

# QUESTION

# CARDS

**Creative exploration is about asking questions together and trying on possible answers.** A good question can lead us in unexpected directions, away from the usual routes of conversation. A good question can be a starting point. The choice of words, and / or absence of words, can provoke conversation that will lead to a new set of questions and ideas with those involved.

This tool shares some useful questions, organised into themes, that are relative to creative placemaking as part of the **Embers Toolbox**.

- **GETTING STARTED**
- **COMMUNITY**
- **CREATIVITY**
- **SPACE: PHYSICAL AND CONVERSATIONAL**
- **ACTIVISM**
- **POWER**
- **IMPACT**

These cards are meant to be used in a group focusing on one theme at a time. Print out the cards so that everyone has the same card within a particular theme. Ask people to choose a question that is either on the card or is one of their own that the card has made them think of to start a conversation. 'I am interested in this question, because...'



## GETTING STARTED

- What questions do we want to explore about this place with our community?
- Is there something we can do now that would bring us together around these questions?
- What would we like to see happening here and can we start that?
- Who is already active in our community and what are they doing?
- Do our ideas relate with theirs and is there a conversation we could have around this?
- What are the main challenges of our place and the barriers to making new things happen here?
- What small actions can we take now to start to explore our ideas with other people?
- What allies do we need to support us and help get things started?
- What has happened in the past and how can we learn from this going forward?



## COMMUNITIES

- Who is our 'community'? Does it also include people who are not from, or living in the same place as us?
- What is the community of people we want to grow around this work / activity?
- Who feels part of, and who does not feel part of, our work and how can we address this?
- Are we working towards a greater understanding of the needs of our community?
- Who is active here already?
- Are we listening and working with people with different perspectives than our own?
- What has happened here before and is that an important part of what happens next?
- What is the long-term impact we want to have for our community?
- Can we use the skills and knowledge present in our community and grow from that?



## CREATIVITY

- Who could we work with to creatively explore ideas with us?
- Can we expand our idea of what creativity is to include something that more people find interest in?
- How can we work to imagine, vision and shape new ideas for our places?
- Are creative people involved in what we do and could they help with this?
- Can we give ourselves permission to think and do things differently here and who can we work with to help us explore that?
- How can we test and explore our ideas with others?
- Who is not involved in our work, and could we use creative activity to grow connections with them?



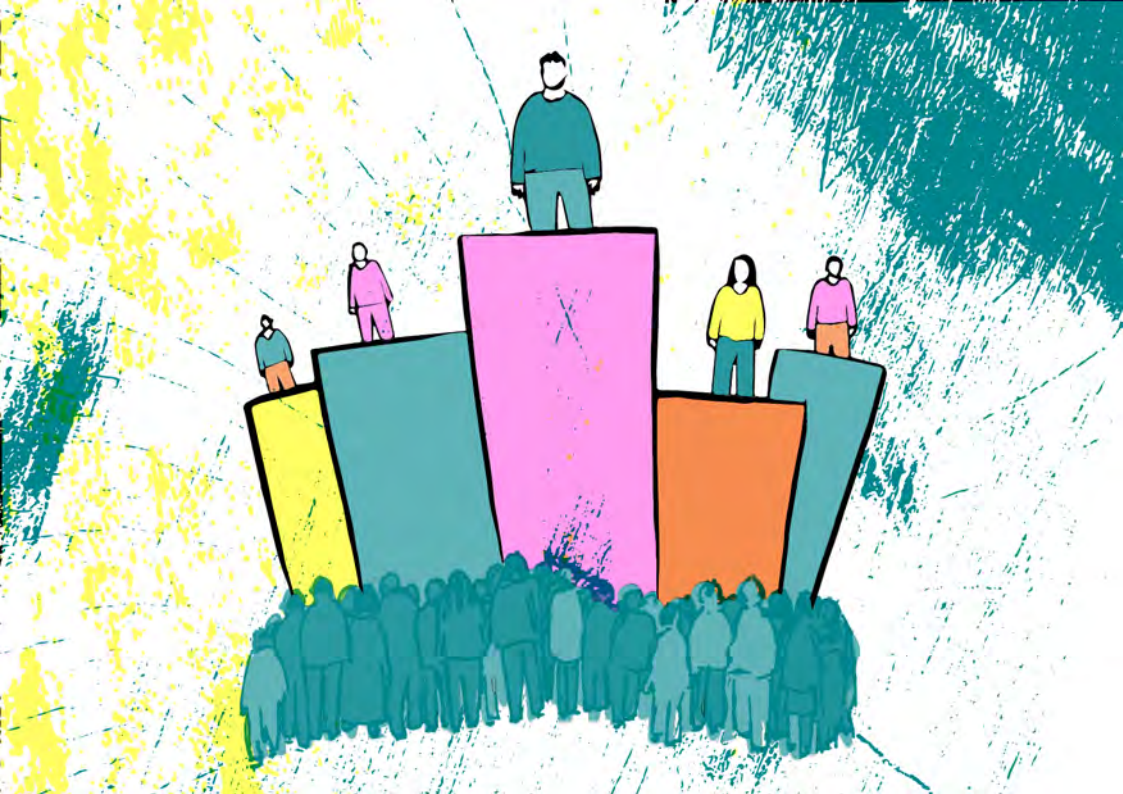
## **SPACE: Physical and Conversational**

- How and where do people gather in our community?
- Are the conversations we need to have about the future of our place happening where they are needed?
- What spaces do we have where we can come together to explore ideas and grow connections?
- What sorts of spaces, both physical and virtual, do we need to help more of this happen?
- What spaces do we currently have that we can use?
- How can we invite people into these spaces and ensure they feel welcome?
- Who looks after our spaces? Are there needs that they are not fulfilling?
- What support is needed to initiate and maintain these spaces?



## ACTIVISM

- What could it look like if we were to rethink the way we do things for deeper community wellbeing?
- What are the attitudes and behaviours we want to change?
- What acts can we take towards that change?
- What is the bigger picture here and are we hoping to influence that?
- Are there questions that are not being asked in our community that need to be made more visible?
- Can we create the conditions for change and creative action?
- Can we come together to find common purposes and build partnerships to support these purposes?
- What support could we build for small-scale activities to grow into larger movements?



## POWER

- What is the history of power in this place / community and how can we start to look and think about that differently?
- Who needs to be part of this work and how will we continue to revisit this as we go?
- What can we do to just start this work and grow our own power through that?
- Who will our work impact and are they included in our decision-making structures?
- How could we support a wider range of voices and perspectives to be included in discussions about our place?
- Who, or what, are the enablers of this work that we need to connect with?
- Who has the power to stop what we are doing, and can we work with them?
- Can we move from 'power' as representation to "power" as participation?



## IMPACT

- What does success look like here?
- What does success not look like?
- Are we considering the impact of our work for the minority and less represented?
- Do we have a message about what we are doing and are we sharing that clearly and listening to what comes back?
- How can we share the story of our work as it develops and connect with the stories of others?
- What isn't working in what we are doing and what can we learn and share from that with others?
- What are the individual and wider impacts of this work for our community, in the short-term and the long-term?
- What do we need to do next?