Let's Talk Cannabis
PROMOTING DIALOGUE IN CHANGING TIMES

Photo VOICE

Photovoice is a participatory process by which communities can gain insight into their internal diversity and engage in joint meaning making. By showcasing photos about hidden and often overlooked issues within communities, community members have an opportunity to engage with others whose voices they often do not hear. A fun and creative methodology, Photovoice provides an alternative to traditional ways of knowing and values knowledge that is grounded in lived experience.

Helpful Tips

Dialogue need not only occur at the end of the Photovoice project, but can be infused throughout the entire process. Based on Paulo Freire's theory of critical consciousness, opportunities to engage in dialogue encourage participants to become conscious and reflect on the root causes of the challenges within their communities. It encourages groups to explore creative actions that might address these inequalities while simultaneously nurturing individual capacity.

How can I encourage opportunities for dialogue at each step of the project process?

1 Plan your project with an understanding of the **Principles of Dialogue**
⇨ ccsa.ca/Resource%20Library/Cannabis-Talks-Series-Principles-of-Dialogue-2018-en.pdf

2 Review **Photovoice** methodology and theory
⇨ participedia.net/en/methods/photovoice

3 Design multiple opportunities for dialogue throughout each stage of the project. For example at the beginning, think about ways to bring a *diverse* group of participants together. Use open questions to explore the various perspectives around cannabis. It is through this mutual exploration that participants and project facilitators might gain clarity in a theme they could further explore through photography. To use Photovoice in dialogue, you must ensure ample opportunities for people to interact around the meaning of the *process* and the photos. Every time participants come together as a group is an opportunity to encourage dialogue.

4 Develop a plan for how the photos might be used as a catalyst for broader community dialogue. You might consider creative ways to showcase the photos. But also think about ways to engage community members in the dialogue. How can you encourage those viewing the photos to also share their perspective (even if it is different)? Draw on the principles of dialogue in order to create spaces where all people feel safe to engage.