

Active Collections-Brainstorming Exercise for Poetic Collecting Scope

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Instructions:

1. Fill out the worksheet on your own.
2. Using stream of consciousness, write down as many descriptive and/or interesting words as you can think of. There is no wrong way to do this so don't worry about whether the words you come up with are the right ones.
3. After you are done writing, go back through the worksheet and circle or otherwise highlight the words/phrases that resonate with you the most.
4. Share your worksheet with your organization's poetic collecting scope writers so they can use your words as inspiration.

What is the setting of your community—rural? urban? suburban? near a body of water? mountainous? flat? How has this setting affected your community's identity and the way it developed?

What adjectives or phrases do people commonly use to describe your community (or your museum)? scrappy, well-off, bedroom community, post-industrial, one-stoplight? (e.g. Philadelphia: "We're the kind of town that runs into itself and then backs up and does it again" -Susan Werner)

Think about how each kingdom in Westeros/Game of Thrones or each district in Hunger Games has its own identity, symbols, and slogans. If your community were a kingdom or a district, what would its identity/symbols/slogans be? (e.g. "Winter is Coming")

If you have a rival community, how do you define yourselves in contrast to them? (e.g. Boston vs NYC)

Why do people move to/visit your community? (e.g. for the schools, for the quality of life, for the amazing views, for the low cost of living, for the culture, they don't)

What sets your community (or your organization's mission) apart from others?

What are some examples of objects in your collection that really speak to your visitors? What do those objects say about the unique identity of your community?