

Organise creative workshops to build connection

Rural women were drawn to our creative workshops for some ‘time out’ to connect with other women, have fun and learn creative skills.

Establish an approach

Decide which creative / arts-based activities are a good ‘fit’ for the women in your community.

Consider a range of options or the opportunities available in your local community. You may want to offer a practice that has an established tradition in your area or introduce something new.

Reflect on how the workshop can provide an opportunity for creative engagement but also social connection.

Is there a theme or other inspiration that will attract women and support meaningful conversations and creative engagement?

Ask these questions

Who will the workshop target? And then, how can you make it accessible to your target group? (e.g. by having it during school hours, offering child minding, supporting car pooling, central location).

Are there local artists, artisans or crafters in your community that have skills to share?

Are there businesses that might offer a venue in return for attracting prospective customers (e.g. garden centre, winery or distillery, studio) or community spaces that you can use at low cost?

What are the costs involved for workshop facilitation /creative materials?

How many places can you offer and will they be free or have a cost associated with participating? (note that sometimes a cost, even low cost, can help with commitment and value).

Organisation

- How will you promote the workshop in a way that will reach your target group/s?
- How will you manage sign-ups and if required, payments?
- What will be your policy for cancellations?
- Will you arrange catering or invite participants to BYO?
- What would be good timing for the workshop?
- Who will book / organise / set-up / tidy up the venue?

Funding

- Consider community grants or local business sponsorship to support the costs of running the workshop.
- Ensure funders and any other contributions are acknowledged.

The workshop

- Consider how to create a comfortable and welcoming space for women
 - Determine whether you need an MC to welcome participants, introduce the workshop facilitator and support women's inclusion and participation.
 - Determine whether you wish to gather participant's feedback and how you might collect that information.
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