



ACTING TOGETHER ON THE WORLD STAGE

TOOLS FOR CONTINUING THE CONVERSATION

MINIMIZING RISKS OF DOING HARM

- 1** Minimize the risk of engaging in ‘epistemic violence’ (injury to local ways of knowing, cultural practices, forms of expression, etc.).
- Involve cultural leaders from relevant communities in plan and design of initiatives.
 - Include in criteria for artists “knowledge of and sensitivity to local cultural practices”.
 - Avoid short-term infusions of funding that could undermine local sources of sustainability.
 - Honor the wishes of culture-bearers about whether, and under what circumstances, to engage in or ‘borrow’ cultural practices.
 - Take the time to deeply understand sacred traditions, especially those disrespected during colonization and other forms of violence.

2 Minimize the risk of worsening divisions between conflicting groups.

- Lift up the cultural forms and traditions of all groups.
- Avoid repeating conflict-habituated discourse within and surrounding the production.
- Avoid negative labels of people and groups.
- Ensure adequate facilitation skills are present when heated issues come up for discussion.

3 Minimize the risk of re-traumatizing communities and individuals that have suffered from violence.

- Learn and respect local processes for healing.
- Avoid imposing external conceptions of healing (such as the idea that all people need to share their stories) when such ideas are not culturally resonant.
- Engage with the resources of performance to balance painful memories with building cross-community relationships and jointly imagining a new future.
- Support justice-seeking (in its myriad forms) as a source of healing.
- When performances are likely to restimulate painful memories, ensure that people with capacities to facilitate discussions and respond to needs are available.

4 Minimize the risk of undermining artistic integrity.

- Involve artists in crafting requests for proposals and calls for productions.
- Engage the full transformative potential of peacebuilding performances.
- Seek alternatives to didactic, goal-driven, message-centered productions.
- Plan visits to creative projects with sensitivity to potential disruptions by guests and observers.
- Seek spaces for creative projects that allow flexibility for movement and for messiness.

minimizing risks of doing harm

