

Facilitator and Artist Roles

Lead Facilitator

The lead facilitator will set the tone for the workshop and lead all activities, including the welcome and sharing circles. They will be responsible for ensuring that all materials are ready and that the space is set up for each session. The ideal facilitator should be:

- » Experienced at teaching or leading programs for children
- » Able to create an environment that is generative and welcoming of all ideas and fun!
- » Committed to creating a safe space for participants and understands the importance of offering choice in all aspects of the workshop
- » Able to moderate group discussions and balance the contributions of vocal vs. more reserved children
- » A participant in all group ice breakers and sharing activities; ideally they would bring in their own piece of writing to share, or an object for the Show and Share
- » Organized!

Facilitator

The facilitator will help support the lead facilitator in delivering the program and guiding participants through the storymaking process. The ideal facilitator should share the same traits as the lead facilitator and should participate in all activities. In addition, the facilitator might have more capacity to keep an eye on the clock, notice when a child's hand is raised or if someone needs help, and more.

If you are working online, the supporting facilitator should manage and monitor the chat and mute and unmute participants as needed.

A Note on Writers and Artists

As leaders of a creative workshop, it would be beneficial if one of the two facilitators have some background or experience in writing, visual art, or some other creative field. They can speak from experience about the creative process and help children navigate their own. In addition, it would provide an opportunity for kids to have a meaningful connection with professional or working creatives, and to see firsthand how writing and art provide a means of self-expression and communication in the “real” world.

Facilitators who are so inclined should feel free to create their own “pandemic stories” alongside the children. They can showcase them in the Ideas Gallery and speak about their own process.

Guest Author or Artist

If you are not able to or do not wish to participate in contributing something to the Ideas Gallery, we strongly recommend that you invite a guest author or artist to participate in Session Two. That guest would contribute a piece to be hung alongside the example pieces and then speak to the group about their process of writing it.

Volunteers

It can be challenging to work with several children at once, especially when they range widely in their needs. There will most likely be children in every group that would benefit from close attention. After Session One, you will likely have a sense of who those children are and can solicit support from volunteers accordingly.

Some activities volunteers might engage in are scribing for children who have difficulty writing, asking prompting questions, providing editorial suggestions to help a child expand on and revise their story, and listening to kids who want to read their writing aloud.