Supporting Student Agency in the Age of Uncertainty

June 29, 2022

- OPENING RITUAL -

GROUNDING IN JOY

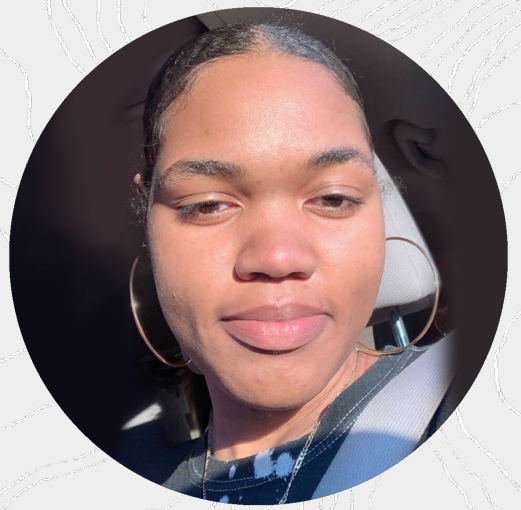
Share an activity that you love to do that brings you joy

BRANDY ARNOLD

Brandy Arnold
Chief Customer Officer
Former Teacher

+ Bay Area, California
+ Youth Development
+ Collective Impact
+ Taught Wayfinder through Step Year at West Michigan Center for Arts + Technology
+ Human-Centered Design practitioner

CORINN MAPP



Corinn Mapp
Former Wayfinder Student
Artist

+ Artist
+ Designer
+ Graduated high school in 2020
+ Former student at West Michigan Center for Arts + Technology
+ New York Native

Tristan Love, *MEd*

Tristan Love
Director of Learning and Engagement

+ Texas Native
+ High School Science Teacher
+ Secondary Principal
+ Created a Disciplinary Alternative Education School around SEL
+ Student Advocate

Founded at Stanford d.school

So how do we get from **meaningless** to **meaningful?**

Patrick Cook Deegan
Founder and CEO

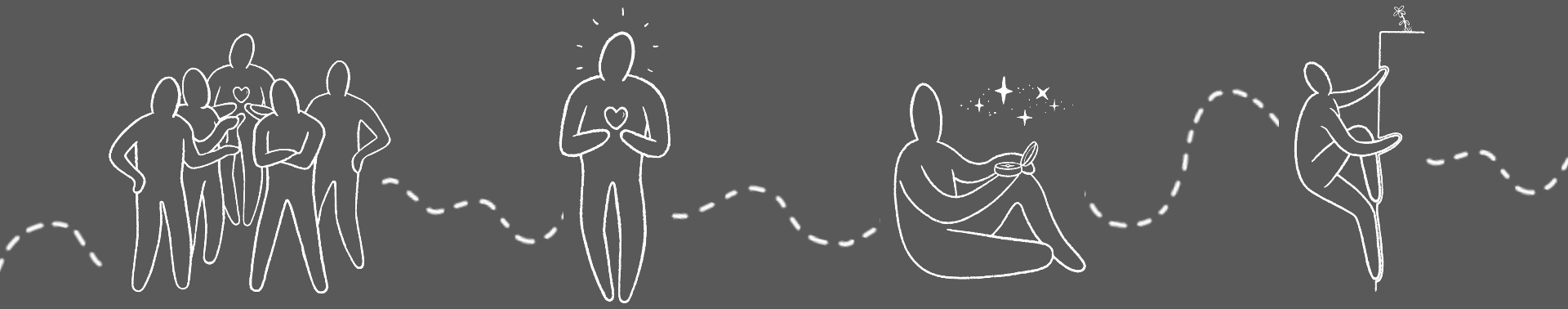
DESIGN QUESTIONS: CAN SCHOOL BE...

A PLACE FOR STUDENTS TO DEVELOP WHO THEY ARE?

A PLACE FOR STUDENTS TO EXPERIENCE BELONGING?

A PLACE WHERE STUDENTS CAN DESIGN LIVES OF MEANING AND PURPOSE?

Wayfinder Journey **Theory of Change**



feel that
you belong

Know what is
meaningful to you

Know what
you care about in the world

Learn how to
act with purpose

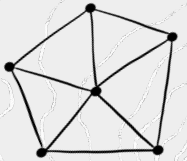
For the 21st Century School Visionary

Find Your Way

Foundations for **Belonging** & **Purpose**

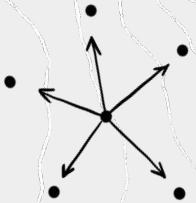
Belonging

Building a foundation through ***connection***



Purpose

Finding direction through ***contribution***



ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

K-2

3-5

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Belonging: **FOUNDATIONS**	Grade 6
Belonging 1: **SELF**	Grade 7
Belonging 2: **COMMUNITY**	Grade 8

HIGH SCHOOL

Belonging 3: **ACTION**	Grade 9
Purpose 1: **SELF**	Grade 10
Purpose 2: **COMMUNITY**	Grade 11
Purpose 3: **ACTION**	Grade 12

Why support student agency?

Our students are telling us...**50,000** students surveyed in 2021 with Project Tomorrow

Students **want** to do **well** in school

50%
Engaged.

55%
School learning not important for their future

Adult...

Centric...

Student/Learner Agency

SET ADVANTAGEOUS GOALS

awareness
forethought
intentionality
planful competence

INITIATE ACTION TOWARD THOSE GOALS

choice
voice
free will
freedom
autonomy
individual volition
regulative causality
self-influence
self-initiation
ownership

REFLECT AND REVISE

self-reflectiveness
self-assessment
self-control
self-discipline
grit
perseverance
conscientiousness

INTERNALIZE SELF–EFFICACY

growth mindset
internal locus of control
empowerment
self-efficacy

Former Google Executive

“We are preparing students for jobs that don’t exist, to use technology that hasn’t been invented, to solve problems we don’t even know are problems yet.”

Student/Learner Agency

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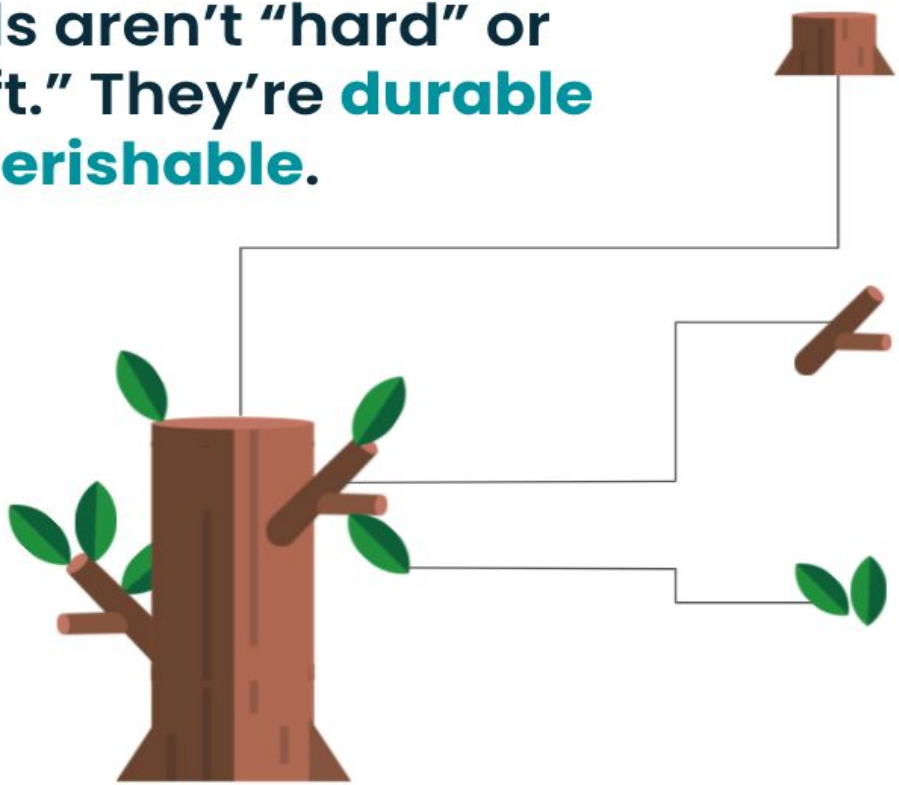
Durable Skills

Skills aren't "hard" or "soft." They're durable or perishable.



DURABLE

Half Life = >7 years

- Teachable and measurable **mindsets and dispositions** that are highly transferable
- **Affect development & implementation** of frameworks and tech

SEMI-DURABLE

Half Life = 2.5–7.5 years

- **Industry-related frameworks** from which tools, processes, and technologies arise
- **Likely to be replaced** as the field grows and evolves

PERISHABLE

Half Life = <2.5 years

- **Specialized** & related to **specific** vendors, platforms, coding languages, & org policy and process
- Dependent on **fluid** tools and organizational structures

HOW MIGHT WE...

Support student agency in the age of uncertainty?

- Created for the Veronica Jones Foundation thyroid and lung cancer.
- The hands on a black background is help coming through when you feel like there's no hope. Giving from a place of true, pure overflow that's why I painted liquid gold watering "people."
- Anthurium representing both her and those she helped. Not only are they bold, bright and unaware of their beauty, they represent abundance.
- Working on a new piece for our fundraiser in Newport News, Virginia

PURPOSE COMPASS

How can you generate purposeful projects?

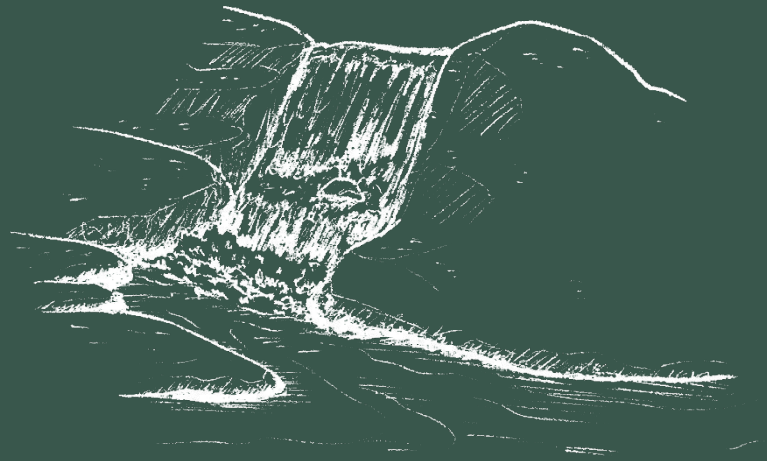
WAYFINDER

SHIRLEY CHISHOLM

“ ”

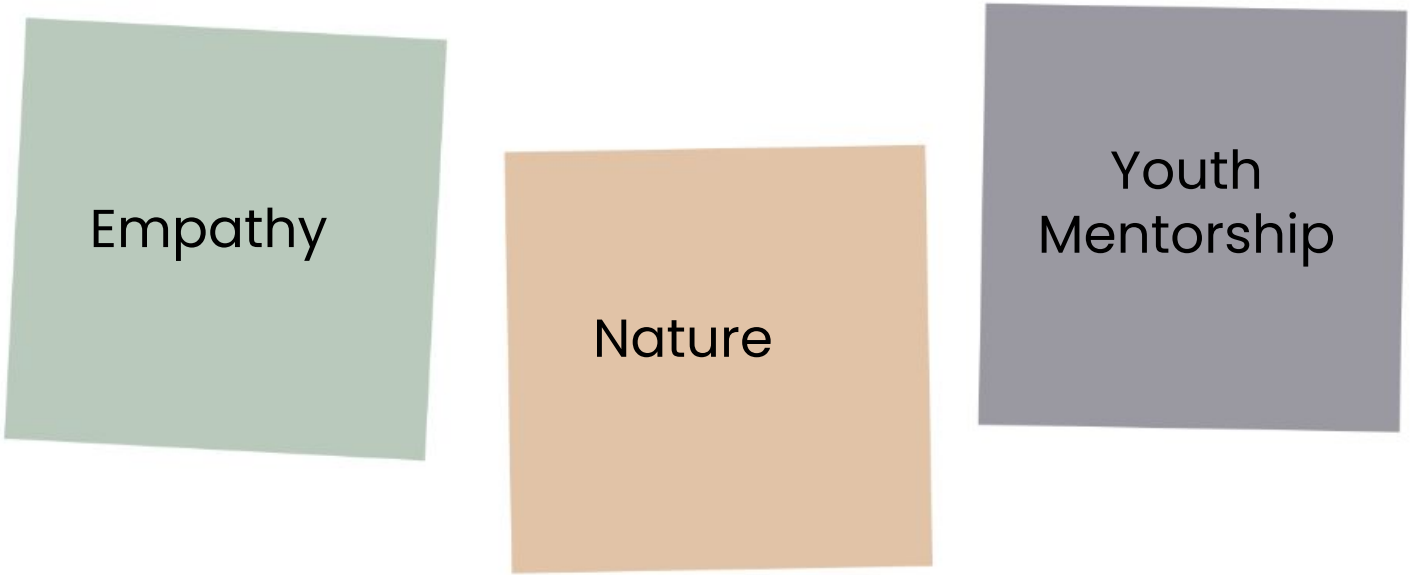
You don't make progress by standing on the sidelines... You make progress by implementing ideas.

Shirley Chisholm (1924-2005) was the first Black woman to be elected to the United States Congress in 1968.



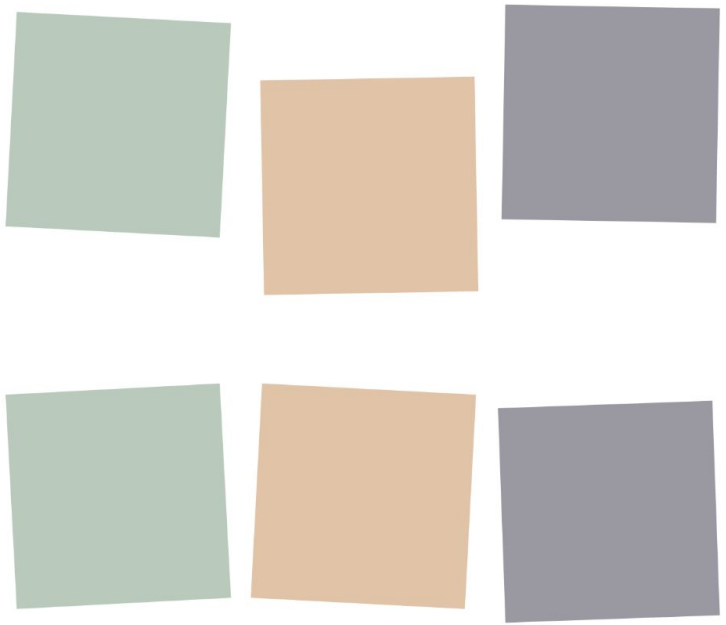
IDENTIFYING STRENGTHS, NEEDS + LOVES

TEACHER SHARE - BRANDY



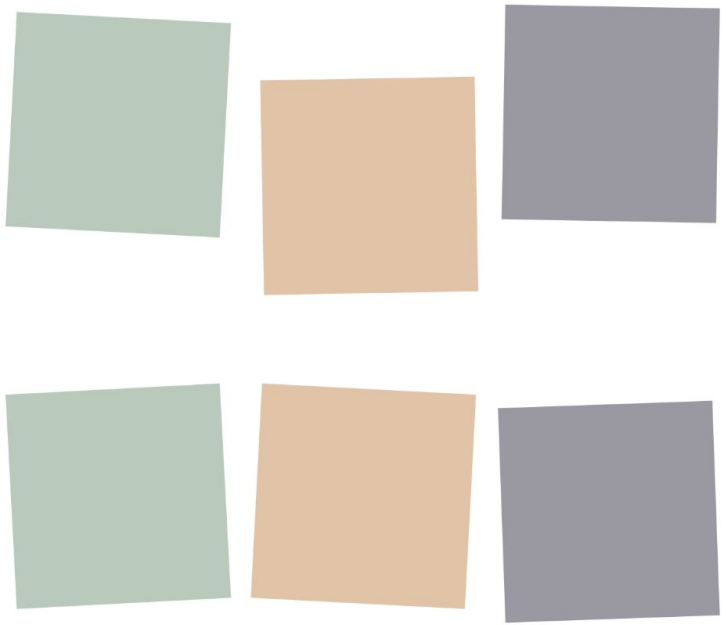
REFLECT

+ Reflect on your strengths, loves, and needs in the world you care about.
+ Make 3 lists, one for strengths, one for loves, and one for needs you care about



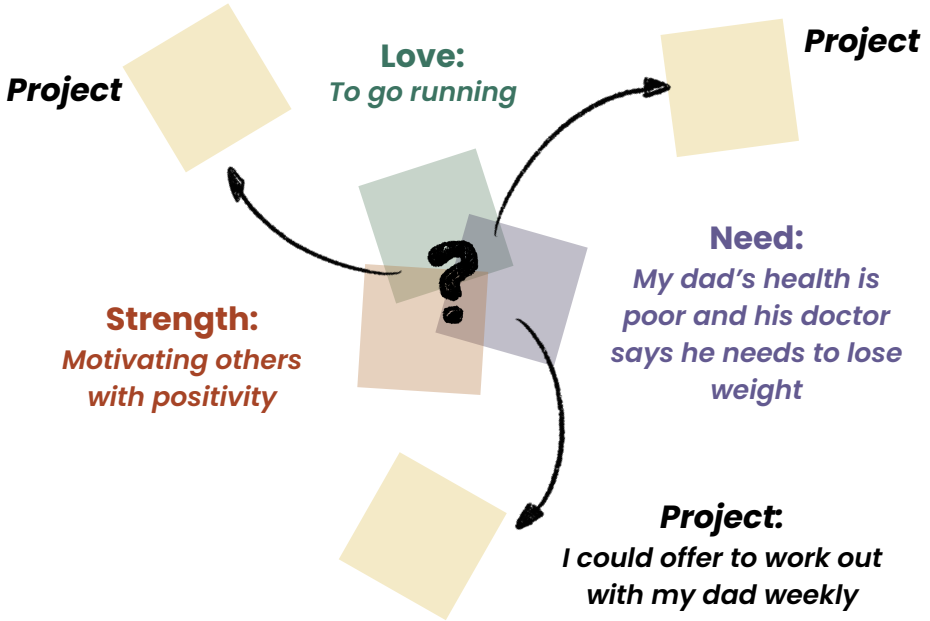
PREP

+ With your partner, make random trios to create unexpected combinations of loves, needs, and strengths. Get creative!
+ Create at least three combinations and record them



IDEATE

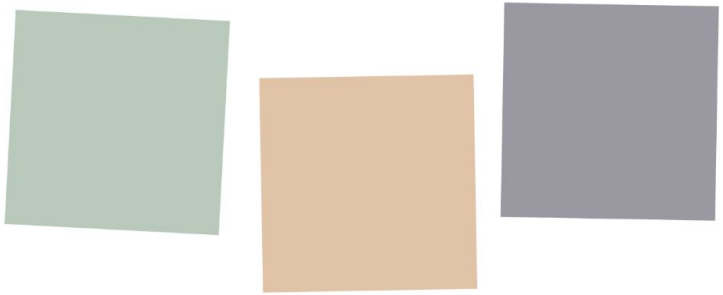
+ Brainstorm project ideas that will combine all three random aspects of your loves, needs, and strengths.
+ Then, switch!



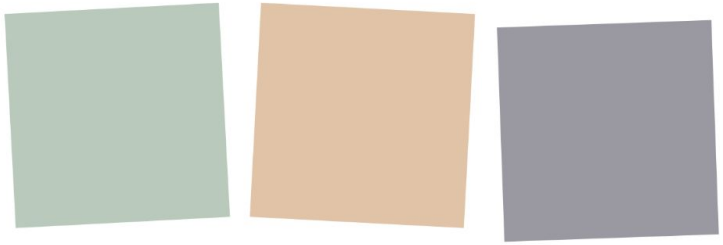
CAPTURING + DISCUSSION

CAPTURE FAVORITE IDEAS

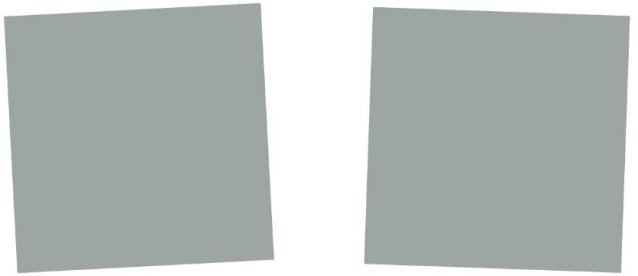
A trio you've **never considered** before...



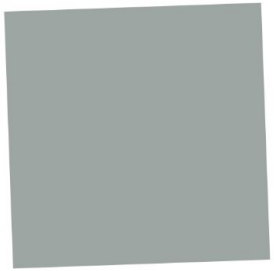
A trio that was the **most fun** to think about...



Think of a project idea that you could start **this week...**



What are three **small steps** that you could take to get started?



QUICK REFLECTION

WHOLE GROUP DISCUSSION

+ What was that like?
+ What was your favorite idea you or your partner came up with?
+ What is one you could implement this week?
+ Was it hard or easy to get creative with your ideas?

WRAP UP

+ To navigate our lives purposefully, we must apply our self-knowledge of purpose in concrete ways.
+ We grow by experimenting with projects, big or small, which gives us more insight into our purpose.

Q+A

- CLOSING RITUAL -

SPARK, STRETCH, STRUGGLE

SPARK: Something new you learned or realized?
STRETCH: Something that felt like a challenge or edge for you?

THANK
YOU!
www.withwayfinder.com
WAYFINDER