

Radical Imagination & the Future of Libraries

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Wild Wisconsin Winter Web Conference 2022



Agenda

01 Introduction & Norms

02 Radical Imagination
Overview

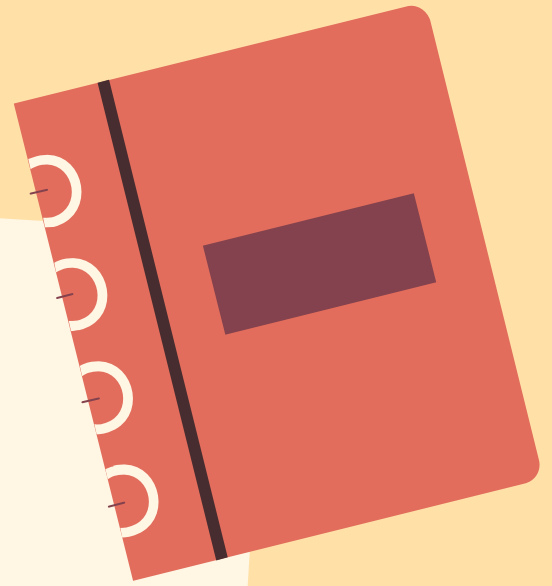
03 Introducing Proyecto
Sobremesa: The Radical
Imagination Game

04 Debrief & Closing




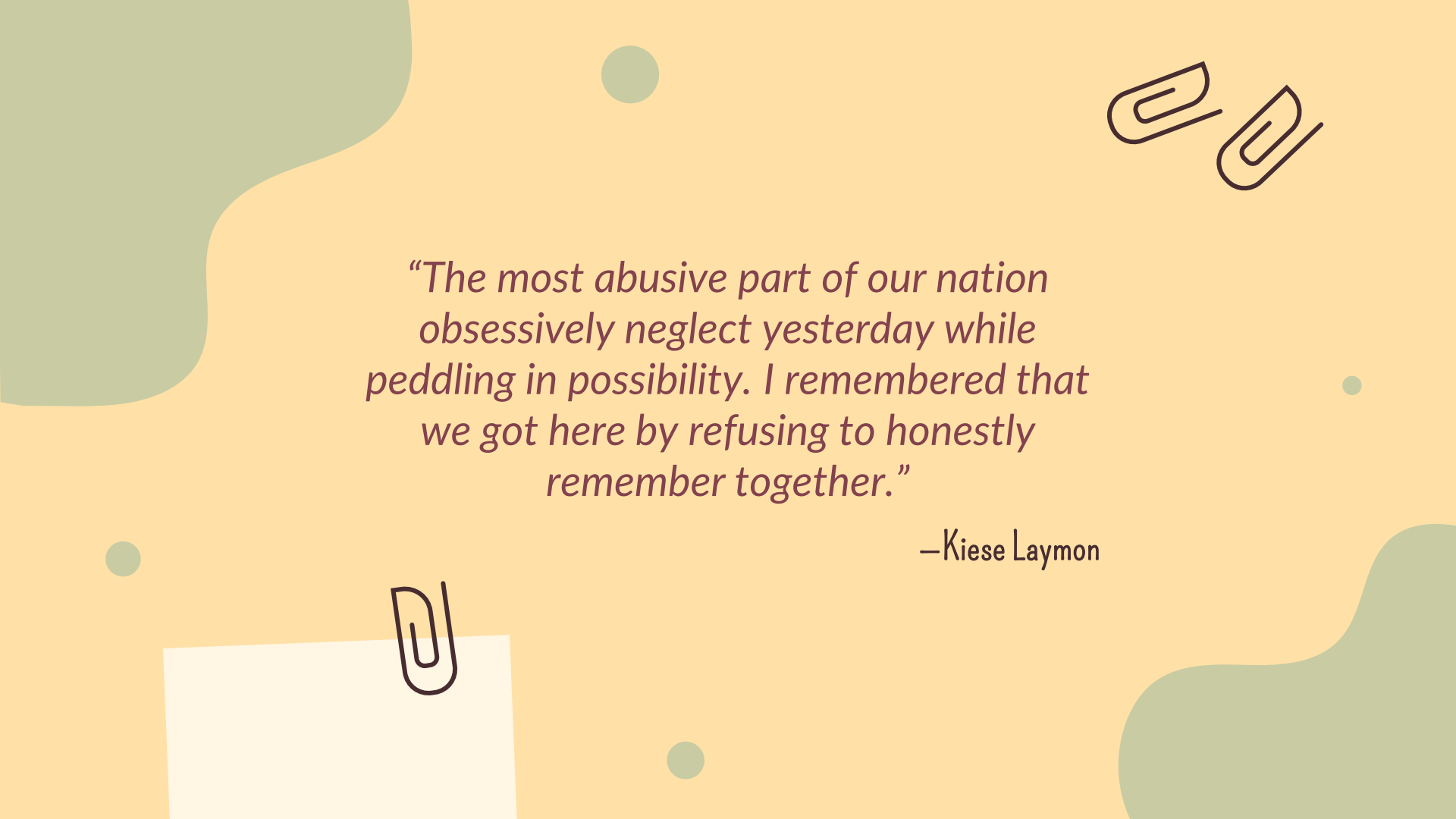
01

Introductions & Norms



Ozioma (Ozy) Nkechi Aloziem is an Igbo scholar situated at the intersection of multiple ways of knowing. She is a Nigerian-American sunflower that is passionate about books and chicken wings. Originally raised on Umonhon (Omaha) land, Ozy has been a visitor on Arapaho, Cheyenne, and Ute territories (Denver, CO) since 2015





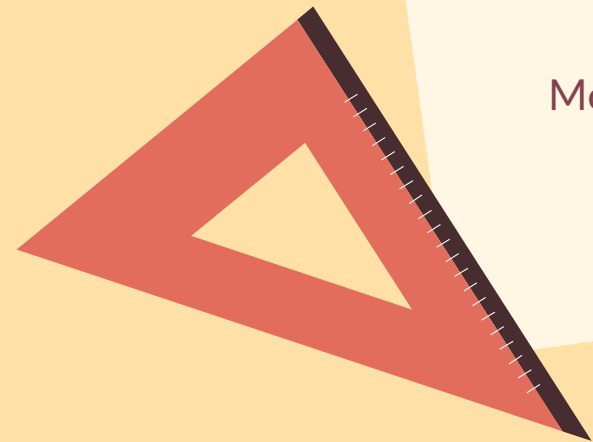
*“The most abusive part of our nation
obsessively neglect yesterday while
peddling in possibility. I remembered that
we got here by refusing to honestly
remember together.”*

—Kiese Laymon



Healing Centered Practice

Moving past trauma a trauma-informed lens



Embodiment

“What is currently practiced or habituated in us. It is also the process of becoming more aware of our practices and behaviors.”

Landing in our bodies



Invitations



Be present



Practice wonder



Listen generously



Take care of yourself



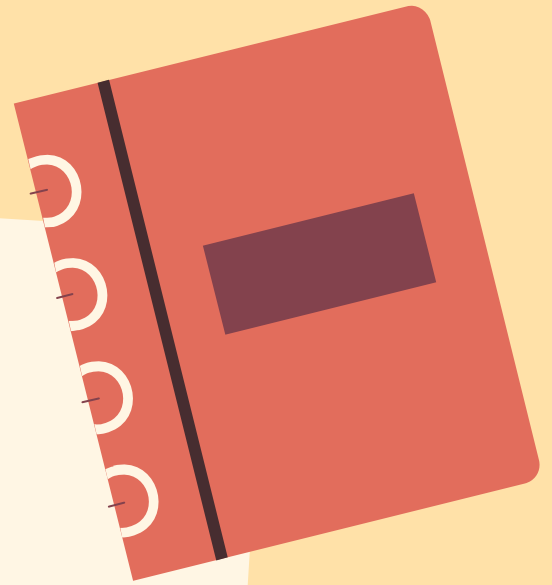
Check your ego



Be willing

02

Radical Imagination Overview



Defining “Radical”



“Of, relating to, or proceeding from a root.”

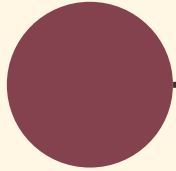


“Very different from the usual or traditional.”



“Favoring extreme changes in existing views, habits, conditions, or institutions.”

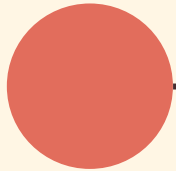
Defining “Imagination”



“The act or power of forming a mental image of something not present to the senses or never before wholly perceived in reality.”



“Creative ability.”



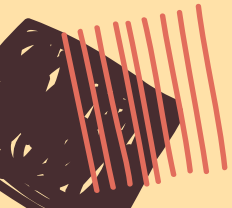
“A creation of the mind.”

*Radical imagination is the
audacity to live in the world as it
is and dream something different
coupled with the willingness to
believe it is possible even if you
cannot see it.*





Radical imagination is about having the courage to ask “what if” and then “why not” and then “with who?”






”

Radical imagination is about creating those small moments that can replicate and rewire our brains so that we're more oriented around curiosity and wonder instead of fear and despair.

OZY ALOZIEM



*"To wonder is to cultivate a sense of **awe** and **openness** to others' thoughts and experiences, their pain, their wants and needs. It is to look upon the face of anyone or anything and say: **You are a part of me I do not yet know**. Wonder is an orientation to humility: recognizing that others are as complex and infinite to themselves as we are to ourselves. Wondering about a person gives us information for how to love them."*

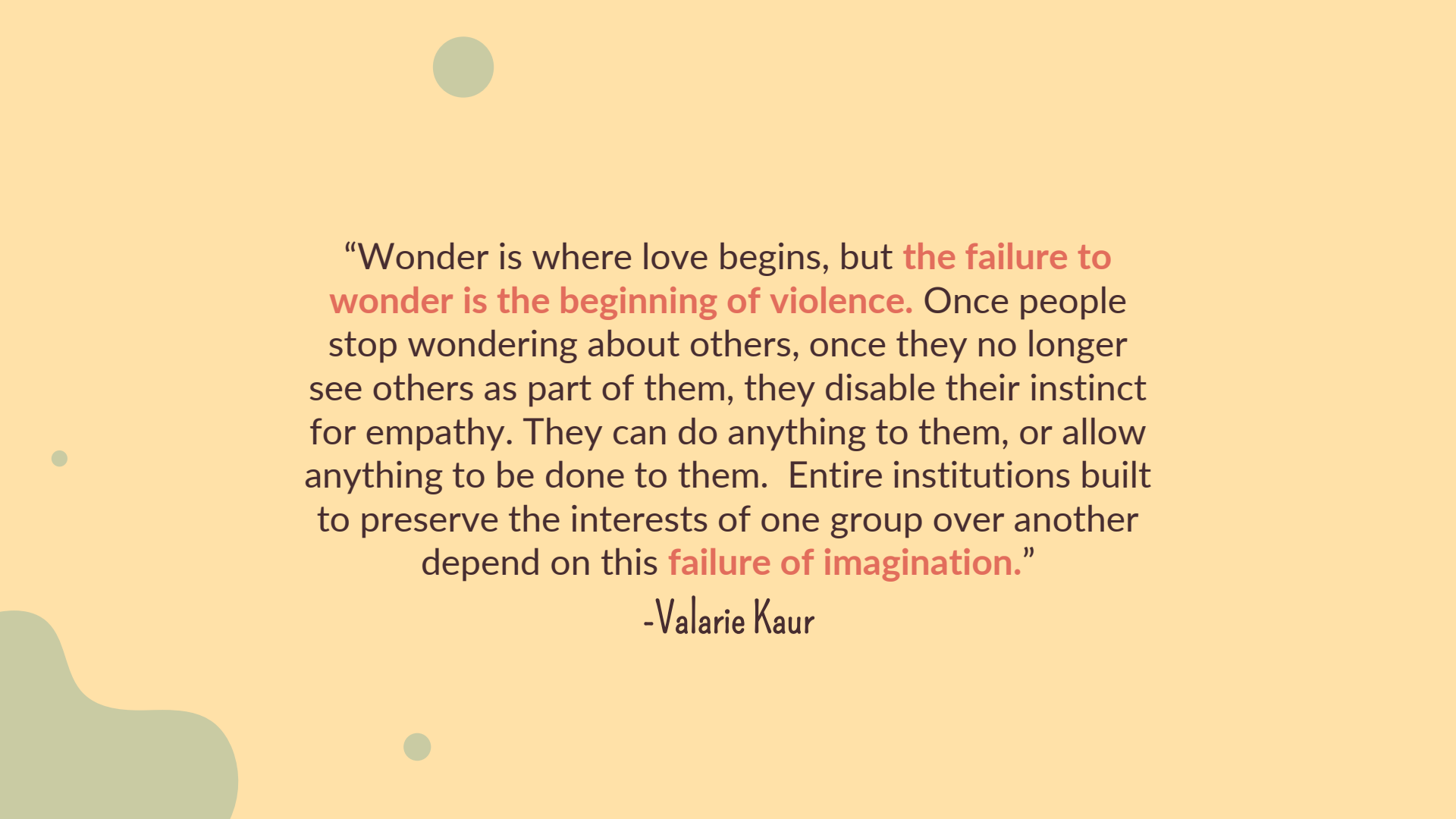


-Valarie Kaur



“We live in a culture that makes us strange to ourselves”
Valarie Kaur, 2020



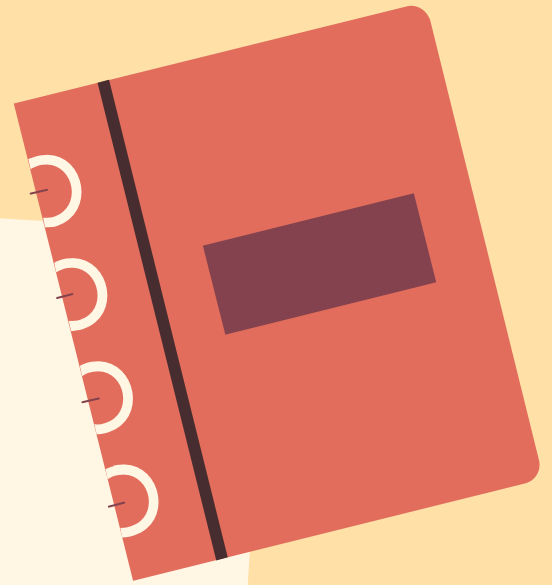


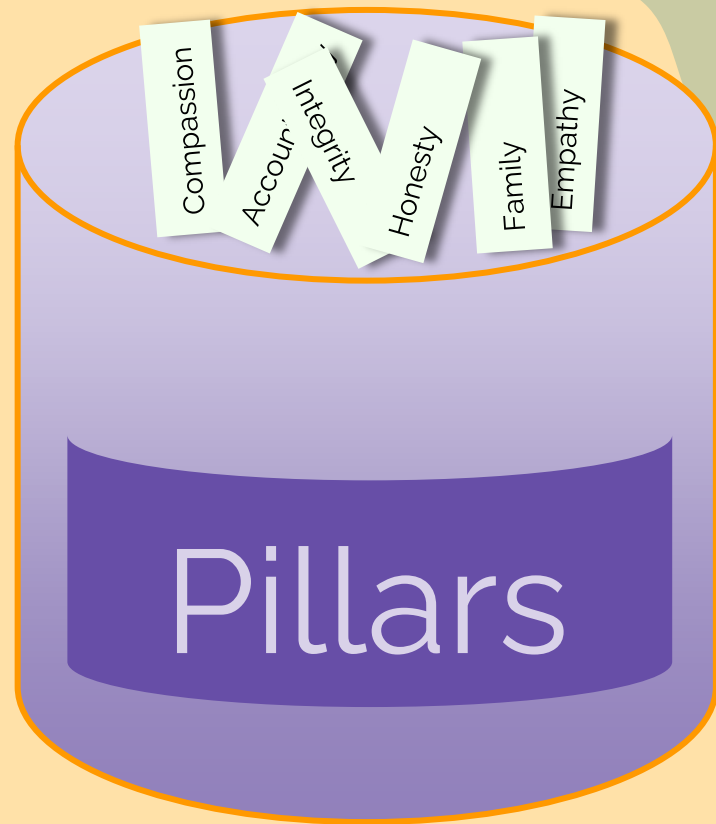
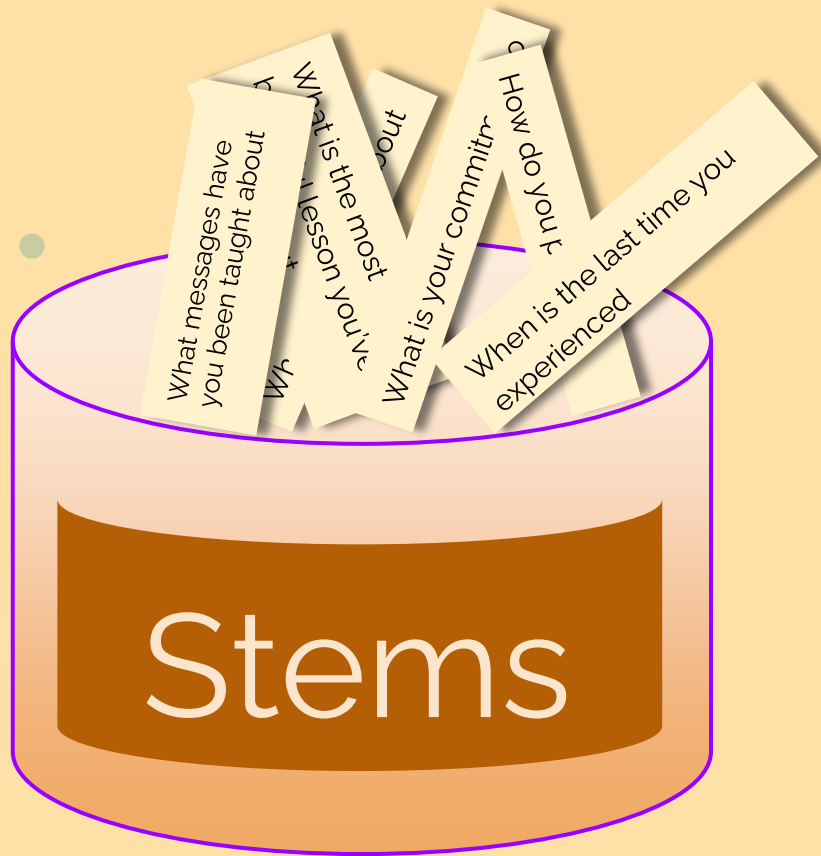
“Wonder is where love begins, but **the failure to wonder is the beginning of violence.** Once people stop wondering about others, once they no longer see others as part of them, they disable their instinct for empathy. They can do anything to them, or allow anything to be done to them. Entire institutions built to preserve the interests of one group over another depend on this **failure of imagination.**”

-Valarie Kaur

03

Introducing Proyecto
Sobremesa: The Radical
Imagination Game





Community Accountability is

“Preventing, intervening in, responding to, and healing from violence through strengthening relationships and communities, emphasizing mutual responsibility for addressing the conditions that allow violence to take place and holding people accountable for harm.”

—Audre Lorde Project



Community Agreements

B

A

C

1. We agree to struggle against inequity & oppression the ways we internalize myths and misinformation about our own identities and the identities of other people.
2. We know that no space can be completely “safe” and we agree to work together towards harm reduction, centering those most affected by injustice in the room even if it means centering ourselves
3. We agree to sit with the discomfort that comes with having conversations about race, gender, ability and other identities
4. We are to value the viewpoints of other people that do not challenge or conflict with our right to exist
5. We agree that it’s okay to have feelings. It’s okay to feel uncomfortable when we’re discussing complex topics about accountability, equity, relationships, justice and care.

-McKensie Mack

We asked participants
to share some words
that capture how these
experiences made them
feel...

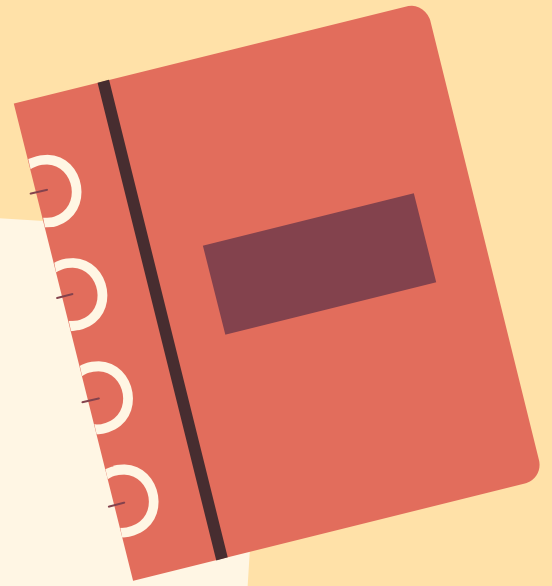
Hopeful
Stimulated
Emancipated
Charged Rejuvenated
Decolonized Soothed
Radical Moved
Enlightened Heard
United Expanded
Deeply Touched Excited
Connected Regenerated
Inspired
Appreciative

What is possible when we feel
that way more often?



04

Application & Closing

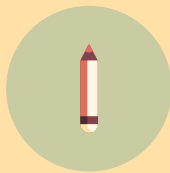


Practical Applications of Radical Imagination



Professionally

Bring radical imagination into your organization to increase innovation. Practice- what if, why not, with who in strategic planning.



Relationally

Bring radical imagination into your relationships. Use it as a tool to better understand others (either strangers or loved ones!)



Personally

Create a wonder practice to spark radical imagination and deepen your self-awareness.



Valarie Kaur's Wonder Practice

Every day for a week (or a time frame of your choosing), practice “seeing no stranger”. Then each day, take a minute to briefly journal about what you notice and learn as you engage in this practice of wonder. Bonus if you share with a friend!

Questions to guide your wondering:

- What did you notice today as you conducted this exercise?
- Who were the people it was easiest to wonder about and call “family”? Who was most challenging? Why?
- What surprised you about this practice? Did this exercise reveal any strong feelings or biases? If so, how?
- What was this practice like for you? What did you learn about yourself as you practiced wonder?

Questions?



A stylized illustration of school supplies on a yellow background. It includes a large red pencil with a white eraser and a dark purple band, a red and white striped pencil, a green and white striped pencil, and two black paper clips. There are also several green circles of different sizes and a green wavy shape in the bottom left corner.

THANKS

Interested in the Radical Imagination
Game? Sign up at
<https://bit.ly/theradicalimaginationgame>

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