



Improvisation as a Pedagogy for Community Engagement

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Agenda

- Warm-Up
- Introduction to Improvisation
- Case Study: Connect-Us
- Play!
- Discussion

Warm Up

**What do you know about
improvisation?**

Improvisers train in:

- **Listening**
 - Building with “offers.”
- **Supporting**
 - Saying, “Yes, and...”
- **Being Present**
 - Make the other person look good.



Examples

- Theatre of the Oppressed / Forum Theatre
- Interactive Peer Theatre
- Improv “Playground” sessions
- College improv teams
- Community Trainings (e.g. conflict resolution)
- Corporate Trainings (e.g. change management)



Case Study:

Connect-Us (Bridgeport, CT)

Bridgeport Young Leaders

- Community Organizing Fellowship (paid)
- 6-8 young adults, ages 16-25
- Improv-based curriculum
- Door-knocking, street outreach
- “Performance of community outreach”
- 600 conversations; 200 sign-ups





Bridgeport Young Leaders Fellows (2019)

Play





Discussion



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- **Being Present**
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