

# ROLE PLAY CARDS

**Creative placemaking involves working with others.** This tool is for exploring the roles, qualities and perspectives (sometimes conflicting) creative placemaking work requires. These are not necessarily representative of individual people or separate from each other. Sometimes the same person / group / organisation may play multiple roles and can change and shift between them. The most exciting projects bring together diverse perspectives, with those involved valuing the challenging conversations these perspectives can bring out through the work.

- THE ANCHOR
- THE ARTIST
- THE ACTIVIST
- THE ACCOMPANIST
- THE AGENT / ACTIVATOR
- THE ADAPTOR
- THE ADVOCATE

These cards are a way to try on and consider multiple perspectives and the questions those perspectives might encourage you to ask of your work and each other. You can use them to explore your work, project, ideas from alternate angles.



# THE ARTIST

## THE ARTIST

The Artist sees the opportunities for creative exploration and brings practical experience of doing that. They create spaces, activities and / or experiences that help us to see things differently, gather differently, think about a topic differently. The Artist looks at something and sees what is not there already. They see the possibilities, the different futures, the connections to other concepts and ideas that could be part of those futures and find ways to share and express that.

### Questions they might ask:

- What theme / topic is important here and how can we think about that differently?
- What stories or histories got us to this place and how can we explore them?
- What activities could encourage us to gather around exploring this theme / topic and share our experience of it with others?

An illustration featuring a central megaphone with a grid pattern on its horn. To the left and right are two rectangular signs on sticks, also with grid patterns. The background is a gradient from light green to yellow, with a white dotted pattern and some white scratches or lines.

# THE ACTIVIST

## THE ACTIVIST

The Activist provokes us to think and see things differently and to use that to inform the direction of work. They are not afraid to take risks and try things out without knowing what might happen. They understand that we need to push the boundaries of what we think will work, the way things have been done before, if we are to come up with anything new. The Activist can facilitate less comfortable conversations to help us look at our work from other perspectives outside of our own lived experience.

### Questions they might ask:

- Can we be bold and allow ourselves to rethink the possibilities of this work?
- Who can we bring into this work that would help us see it from a completely different perspective?
- Are we doing it like this because it is what we know and are comfortable with or have we explored other ideas and approaches?

# THE ANCHOR



## THE ANCHOR

The Anchor is rooted in the community in which the work takes place. They have strong relationships within that community built over time. They use these relationships to bring people together and build trust towards an activity / project. The Anchor is vital to ensuring the ambition of the work, and the momentum that grows through its development, is continuously informed by a process of engagement. They bring knowledge of the skills, experience and culture in a place and ensure that these are central to what is developed.

### Questions they might ask:

- Is this activity / work, adding value to what we, or others, are already doing?
- What do we hope to be the long-term benefit of our work for our community?
- Who is this work for and are we connecting with those people?
- How does this work respond to and build on the skills, knowledge, and activity already here?



# THE ACCOMPANIST

## THE ACCOMPANIST

The Accompanist\* facilitates the ideas of the community, holding space for and finding ways of supporting work to happen. They are creative, innovative and imaginative and create conditions needed for work to happen but do not take ownership of it. The Accompanist develops ways of working based on co-creation and collaboration that allow other leaders to step forward from within communities. They are happy for ideas to be freely shared and adapted for the benefit of others.

### Questions they might ask:

- What questions should we be asking of ourselves through this work to make it meaningful for others?
- What spaces can we create that encourage others to step into this work?
- How can we keep telling the story of this work so that others can learn from and continue to develop our ideas?



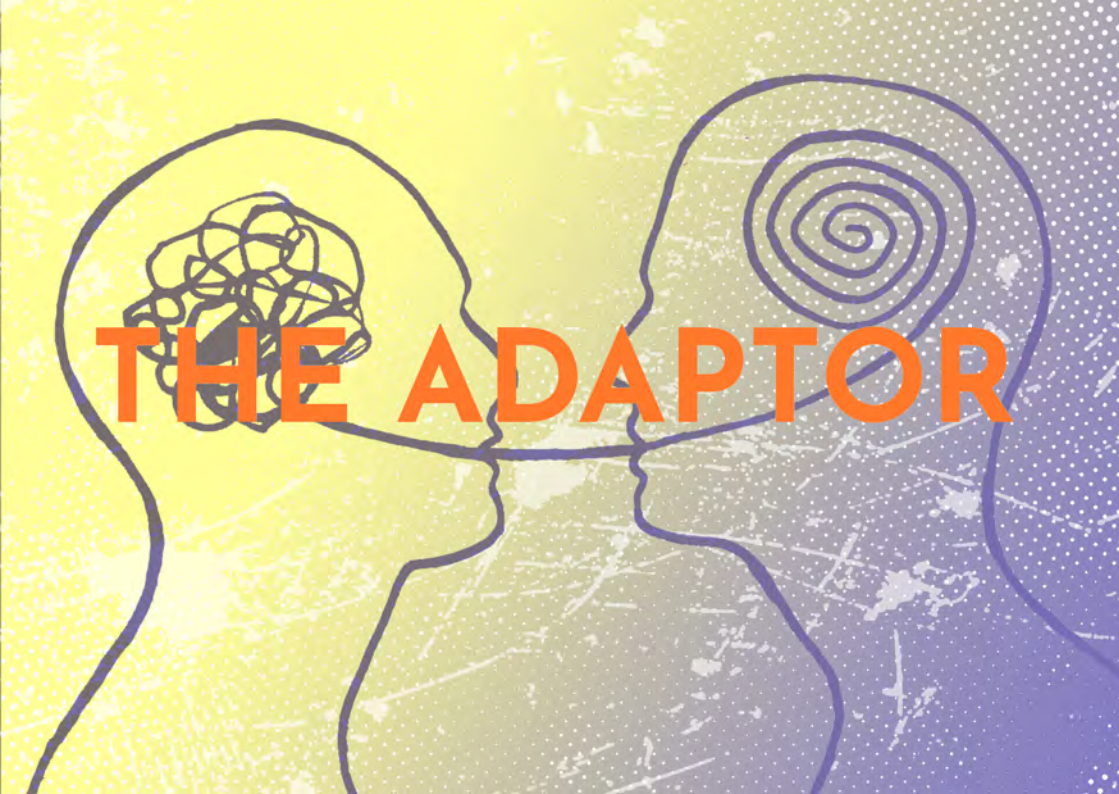
# THE AGENT/ ACTIVATOR

## THE AGENT / ACTIVATOR

Agents / Activators make things happen. They understand the resources and commitment needed to get projects going and to maintain them. The Agent brings together teams to plan and produce work / activity. They know the skills and expertise required to deliver work, what practical challenges there might be and what is needed to help overcome them. The Agent helps balance the idea of a project with the needs of those that are involved in delivery.

### Questions they might ask:

- What can we start doing now to get things going?
- Who do we need, what skills, expertise, and knowledge, to make this happen?
- What resources, working structures and support systems do we need in place and how can we maintain those through the project?



## THE ADAPTOR

The Adaptor sees the potential of work from multiple angles. They help translate ideas and ambitions from one group of people to another who may need different ways of thinking and describing work to understand it. The Adaptor can build connections across sectors, from community to health, arts to economic development, and is useful when looking for other people, allies with different areas of expertise to support and work together towards shared goals and ambitions.

### Questions they might ask:

- Who else is either interested in this work or doing something with similar goals and ambitions?
- Are there useful ways that we could connect with, or share what we are doing with others for mutual support and learning?
- Is what we are doing having a direct, or indirect, impact that could add value to the work that others are doing or aiming to do?



# THE ADVOCATE

## THE ADVOCATE

The Advocate understands the work / activity and tells its story to others who might not otherwise notice it. They champion the opportunities the work presents and spend time growing a community of support around it. The Advocate helps us understand the long-term legacy of the work and who we need to talk to, what we need to do, to help make that happen. They can connect projects / activity to other spaces and resources that we may not otherwise find.

### Questions they might ask:

- Who really needs to understand the value of this work and how can we share our story with them?
- What are the impacts we are having and how can we make sure we are communicating that?
- What support do we need and how do we make sure we get it?