

## 2022 IDENTIFY

How we **IDENTIFY** and talk about ourselves, our communities, spiritual practices, artistic practices, and more frames how we walk in the world. Identifying one way or another expresses core and foundational aspects of our very being. Spirit & Place invites you to be a part of this year's festival by using the arts, humanities, and religion identify and explore the truth of who we are.

What do the **humanities**—history, literature, ethics, etc.—tell us about who has/had the power to shape how we identify? 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? How might a combination of these tools help us wrestle with what it means to adopt – or resist – news ways of identifying? How might they aid in a deeper recognition of what unites and divides us?

Using the arts, humanities, and religion, we hope you will creatively examine ways for the community to better see how our individual and collective are shaped by the ways in which we **IDENTIFY**.

### *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, Event Ideas, & Resources

### Questions

- 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?
- What does it mean for an artistic practice that has historically identified one way (or with one teacher) to adopt a new perspectives?
- How does identifying with a group create unity? How does it create division?
- 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?
- If you walk through your neighborhood, can you identify who or what is missing from the landscape?
- Can you identify the links around you to the past, present and future?

## Event Ideas

- Literally identify things! (Yes, we are okay with *literal* interpretations of the theme.)
  - Host a nature walk to identify plants and trees or humanities-based walk to identify architectural styles, neighborhood assets, etc.
  - Invite the community to an arts-education day where they learn to identify different artistic or musical styles.
- Have a great talk.
  - Engage the community in dialogue about what shapes their (individual and/or collective) identities.
  - Invite a guest speaker to talk about how they identify and how that shapes their artistic practice, spiritual life, or profession.
- Share research with a public audience.
  - What do we know and understand about the way language shapes identity?
  - How does recognizing a neighborhood's past lead to a stronger future?
  - How does fostering someone's artistic side create opportunities to identify paths of healing?
- Explore faith.
  - Explore how people of faith identify through the music, text, and artwork sacred to their tradition.
  - Delve into how the bonds of faith have shaped local and global life.
- Mash-up the arts.
  - What happens when artists of different traditions create something new to forge a new identity?

## Resources

[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 a deep dive into the history of [photo ID laws](#) for voting.

**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.**