Creation of a Digital Story Info Sheet

ECHO Reflections in Art

This session premiered the 'ECH Expressions in Art' Digital Story created by ECHO trainees. In collaboration with the broader Network, the story of Environment, Community, Health (ECH) integration emerged from submissions to an Expressions in Art activity. The digital story authors discussed and reflected on their experiences leveraging digital storytelling as one example of arts-based and narrative approaches - an integrative tool encouraging "taking notice for action". Following the viewing, Dr. Sarah de Leeuw presented her own critical reflections on arts-based and narrative methods and gave insights for how to critically engage with these kinds of tools.

Speakers

Margot Parkes
Sarah de Leeuw

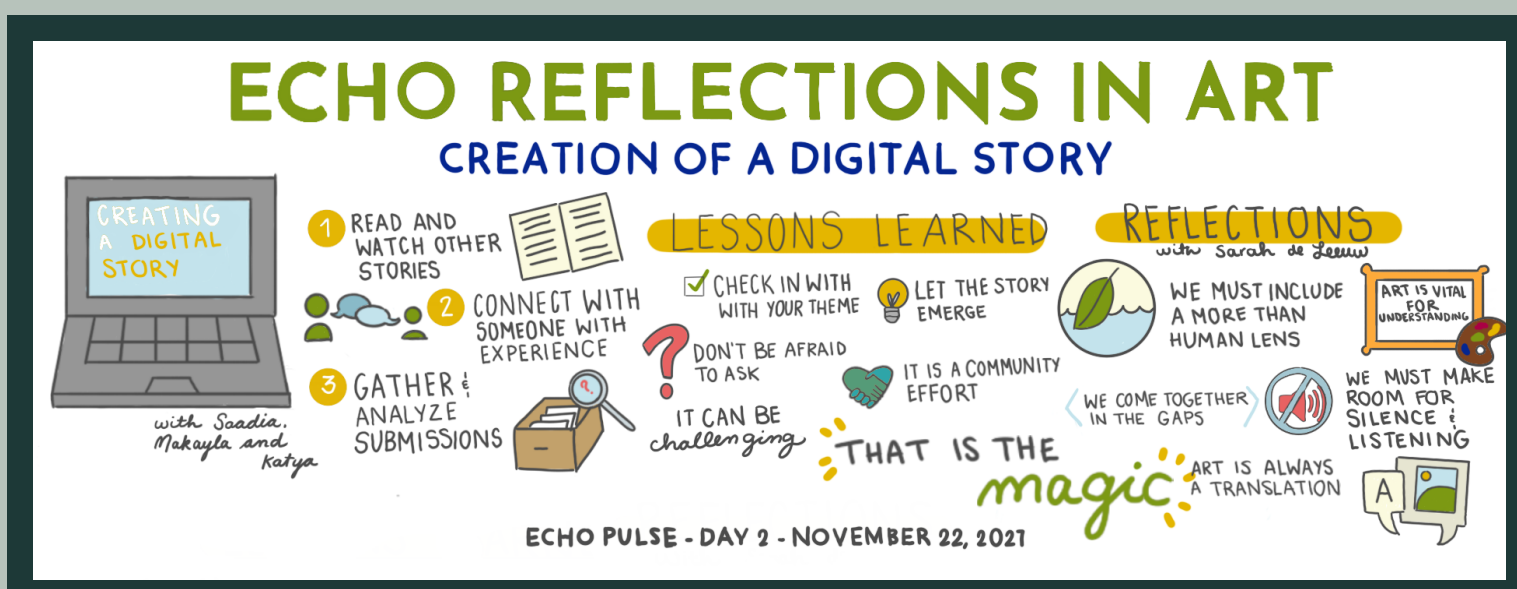Saadia Hara
Katya Korol
Makayla Skrlac

Figure 1. Graphic Recording of Creation of a Digital Story session by Annika Chiasson.

Key Takeaways

- Finding themes to create the digital story was tough and time consuming because there is no specific process to thematically analyze this kind of content.

- Allowing the process to unfold organically instead of imposing too much structure or our own agenda into these kinds of approaches is key.

- Arts based and narratives approaches, including digital stories, are a method to connect with an audience to shift both hearts and minds. The visuals and narration of digital stories may reach and resonate with a broader audience than conventional approaches (e.g. a written report).

- Arts based approaches are subjective and this can cause tension within institutions that prioritize objectivity.

"Art as an act of achieving and knowledge formation, art as a narrative and visual language, art as a means of expression, art as a practice of documenting and calling for sociocultural revolutions, ... Art plays a vital and possibly not fully realized role in understanding and thus, working to change violences against environment, community, and health."
- Dr. Sarah de Leeuw.

Resources

- **How-To Create a digital story video link**: https://youtu.be/iRxSfaPzCZo
- **Link to Digital Story**: https://youtu.be/z8WT-jVGMR8
- **ECHO Comic Jam Activity** explanation: http://healtharts.ca/comic-jams-intersectoral-research-and-responses-to-the-impacts-of-resource-extraction/
- **More info on Comic Jams:** https://www.graphicmedicine.org/conference-jam-comic-2/

Watch this session: https://vimeo.com/668808877

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