

2022 IDENTIFY

How we identify and talk about ourselves, individually and collectively, frames how we walk in the world. Identity shapes stereotypes, institutional structures, cultural and civic values, policies, and much more. Our identities are deeply personal and often thought of in individualistic terms. No matter how personal the experience though, there is something communal about the ways in which we **IDENTIFY**.

Spirit & Place believes in the power of the arts, humanities, and religion in shaping community life. Applicants should use these powerful civic tools when exploring the theme.

What do the **humanities**—history, literature, ethics, etc.—tell us about who has/had the power to shape identity? How might one’s **faith** inform the way they walk in the world and identify with others? What do the **arts** reveal about us as individuals and society?

Center the Theme

Centering the theme throughout the process of selecting a topic, finding collaborating partners, and designing your event is crucial to a successful application.

The theme should never be an afterthought to your planning.

Question Prompts & Resources

- Is the power to identify something or someone a right or responsibility?
- What tools exist to aid in identifying and clarifying our civic and/or spiritual values?
- How do the arts, humanities, and religion help identify the truth of who we are?
- What does the language we use say about how we identify?
- How have identities changed over time? Based on whose definitions?
- How do our varying identities bring us together? How do they divide us?
- What does it mean to claim a new identity?
- How do the arts allow us to express our identities and/or identify with others?
- How has faith shaped local (and global) identities?
- How are community and/or faith practices shaping—or resisting— new ways of identifying?
- How do artists and artmaking help us identify action steps?

[Using Poetry to Teach about Identity](#) and [Religion & Identity](#) from *Facing History and Ourselves* might spark some creative ideas as might a British perspective on [Identity Politics & Art](#) from the Tate Museum. Research from the Pew Center on the average American’s ability to [identify scientific principles](#) could be interesting in the festival as could as could a deep dive into the history of [photo ID laws](#) for voting. **Literal and metaphorical interpretations of the theme are welcome!**

We encourage you to be as creative as possible but remember the importance of tying your theme interpretation to the ARTS, HUMANITIES, and/or RELIGION.