



Workshop Plan

VISIONQUILT

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Vision Quilt is a national grassroots community arts project that emerged as a response to the escalation of gun violence in our country. No art experience is needed to participate in this workshop or to make a panel. Please feel free to adapt this workshop outline to fit your community and the age and diversity of your participants.

Expected outcomes for participants as they engage with the Vision Quilt Project:

- Participants will view Vision Quilt panels made by a variety of people in person or online and reflect on the impact of gun violence on their personal lives and in their communities.
- Participants will generate possible solutions to preventing gun violence. Participants will create their own Vision Quilt panels on 18 x 24-inch fabric or canvas using drawing, painting, and the power of writing.
- Participants will experience the power of art to create dialogue and social change.
- Participants will feel empowered to be part of the social change effort to prevent gun violence in the U.S.

Set Up:

1. Set up room one hour before workshop is to begin. Exhibit sample panels if you have them and/or set up access to a computer for viewing of panels on website: www.visionquilt.org
2. Put butcher paper or plastic tablecloths on each table.
3. Set up stations for panel thinking and panel making:
 - a. Area for acrylics, paint brushes, crayons, markers, fabric paints and sponges for use with fabric paints if you have fabric paints
 - b. Wash up area with sink and paper towels for washing brushes, stencils, sponges, hands, etc.
 - c. Set up a donation basket where donations can be made to cover the cost of student panel making, etc. Encourage donations of art supplies and fabric.
4. Designate someone to be the “greeter.” Ask Greeter to welcome participants and have them make a name tag.

Additional Set Up Areas (Optional)

- Area where participants can place fabric, paints, etc. that they have brought to share with others
- Area to place alphabet stencils participants can use
- Demonstration area to show techniques for using stencils, fabric paints, sponges, etc.
- Reading area with notebook and/or printed articles about gun violence, etc.

Format for Workshop:

Setting the stage: 10-15 minutes

1. As participants arrive, ask them to fill out two release forms: project agreement and media release. Collect media releases. Participants should keep their project agreement until they have completed their panels and written their artist statements. *It is essential* that participants turn in completed project agreement before leaving the workshop.
2. Introduce yourself and thank everyone for coming.
3. Present overview of Vision Quilt, why project was started and hopes for project.

4. Show image of AIDS quilt panel displayed on Mall in Washington DC in 1989.
5. Like the Aids Quilt's ability to create a reality based on a strong vision, emphasize that the theme of the Vision Quilt is: "It is possible....."
6. Talk about the power of visions. Give examples such as MLK, Gandhi, who lead social movements that changed history. Like these great leaders, each person's vision matters. Tell them they are helping to create panels that will be exhibited in community centers, libraries, places of worship and used in rallies, vigils and parades. Their ideas, panels and feedback will shape this national project.
7. If appropriate, set ground rules for session:
 - Respect
 - Everyone participates- staff and youth
 - Confidentiality: what is said in room, stays in room
 - Ask for agreement for ground rules
8. Tell participants that if they do not wish to be photographed, to tell you.
9. Ask participants to say their name and why they came to this workshop.

Engaging with the project: 10 minutes

1. If possible, display 15-20 Vision Quilt panels or show examples online. Ask group: What is the power of these panels?
2. Handout: Share Brady Campaign Statistics about gun violence in the U.S. Ask them to read this hand-out and contemplate what part of gun violence they want to concentrate on for their Vision Quilt panel.
3. Demonstrate use of materials and/or tour of workstations.

Delving deeper: 60-120 minutes

1. Remind the participants that the theme of the Vision Quilt is "It's Possible...."
2. Ask them to think of their vision to prevent gun violence. Ask them to think of solutions to the seeds of violence: poverty, bullying, access to guns, mental instability, etc.
3. Ask participants to begin to draw their panel ideas on newsprint that is 18 x 24.
4. When a participant is ready, give or sell each participant a piece of Evolon or fabric or canvas. Ask them to write this info on back of panel before they even start: Their name, town, year. (Make sure what they write does not come through on the other side).
5. Assist participants as needed. If appropriate, as people are working, show off ideas and techniques people are doing.
6. Ask participants to write their artist statement on their project release form. Collect project releases with completed artist statements. Don't let anyone walk out of the room without completing their artist statement. If needed, ask a member of your staff or a volunteer to write down what a participant dictates.

Reflecting: 15-40 minutes

1. When ready, invite participants (who are willing) to show their panels and talk about their intention for their panel and what they learned.
2. Acknowledge and thank them for their work. Remind them that these panels will stay in this town, to be shown in community centers, libraries, places of worship and used in rallies, vigils and shared with lawmakers.
3. Tell them their panels will become part of the national project and placed in a database which will include a photograph of their panels and a listing of their artist statement.
4. Pass out handout on follow up actions. Remind them they are now part of a national project that wants to change the culture of the United States related to gun violence.
5. Urge each person to do three things as a result of this workshop.
 - Ask participants to invite friends and family to check out our website and make a panel: www.visionquilt.org and to like us and follow us on Facebook.

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- Tell them there are step-by-step instructions on the website for making panels.
 - Ask participants to use their own social media networks (Twitter, Instagram, Pinterest, Tumblr, etc.) to invite people to become part of the Vision Quilt.
6. Give the participants a copy of Kim Stafford's poem, "Proclamation", which has become the anthem of our project. Tell them it was originally set with metal type and letterpress printed on an antique printing press. Ask each person (who wants to) to come up to front of room and read one line aloud until the whole poem is read. Invite group to share the poem with friends and family.
 7. If appropriate, ask for donations of money, art materials, fabric, and fabric paints. Invite them to sign up to volunteer using the volunteer signup sheet.
 8. Ask participants to fill out Vision Quilt evaluation form. Tell them these evaluations help us improve the project as well as help us get grant money to work with students and veterans. If time, ask the group: What did you like best about our work together?
 9. Thank the participants and ask them to clean up their area, stencils, materials, etc. Tell them what is next for the project: our planned actions and our hopes and dreams.

Note: If someone does not complete their panel in the workshop, make a note of their name and contact information and tell them to turn it into a designated person when it is complete. Set a deadline for completed panels.