Love in Liberation: Centering Our Capacity for Connection, Community, Care and Containing Crisis

NYSAIS Diversity Practitioners Conference 2019
Welcome

Semeka Smith Williams
Norms

- Speak From The I Perspective
- Consider Your Air Time
- Expect and Accept Lack of Closure
- The Learning Leaves and the Stories Stay
- Explore Discomfort
- WAIT – Why Am I Talking? Why Aren’t I Talking?
How Do I Know You Love Me?

John Gentile and Brandie Melendez
As Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Practitioners our motives are often questioned because we engage in this work, when in fact this work is a demonstration, (maybe even a labor) of love.
In this room...

When a statement read applies to you, please stand, or indicate so in another way that works best for you.
How Do We Define Love?
“Love takes off the masks that we fear we cannot live without and know we cannot live within. I use the word ‘love’ here not merely in the personal sense but as a state of being, or a state of grace – not in an infantile sense of being made happy but in the tough and universal sense of quest and daring and growth.”
Grace Lee Boggs

“Love isn't about what we did yesterday; it's about what we do today and tomorrow and the day after”
Cornel West

“We have to recognize that there cannot be relationships unless there is commitment, unless there is loyalty, unless there is love, patience, persistence. Never forget that justice is what love looks like in public.”
Brené Brown

“We cultivate love when we allow our most vulnerable and powerful selves to be deeply seen and known, and when we honor the spiritual connection that grows from that offering with trust, respect, kindness and affection.”
Audre Lorde

“Unless one lives and loves in the trenches, it is difficult to remember, that the war against dehumanization is ceaseless.”
Arundhati Roy

“To love. To be loved. To never forget your own insignificance. To never get used to the unspeakable violence and the vulgar disparity of life around you. To seek joy in the saddest places. To pursue beauty to its lair. To never simplify what is complicated or complicate what is simple. To respect strength, never power. Above all, to watch. To try and understand. To never look away. And never, never to forget.”
How has, how does, or how will love liberate me?
How will I know?
Passing Notes

- Write down your response, then pass the card to the person to your left (3 rotations)
- Read what was written, and respond
- Continue until you receive your card back
- Read
- Triad Share
- Group Share
How has, how does, or how will love liberate me?
How will I know?
Logistics

A look ahead...
Presenter Introductions

- Dr. Mecca Jamilah Sullivan
- Erica Corbin