# Emerging Practices from BodyMind Research: Mindful Awareness Practices to Awaken Creativity

**Allie Middleton JD LCSW IAYT Integrative Leadership Practices** 

Deeper body-mind practices to inspire insight and access to new levels of Creativity, Awareness and Action.

Readiness for profound change.

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If it comes out of nothingness, Whatever you do is natural And that is true creation activity.

# Deliberate body-mind Practices increase creative potential, improve client outcomes?

- Personal and team practices that develop body mind synchronization and resonance
- Improved attention, coordination, collaboration, performance, productivity, effectiveness, efficiency, wellbeing, hope and happiness, resonance, and..???

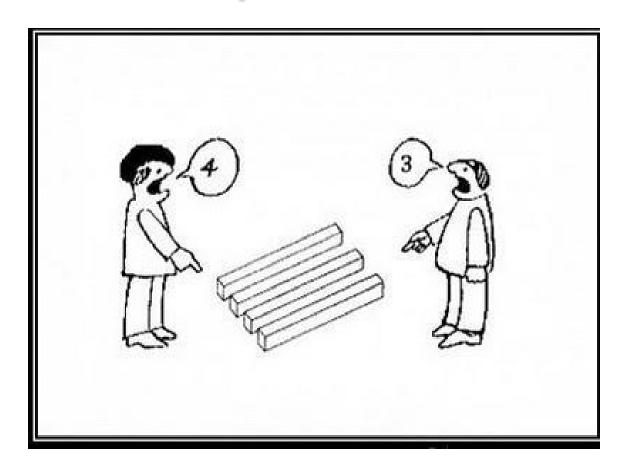
# INTELLIGENCE

lot because you think you know verything without questioning out rather because you question verything you think you know.



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# What do you see?







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- Breathe
- Relax
- Feel
- Watch
- Allow

• "BFRWA"

## Be a Truth Seeker Start with yourself – (kindly)

What is your intention or wish for this session?

Why are you here? (What brought you over the threshold?)

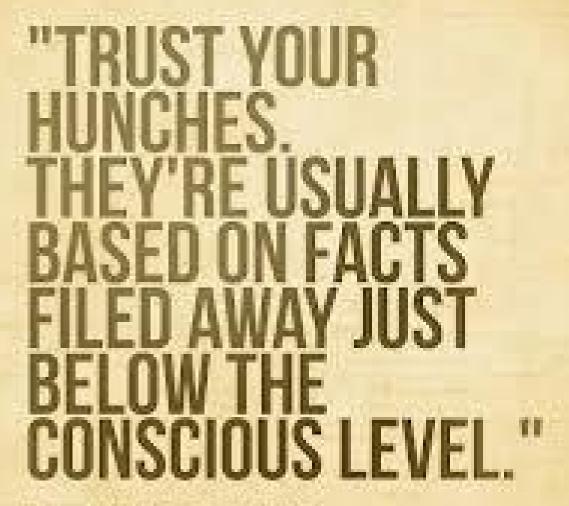
What do you hope to learn?



 Observe each other carefully, appreciatively

 One turns away, other changes one thing on their person or posture

 Person says what noticed about the other, about me (vak)



DR. JOYCE BROTHERS

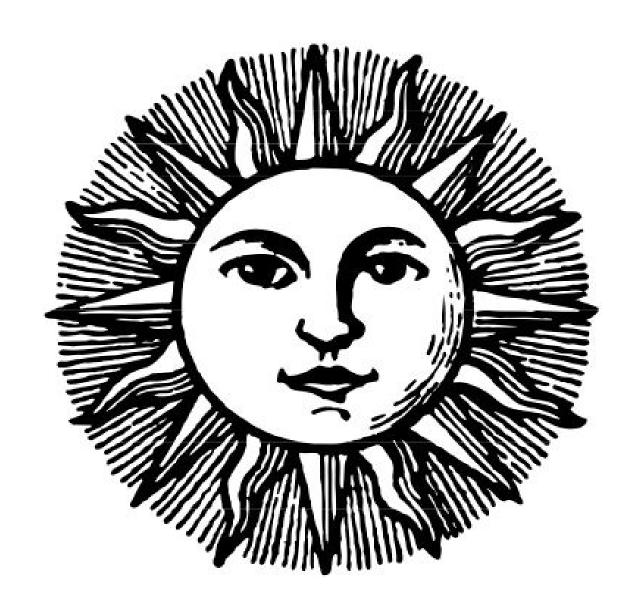
#### HAPPYTONSPIRE

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## **Listening Underneath – 4s**

What do I (we)
truly
CARE about?
What matters most to me/us now?

Track: 1) past 2) present 3) future



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The many intelligences: affective research at the Center, call for more mindfulness practice

- Gerard's TedX talk
- Creativity Rising life skill
- Guy Aznar EMERGENCE
- Salons and dialogues at CPSI, CREA
- Body-centered interventions in allied health fields research
- Mindfulness & Leadership
- Embodied Presence, LEADERSHIP for the human soul, survival of the planet



- Somatic body/physical
  - Sensing qualities FF
- Thinking
  - focus/flexibility neo-C
- Affective- emotions/moods
  - fluidity/stability- limbic/rel
- Energetic/ 'the new'- consciousness
  - Transformative creative potential mpf

(Opening the inquiry into neurophysiology...)



- Performance
- Health
- Wellbeing
- Happiness
- Peace of mind
- Social innovations
- Cultural competence
- Insight & Creativity 'Aha' moments



- Herbert Benson 1970s -Studied TM meditators
  - R Davidson FMRI Tibetan monks
  - Jon Kabat Zinn Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction
  - Harvard/Kripalu FMRI Yoga Research
  - Peter Senge/Otto Scharmer Presencing
  - Heart Math GPS for the Soul –Huff Post
  - Accessing Collective Wisdom



- ICCS- Buffalo State University, New York, USA
- CPS Creativity and Leadership
- Mary Murdock, others integrate
   Presencing into CPS climate assessment and preparation for <u>leadership readiness</u>
- http://youtu.be/80PSonhAnMM
- Affective research agenda EI/EQ
- MINDFULNESS and emerging practices



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### "CREATIVITY IS INTELLIGENCE HAVING FUN."



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# through your BODY-MIND and .....

Stand up and in your mind's eye-Travel and MOVE around the world together - Italy: 'I never met a mozzarella I didn't like! © Japan, Korea, Turkey, USA, Mexico, Holland, France, Germany, Greece, Croatia,



# Resourcing Magic – trios 3 mins each

- find two other people to share:
  - I. Name, where currently living,
  - 2. HOW do you INVITE body awareness or mindfulness activities in your current professional practice?
  - 3. describe an experience of MAGIC in facilitating the creative process (or elsewhere!)
  - LISTENERS: COLLECT KEYWORDS on post- its
  - 4. what is your LEARNING EDGE in bringing more body-mind awareness and the deeper practices to your life and work?

# if MAGIC = untapped CREATIVE POTENTIAL

- Collect the data on magic moments
- How might we increase MAGIC in our work through mindfulness, contemplative inquiry practices? Power of Intention & Attention
- CONTRAST: Late 14<sup>th</sup> Old Fr magique =
  - Art of influencing events and producing marvels using hidden natural forces
- Contrast <u>imagination</u>=
  - mid I4<sup>th</sup> Old Fr- faculty of mind which forms and manipulates images, concepts

## INTENTIONAL MAGIC

### WHAT DOES MY BODY HAVE TO DO WITH IT?

- WHOLE BODY learning
- INVITING MAGIC with HOLISTIC LEARNING methodologies
- Moving positively through this transition this time together – offering a healing agenda for humanity and the earth
- This work asks us to expand how we are –
   'Capacity Building'



#### HOW TO BUILD A LASTING RELATIONSHIP:

- 1. Cut on dotted line.
- 2. Rotate 180 degrees.

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 Explore and be happy with your body's way of letting go, then letting THE NEW ZONE emerge and

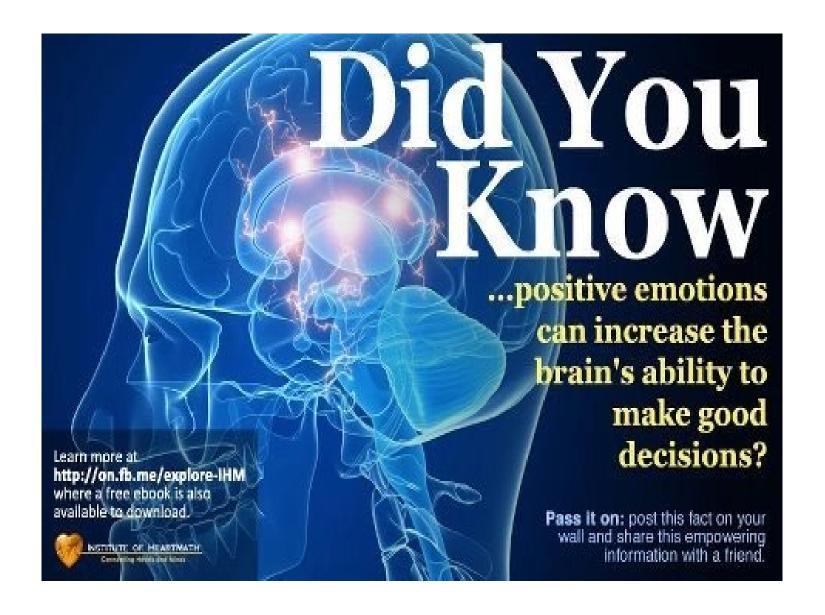
Allow THE NEW to be revealed, not controlled.

Stay connected, letting your mind drop into the body not NOT thinking but following the energy inviting you to move toward new spaces of exploration.

INVOKE subtle awareness practices at very deep levelsnon verbal, sub cortical

Mindful movement - practice of attention & intention

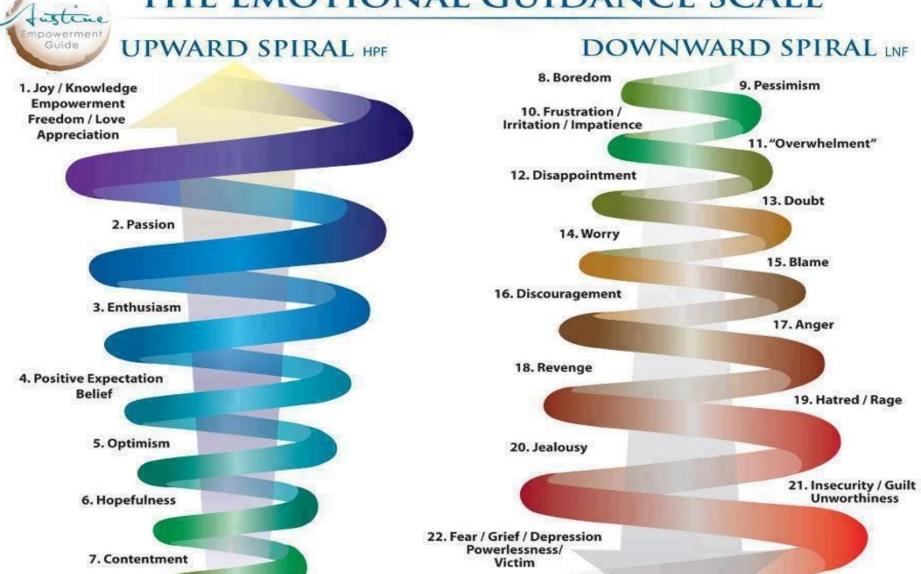
- Art of the True Move Social Presencing Theatre
- Contemplative Inquiry Practices
- Many others evolving now



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### ustine mpowerment Guide

#### THE EMOTIONAL GUIDANCE SCALE



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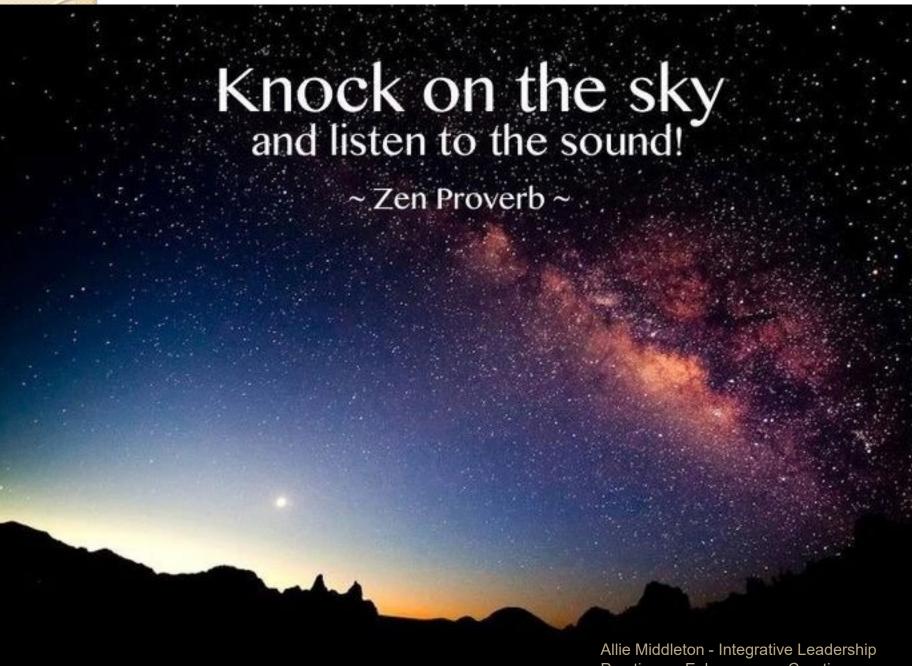
## **MASKS HELP US HIDE**

- Groups of 5
- Choose a mood (word or image) to play out with your body
- Silently with mask on –

Imitate, build...YES, AND

## **Energies**





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 The music is not in the notes but in the silence in between

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart



"The key to meditation is learning to stephance your Creative Potential c 2013





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# "the postcard"

non-verbal activity with participants in community:

each participant takes a turn to share an impression, allowing a unique gesture to unfold while connecting with the group in front, also from the emerging collective field (social body).

# HARMONY= natural creativity ....from the inside out

- ♦ WALK the TALK & "RIGHT FIT"
- ♦ Coherence & Integration
- → Alignment & Attunement
- ♦ Mindsight
- ♦ Dreams
- ♦ Intuition
- ♦ Bottom -up
- ENACTING OTHER WAYS of KNOWING
  - Inside out

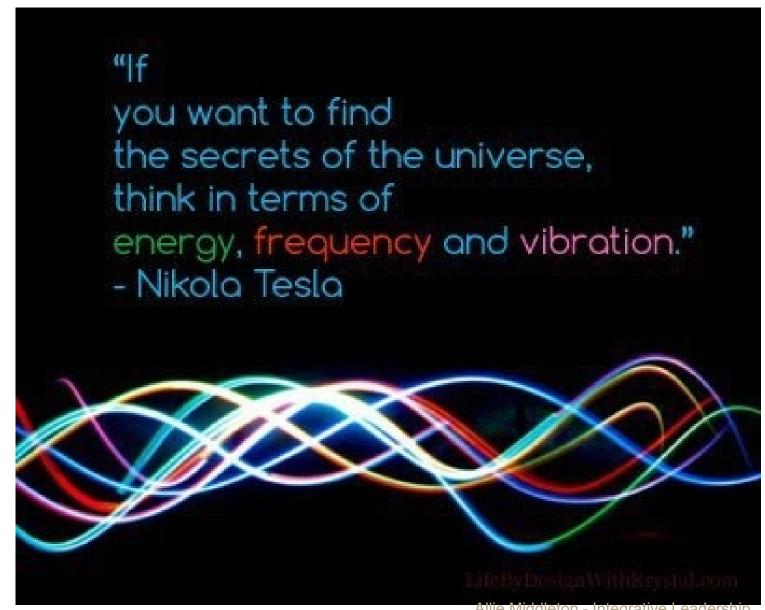


- Bill Moyers: "Isn't it true that all people are looking for an experience of meaning?"
- Joe Campbell: "No, people are looking for an experience of being fully alive—the rapture of being fully alive."
- What in us inspires MAGIC when we are really in touch with it? (breathe in and out)

# Follow your dreams!



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 find something from Nature or any to bring back into the room...something that 'found' you

 Be ready to say what inspired you to bring it back to our shared space



Whatever you can do, or dream you can do, begin it!

Boldness has genius, power and magic in it.

-Goethe

### G.R.A.C.E.

Ground, Relax, Aware, Center, Energize

Journey to the breath – You are the bridge between....

Relational Grounding – 360\*

Intro Nature objects



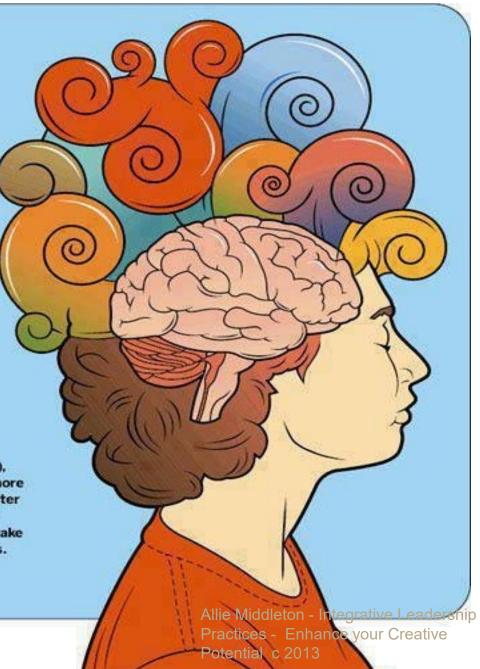
- More relaxed = more creative?
- Reverie states very productive
- Question of primary and secondary process – cortical arousal
- Distractions and attention
- Associations vs deliberate process
- Memory and awareness
- Quantity vs Quality

#### MAKING WAVES

The brain wave spectrum divides into 5 bands with different associated states:

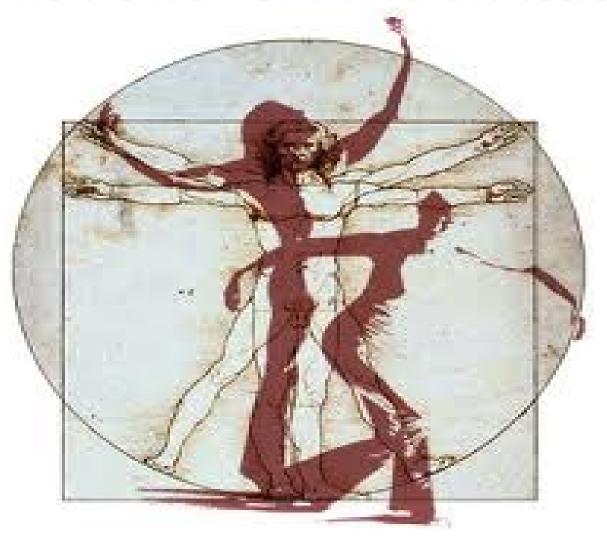
- DELTA WAVES (δ), ½-4Hz: Deep unconscious, intuition and insight
- THETA WAVES (θ), 4-8Hz: Subconscious creativity, deep relaxation
- ALPHA (α) waves, 8–13Hz:
  "Spacey" and dreamy state,
  receptive and passive
- BETA (β) waves, 13–30Hz: Conscious thought, external focus
- GAMMA (γ) waves, 30–100Hz: Not well understood, but linked to perception and alertness or anxiety

During successful meditation, the subject typically starts off with high beta (thinking), then experiences more alpha, followed by more theta and finally delta, the deepest level. After some time, the reverse process takes place, bringing the person back to beta feeling awake and refreshed, sometimes with new insights.





### The Power of Mindful Action



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We tend to believe what we think

Does that get us into trouble sometimes?
 Unconscious habits of mind?

 Alignment and attunement with something below our current state of understanding or awareness?



Synchronize

Harmonize

Integrate

From dissonance to RESONANCE



Mindfulness

Compassion

Hope

 GROUP popcorn: what does this mean to you?

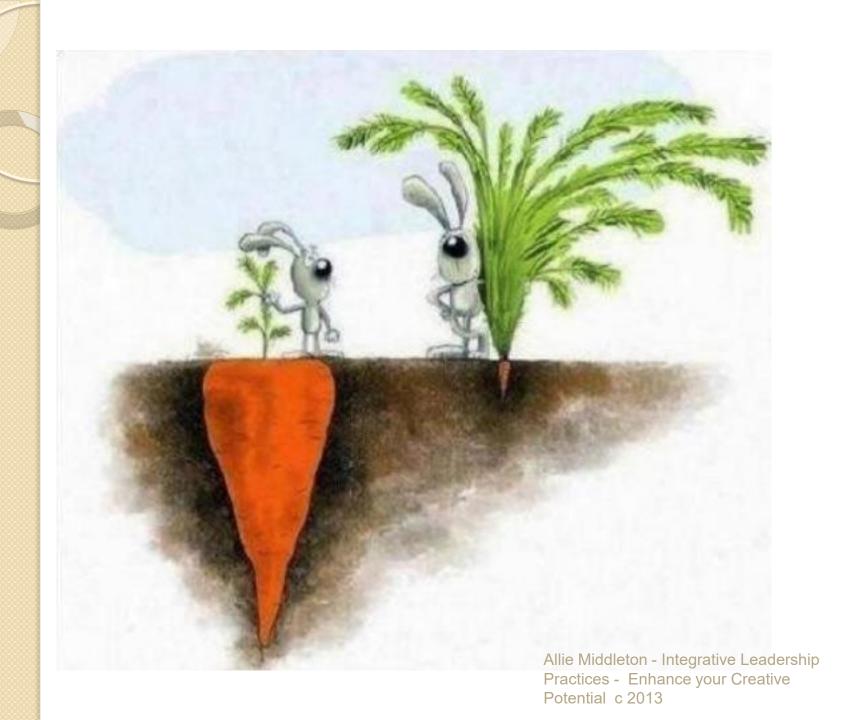


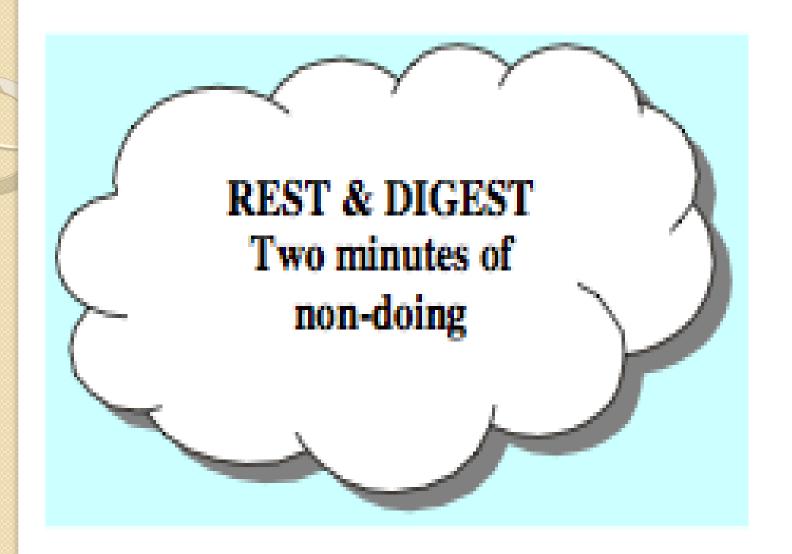
- "follow your bliss" (Campbell)
- "[Manifestation is] the art of fashioning a co-creative, synchronistic, and mutually supportive relationship between the inner creative energies of a person's own mind and spirit and their counterpart within the larger world in order to bring a new and desirable situation into being."
  - David Spangler, Findhorn

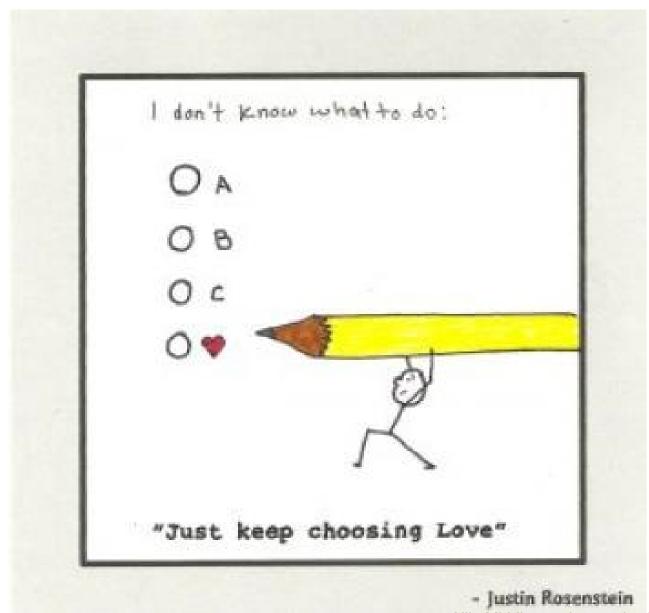




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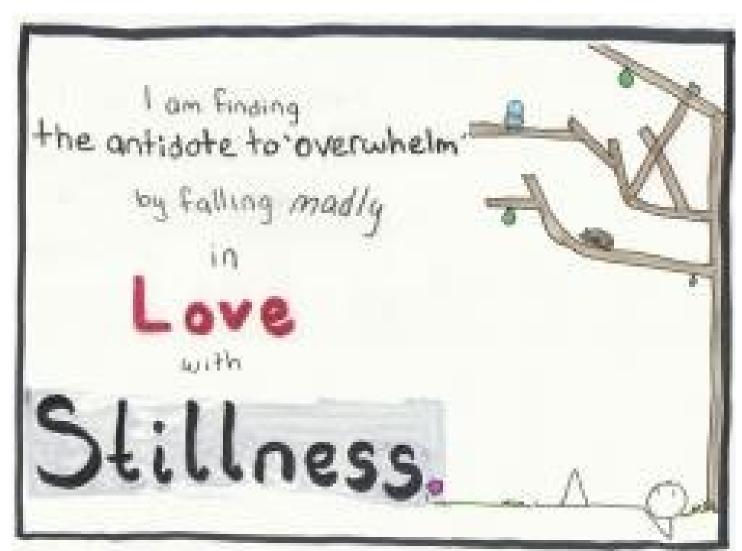






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The stone and the tiger have no choice of life: the **stone** must gravitate and the **tiger** must pounce. Only human beings are faced with the mind-boggling responsibility of having, at each and every moment of their lives, to choose what to do and what to be. It is both a **necessity** and an **invitation**. -José Ortega y Gasset

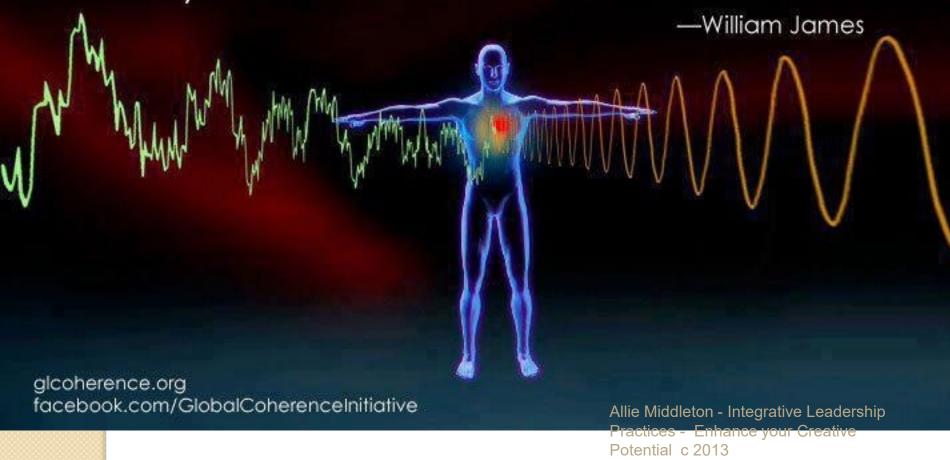


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# LIBERATE YOUR MAGINATION

"The greatest discovery of our generation is that human beings can alter their lives by altering their attitudes of mind. As you think, so shall you be."





# Create Group(s)

- Circle = eye contact, sense, listen
- BRFWA

## Thinking, Feeling, Sensing

- OUR STATE = Self awareness, perception of thoughts, moods/emotions, sensations
  - the place where our intention originates, what we truly CARE about, is the place of our most aligned and attuned attention
- Body Mind synchronization practices harmonize and integrate our actions with our cares = mindfulness, meta cognition

What counts is not what I do, it's who I am.

It's not my doing, it's my being that really makes a difference in my job.

--Meng Tan, Jolly Good Fellow, Google
at the Wisdom 2.0 Summit Middleton - Integrative Leadership
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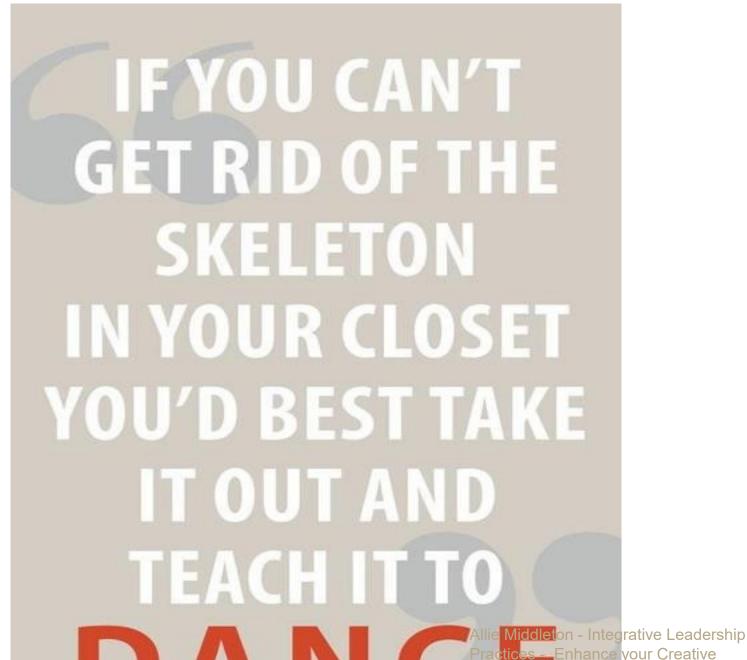
- What is happening now?
- Learn to see the emptiness
- Listen to the silences
- Sense into the mood
- Wonder about the spaces in between
- This is the group field, the social field
- ENERGY activity w hands



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Presencing, sensing & crystalizing your attention, intention and focused action

# THE HUMAN BODY - A BRIDGE BETWEEN HEAVEN & EARTH

#### Partner activity

### THE TWO STEP

stand, turn and greet – move and see what naturally unfolds- back body awareness - use whole space – a VILLAGE emerges?

### WALKING ACTIVITY



What inspired you?

What challenged you?

What surprised or delighted you?

What moved you deeply?

## Invoking creativity and innovation from the empty space

"EMBRACING EMERGENCE
"MAGIC IN THE MIDDLE"

### Social Presencing Theatre

- Don't think about it
- Don't plan.
- Just DO it and BE it.
- Attend to the personal body & social body, stay with it, and then move into what the field is asking for
- No need to pretend, act, perform.
- Take your time.
- Feel the place where the movement comes from. Let it emerge naturally.

### **NOT MAGIC**

- in circles / groups:
- Reflect & embody an experience of <u>NOT</u> MAGIC in facilitating the creative process (or elsewhere!) let the experience come into your body as a shape or gesture
- Listeners or enacters WRITE what you observe one KEYWORD at a time on post – its
- post on other board, next to MAGIC

# SPT EXPLORATION – 'MAGIC' and 'Not Magic'

I.Choose one post-it word or image to embody: 'MAGIC MOMENT' or 'NOT MAGIC'

(Groups of 4-7 have a mix of both)

- 2. Begin with "Ma" (silence).
- 3. Expand into time & space pay close attention to the sensation and feeling, lean into it and listen deeply into it, until it begins to shift.
- 4. Follow the movement of the social body. Don't think, plan or manipulate.
- 5. Follow where it leads until it opens up to a natural ending.
- 6. Discover what you noticed.

# Group Inquiry: CULTIVATING MAGIC TOGETHER REFLECTION I

- Describe the turning points when the 'field' (social body) began to shift?
- What did you notice inside your Self, in Others, in the group as a Whole?
- What's the impact of this now on how you might pay attention to your own 'field' (personal, professional)?

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# Group Inquiry: CULTIVATING MAGIC TOGETHER REFLECTION II

- What do you feel is wanting to emerge from the Whole?
- What do you feel is wanting to emerge from your (evolving) Self and Work?
- Where do you feel the opening to the future right now?
- What possible seed ideas/initiatives that could help you to explore the future by taking action?

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PERCEPTUAL STATE SHIFT

#### MAKING MAGIC - Moving with Mindsight:

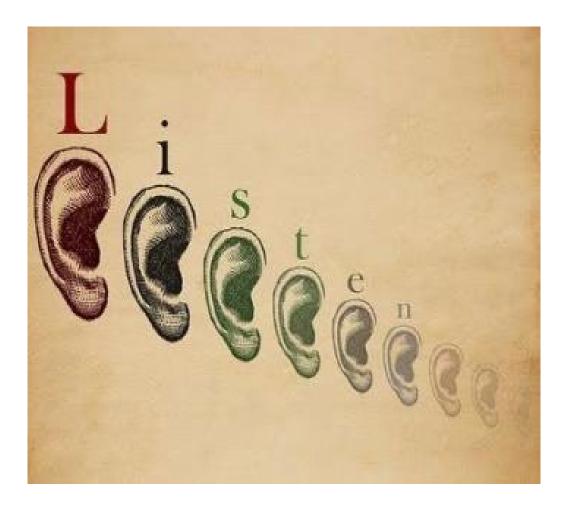
Sensing, feeling, relaxing into, then watching and allowing the new integrative mind-brain relationship emerge

And breathe.....

# Deliberate body-mind Practices increase creative potential, improve client outcomes?

- Personal and team practices that develop body mind synchronization and resonance
- Improved attention, coordination, collaboration, performance, productivity, effectiveness, efficiency, wellbeing, hope and happiness, resonance, and..???

### **Sharing the Harvest**



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- Share your learnings and insights
- HOW will you INVITE body awareness or mindfulness activities in your current professional practice and research?
- Anything else?

#### **EMBODIMENT PRACTICES**

#### self, other & collective awareness & ENERGY

- G.R.A.C.E. and body scan
- Two step and other dyad movement activities
- Relational grounding –around the world- "I never met...
- Body Scales, Breath awareness, mindfulness of sense doors
- "Focus Flow Let Go"
- Excursions into the body-mind awareness, perceptual state shifts, LIFT self, others, nature, society
- B.R.F.W.A.
- Co-listening, then writing g/w/c, tracking what person truly cares about
- 4 levels of listening, listen again, deepen
- Cards- what do you see?
- w/ Masks acting out moods, words or images
- Meditation & pranayama, many types
- Embodied Presence: 'Stuck' activity, the postcard, The Village
- Human sculpture SPT: Social Presencing Theatre using group issues
- Moment by moment attention mindfulness, compassion, hope
- RESULTS & BENEFIT: Resonant dialogue, strategic planning, conflict resolution, team development, organizational renewal, increased human consciousness, maturity, \$, fun!

### Mindfulness and Creativity

- Sherlock Holmes
- J Kabat Zin
- D Bohm
- Aha! Daniel Goleman
- Chs Limb MD FMRI brain/jazz,TED
- MBSR & YOGA studies, IAYT
- R Davidson, A Weintraub
- Google, IDEO, Presencing Institute
- Int'l Center Creative Studies, Buffalo (Mary Murdock story re:Theory U)

### RESOURCES

- Guy Aznar, La posture sensible dans le processus de création des idées
- David Bohm, On Creativity
- R. Boyatzis, A. McKee, Resonant Leadership
- Joe Dispenza, Evolve your Brain
- Richard Faulds, Kripalu Yoga
- Joseph Goldstein, What is Insight?
- Danial Goleman, Emotional Intelligence, etc.
- Jon Kabat-Zinn Full Catastrophe Living, etc.
- Hellinger, et. al., Family/Organizational Constellations
- Newfield Network, Coaching for the Soul
- Otto Scharmer & A. Hayashi, Theory U & Presencing
- Daniel Siegal, The Mindful Brain, Mindsight
- David Rock, Quiet Leadership
- Bill Torbert, Action Inquiry
- Amy Weintraub

