with the purpose of envisioning our next LA. Partner with us to engage this group in creating an artistic vision for a place in which everyone thrives. We know from experience the power of this approach to enable everyone to feel connected, purposeful, and more hopeful about the future.

# Story Circle Guide

LA Commons believes in the power of sharing stories to generate awareness, inspire compassion and enable us all to better understand the issues that impact our communities. Stories show us the way to the future we all seek and motivate us to work to make it happen.

This guide provides a template through which to host your own story circles. It comes with our recommendations which we encourage you to adjust based on your unique circumstances and needs. We support you in finding creative facilitators to guide the process, ideally an artist and/or youth. For resources and information visit: [CreatingOurNextLA.com](http://CreatingOurNextLA.com)

**Time:** 1.5 hours

**Number of Participants:** 5 - 8

**Needed Materials:** Pen, paper for all

## Suggested Agenda

<p><b>Overview of Creating Our Next LA (see above)</b></p> <p><b>Purpose of Story Circles - to build community as we exchange stories and envision the future</b></p> <p><i>5 MINUTES</i></p>	<p><b>Introductory exercise for each participant:</b></p> <p><b>What is your name?</b></p> <p><b>Visualize a place in your community that makes you feel safe, relaxed and happy.</b></p> <p><b>Please share out loud or in the chat.</b></p> <p><i>20 MINUTES</i></p>	<p><b>Artist/Youth or host share a story, meditation or inspirational quote</b></p> <p><i>5 MINUTES</i></p>
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### Round One - 15 MINUTES

Guiding questions/statements:

- What do you love or appreciate about your neighborhood or community?
- What issues are currently impacting you, your family or community?

### Round Two - 15 MINUTES

- What would you like to envision for the future of your neighborhood and Los Angeles?

<p><b>Open Discussion</b></p> <p><i>15 MINUTES</i></p>	<p><b>Survey</b></p> <p><i>5 MINUTES</i></p>	<p><b>Each person shares a thought to leave with the group</b></p> <p><i>5 MINUTES</i></p>
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### Next Steps - 5 MINUTES

Facilitator ensures the following points covered:

1. We aim to create a safe and welcome all who have joined today to share their stories and to hear the stories of others
2. Please be mindful of time, so that all participants have an opportunity to speak to each question and enjoy!
3. What happens next - creating art to share the stories

*\* Adapted from JASS Southern Africa*

**Share your story circle via social media!**

**Tag us: @lacommuns**

**#CreateOurNextLA  
#BetterNarrativesBetterCity  
#StoriesTransformCommunities**