

Circle of Trust

A Method to Make Communities

The **Circle of Trust** is a method developed by the **Honorary Hotel** in Leipzig Germany. The idea of the artists' collective is to build a circle of trust between cultural communities, residents of a region and newcomers. How do they proceed?

Step 1: *Would you like to join?:* *To start a circle of trust, facilitate face to face encounters*

- Activate your personal connections ► invite to a common meeting people that you know, or live in the same neighbourhood and ask them to bring their own contacts: friends, neighbours, colleagues, partners organisation, guest artists, people connected to newcomers that can invite newcomers to join. *This direct or indirect link between these people is a good start to build a trustful relationship.*
- Small group settings, not a big event: do not invite too many people
- Mix the audience
- Be aware and try to understand the others' reality and do not put too much expectations on your guests
- Invite them to join a simple, open activity that allows them flexibility

Step 2: *Hi, who are you?:* *The encounter - The activity*

- Prepare an activity that create an intense moment of exchange. For example: The 1 to 1 performance: *The performer uses different instructions and objects to facilitates a sensuous journey into the participants personally memories. These memories are then shared a stories between two participants, there-by helping to create a strong face-to-face encounter.*
- make them feel home, make them feel like spending some quality time together
- Other possible activities: urban gardening / open kitchen: take the street, open your doors, cook on the street, offer coffee to passersby
- Share emotions, experiences, knowledge
- Involve participants to make sure they feel they are part of the group

Step 3: *Let's meet again:* *Create the conditions to build a long-term relationship*

- Make sure the contact does not get lost after your one-time event
- Be persistent to keep in touch: use social media, online tools, emails, newsletters
- Offer the opportunity to see each other again, for a coffee and by joining other regular activities
- Ask your new contacts what they would like to do next: Would they like to join further common and regular activities? Would they prefer to develop their own idea and need support for it? What is their motivation?
- Leave the person the freedom to choose his/her own role. Do not impose your own ideas. Proceed in a non hierarchical way