

Musical Careers, Diversity, and Social Justice Workshop

Conceptual Lenses: healing, joy, empowerment, vision, visibility/representation, action, belonging, social justice, allyship, and community-building.

I. Preparation Assignment:

-Read the NEC Mission & Core Values. Take notes/mark your text so you are prepared to discuss words or phrases that seem relevant to diversity concerns.

-Read the NEC Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Statement (the first two paragraphs here): <https://necmusic.edu/dei> Take notes/mark your text so you are prepared to discuss your thoughts on it.

-Read Eichler, “There is Magic in the Music,” ““You’re Part of Something Bigger: Inspired by a Venezuelan Music Program, Two Prepare to Bring Its Benefits to Boston Kids,” and “Catching the Upbeat to a New Movement” and Baker, “El Sistema: A Model of Tyranny?” Take notes/mark your text so you are prepared to discuss what interests you about this program.

-Type responses to the following questions in the shared document (1a, 1b, 2), putting your initials after your contributions:

1a. What is your ideal career/job?

-
-
-
-

1b. What are some alternatives—other careers/jobs that might interest you?

-
-
-
-

2. Diversity/Social Justice Issues (Does not need to be related to #1).

What do you think are a few of the most important **diversity-related problems or social justice issues** that we need to address **in society or in a particular community** today? (Try to be as specific as possible: instead of just “racism,” “race and sentencing reform” or “race and police violence,” for example; or instead of just “classism,” “income inequality” or “wage gap/minimum wage,” for example):

-
-
-
-

II. In-Class Group Workshop:

Type the following in the shared document, putting your group number after your contributions:

3. How is diversity **important to musicians?**

Overall

-
-
-

Race

-
-
-

Class

-
-
-

Gender

-
-
-

Sexuality

-
-
-

Nationality

-
-
-

Religion

-
-
-

Disability

-
-
-

Language

-

-
-

Other societally significant categories of difference:

-
-
-

4. How is diversity relevant to NEC’s mission and core values? (Keywords, phrases):

-
-
-
-

5. Choose one (or more) of the ideal or alternative careers listed in #1 and one (or more) of the social justice issues listed in #2: how might someone in this career position address this social justice issue, and how?

-
-
-
-

6. What would be your first steps toward achieving these social justice goals in your career? What skills would you need?

-
-
-
-

See Additional Questions, 7-13, or (if only a few minutes left) “Present” instructions below.

Additional Questions (if time)

7. What are the different aspects of this social justice problem in the music world and/or in society more broadly? What needs to change? What’s at stake? Who’s involved (as victims, oppressors, stakeholders, advocates, etc.)? How would your opportunities to address this issue as part of your musical career fit into a larger quest for social justice?

8. How could you connect with other activists or organizations to pursue these social justice goals in your career?

9. What would you like to communicate to others about the social justice issue you're addressing, to whom, and how?
10. What has prevented action on this social justice issue and/or what is preventing understanding of this issue or empathy for those it affects? Think of institutional/educational, social, emotional, philosophical, ideological, political, and ethical barriers.
11. Considering these barriers and the ways others' views have been shaped, how might you communicate your message about this social justice issue most effectively and begin to convince others of its importance? Or, how would you motivate others to get involved?
12. What kinds of social justice-oriented community spaces could you create in your career position?
13. How do your ideas relate to a quotation from one of our readings this semester?

III. Present:

Prepare to present your idea in a 1-minute Career-Impact Pitch. You may either:

(a) Imagine you are a career advisor, recruiter, or employer:

“As a (fill in the blank for the career role), you will have the opportunity to address (fill in the blank for the social justice issue) by doing (x, y, z—fill in the blank). You will impact society by...”

OR

(b) Imagine you are seeking a job or a grant to start your career:

“As a (fill in the blank for the career role), I seek to address (fill in the blank for the social justice issue) by doing (x, y, z—fill in the blank). I will impact society by...”