

**AREA/S OF FOCUS** Performance, Community Engagement, Climate change

**ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION** Participants are assigned characters from a play script and a recording is made of the participants' voices performing the script. A facilitator edits the audio and adds any music or sound effects that are needed. The radio play is then presented for participants and other community members at a community screening or over the radio. Afterwards, community members and participants reflect on what they learned.

**TARGET GROUP** Students, community members, non-profits

**INTENDED OUTCOMES** To share a message in a unique and creative way that engages the audience's sense of sound and imagination.

**TOTAL TIME** 3- 10 days

**NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS** 5-15

**MATERIALS** Script of play, recording device, laptop, sound editing software, speakers, projector and projector screen (optional)

**SETTING** Quiet room for recording, large room for community screening

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### **INTRODUCTORY FRAME**

Discuss the message the group wants to share with their community and research plays with similar themes. After participants read through a few plays, have the group decide which type of play represents what they want to convey the most. The group can also write their own original script.

### **PROCESS**

#### **STEP 1 - Record voices**

After you have a script, work with participants to help them better connect to their characters' desires, emotions and motivations. Ask the questions such as "What does your character want in this scene?" "What is in their way of getting what they want?", and "What will happen if they don't get what they want?", etc. Rehearse and read through the script multiple times to make sure there is a good flow and their voices convey the appropriate feelings and energy of the characters.

Find a very quiet room free from distraction and outside noise. Depending on time constraints and schedules, participants' voices can either be recorded together, or in separate sessions. Record each scene a few times so that there are a few takes to choose the best audio.

### **STEP 2 – Collect sound effects and music**

Read-through the script and mark where a piece of music or sound effect is needed. For example, when a person enters the scene unannounced, a door opening and closing or footsteps may be helpful for the audience to know a new character has entered. Music can also be a great choice to use while transitioning from one scene to the next. Work with participants to record the sound effects needed- (i.e. go to the sea to record waves crashing, record a participant opening and closing a door, stepping in mud, etc.) If this is not possible you may use a website such as [www.freesound.org](http://www.freesound.org) to find sound effects that suit your needs. If you use any copyrighted music, be aware of licensing.

### **STEP 3 – Edit audio**

Using computer software such as Adobe Premiere Pro or iMovie, upload all the audio files and edit them together including any music or sound effects that you want to use.

### **STEP 4 – Community presentation**

You can make a slideshow or video of the radio drama for a visual screening that accompanies the auditory play. Invite participants and community members for a premiere audio screening. If the radio play contains subtitles or other images, use a projector and screen to showcase this. It is also helpful to have speakers connected to the laptop playing the radio play so the entire audience can really hear and experience the energy of the play.

### **STEP 5 - Reflect**

After the screening, ask the audience what messages and themes were brought up in the radio play and how it relates to their community. Have an open discussion about lessons that were learned, and how these lessons can be applied to changes they can make on an individual and community level to address this issue.