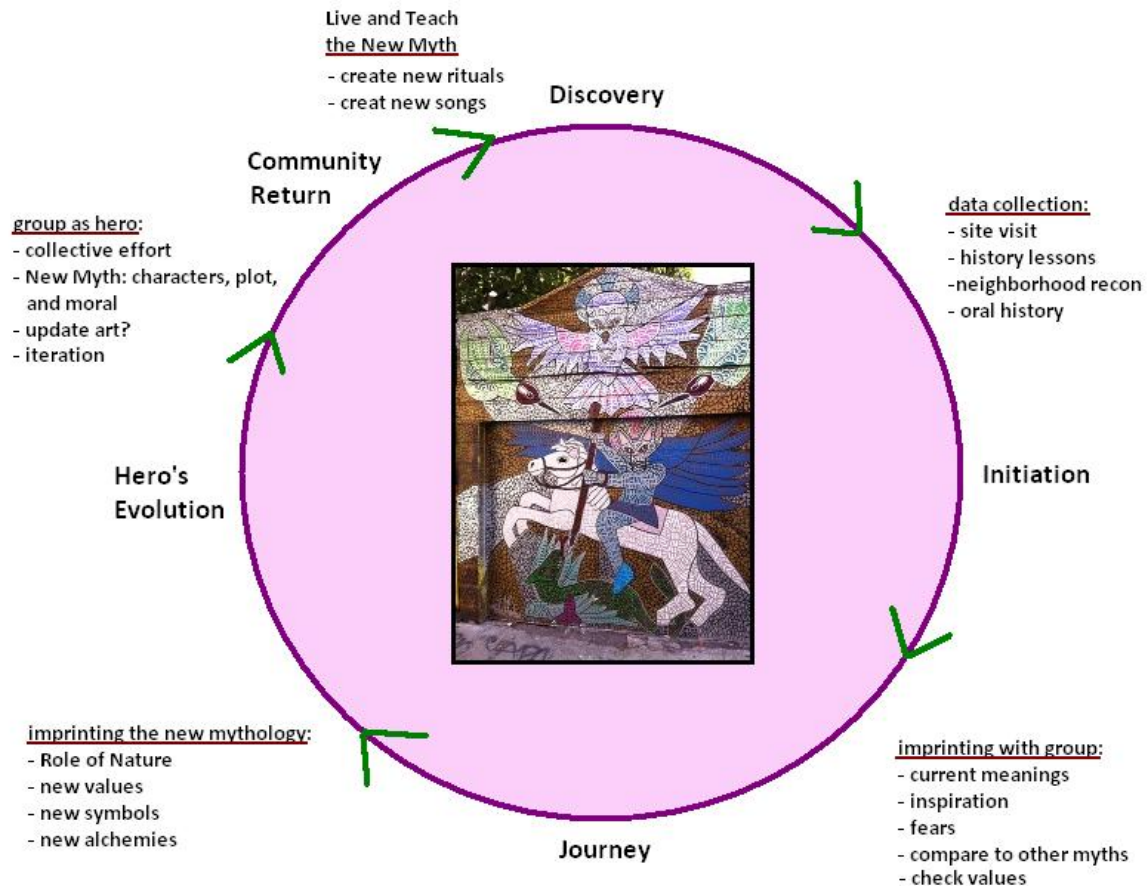


Myth Lab



A Transition Workshop Primer for Imprinting the New Mythology

By Willi Paul
NewMythologist.com



The Artifact (for Workshop Primer)

Introduction

The Myth Lab workshop is envisioned for neighborhood activists and media savor collaborators where a group of 4 – 12 participants spend 60 minutes to analyze a pre-selected Artifact and produce a new myth. **New Myth # 38** was generated by Willi Paul for this Primer and is not from an actual workshop but serves as an example for workshops to come. The image for the Primer is a “living and breathing” **graffiti painting from a San Francisco alley** (see locator map).

A process model is included that illustrates **mythic imprinting** with more depth. The goal is to integrate permaculture, transition, Nature and sustainability with the values and struggles in the New Mythology. The Myth Lab is designed as an interactive, open source and iterative experience. One goal is clear: we need to build our own messages and new myths to support our new food and governance systems.

Key Terms:

Artifact – The Imprintable Artifact is a Nature-Human combination; examples include graffiti, a bill board, historic sculpture, and a permaculture garden, with special powers and messages to the neighborhood.

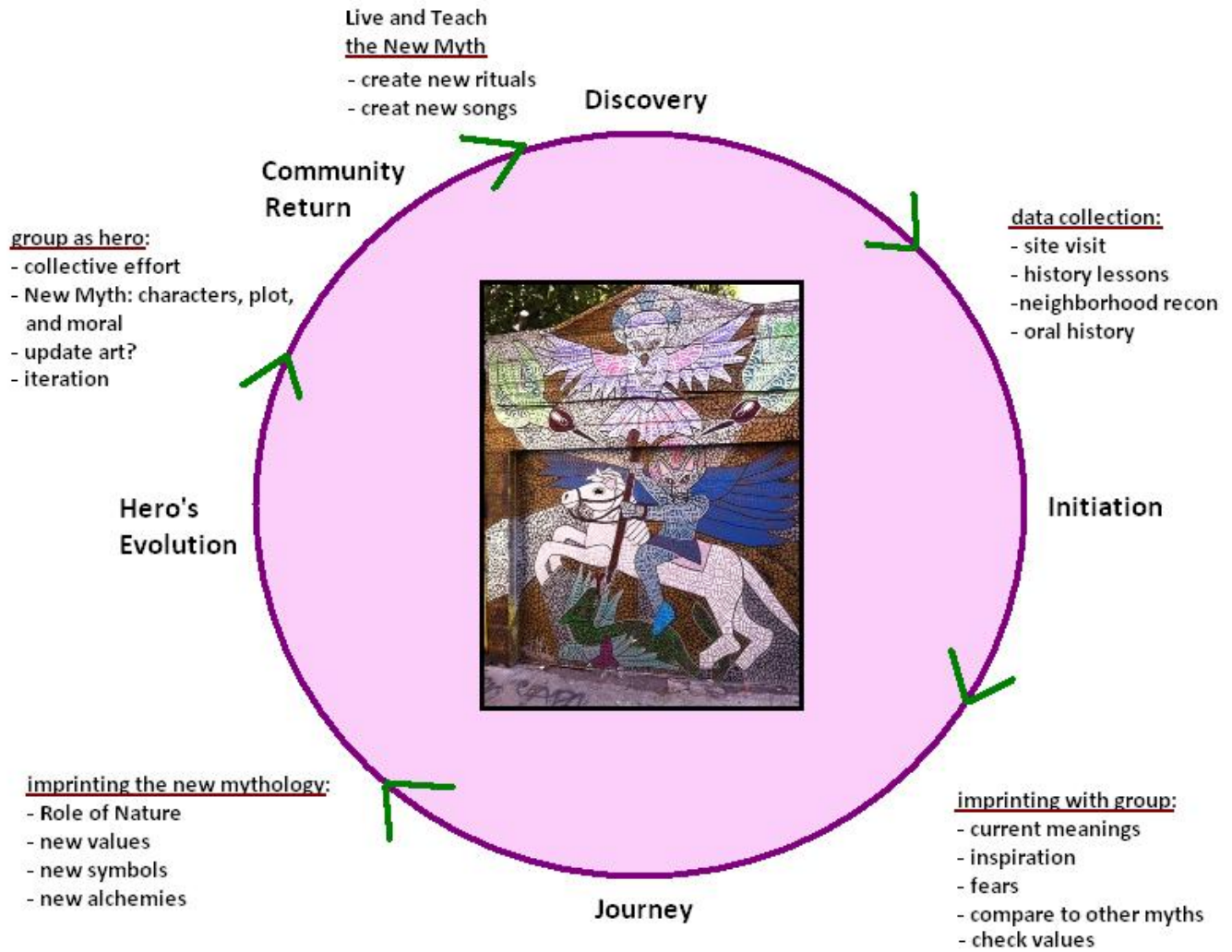
Mythos - The pattern of basic values and attitudes of a people, characteristically transmitted through myths and the arts.

New Mythology – Is a call for new Nature-based, globally integrated stories without allegiance to any classic mythologies. New Mythology incorporates new symbols, new alchemy and climate change era rituals and is built for the future.

The Transition Movement includes new business exchange schemes where waste is used by another business; Transition is garden sharing that allows gardeners to re-use barren lands; the movement encourages people to choose local food and offer support for smart bicycle and mass transit systems.

Mythic Imprinting - Imprinting is defined as a two-way interaction with a selected Artifact that has generates synergistic meaning for both participants and the Artifact. Called "mythic imprinting" in the Myth Lab, this iterative and transmutative process is grounded in the initiation, journey and hero work from Joseph Campbell and is one way that neighborhood artifacts can help neighbors generate new songs, poems and myths.

The Process Model:



5 Stages of the Mythic Imprinting Process:

I. Discovery Stage – (Process KEYS: Site visit - history lesson; neighborhood context; oral histories)

Artifact Data Sources:



Video: <http://youtu.be/M8tafQWldRw>



Locator Map to the Primer Artifact (16th @ Caledonia Alley, SF)

Site Specifications:

Size: ~ 10' x 11'

Place: Garage Door

Address: Caledonia Alley @ 16th

Paint Type: Unknown

Character Descriptions:

1. Owl with God Eyes and Crown flying into scene wings wide open to stop; white, pink, blue and purple
2. Two Hummingbirds entering the scene at 45 Degree angles (Mirror image-like); blue, green; red head, brown beaks
3. Winged Warrior – Man Kat Hybrid with God Eyes and Crown, Ruby Slippers; weapon-stick with sharp point stone
4. White Horse with Riding Blanket and Reins / Ring
5. Green Lizard with wings, red scale feet; red tongue flickering up

II. Initiation Stage – (Process Keys: imprinting with the group; current meanings of the artifact; inspirations; fears; compare to other myths; evaluate values)

Symbols (Characters)

Owl (wise predator) - with Alien Eyes and Crown
Hummingbirds (strong heart) - Scouts on Frontline
Kat - Warrior Hero with Alien Eyes and Crown
Lizard – Dark Force from Underworld
White Horse – Hero's Trusty Companion

Use of Colors

White, pink, blue (2) and purple

Textures of Skin (hatched) horse and lizard, road, feathers

Scene - a battle

III. Journey Stage – (Process Keys: imprinting the new mythologies; role of Nature; new values, symbols and alchemies)

Participants transmute historic values, symbols and alchemies into updated tools for a new vision and myth

IV. Hero's Evolution Stage – (Process Keys: group as hero; collective creation; iteration; revision of artifact; produce New Myth: character, plot and moral)

New Myth #38: Halo and Kat Wing of Caledonia Alley



In 2042 the San Francisco Mission District is in bloom with organic cafes', food forests and walking paths. The streets are all gone, as are the cars and trucks that once clogged Valencia and 16th and the alleys with dark smoke and pesky horns. The fear from gentrification - a community diversity killer - has now been implemented **in reverse**. The Transition Movement arrived as the people's hero, killing the evil high rise developers, gated supermarkets chains and pirated water goons hiding in the High Sierra with a localized sword!

Sharing and bartering is the economic way in this land. The eco- confederacy called Cascadia. Repair and can, sprout and send.

This is a revolution of the spirit, Brother with Sister, Mother with Father. The people declared their neighborhood as a Holy Place and protected their seeds with the same vigor as the vision for the neighborhood. It was not an easy path to social and environmental justice. After the permaculture committee ripped-up the intersection at 24th and Mission Street, all hell broke loose! The last bus line was stopped here; a new bicycle path network sprang up in its place – and almost over nite.

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Since everybody has a mask on, the flick-lickey flames from the backyard fire pit took on another role on this clear July nite in the Mission. Somebody twirled and yelped; a young boy jumped over the flames like a wolf with a reason. As the sparks flew away, up into the nite sky, the drummers began.

Fires always give people a weird warmth - an out of body experience, right? A power boost of shaman juice and pagan thrust. Since the soil returned from the concrete makers, magic has returned to the hearts and hands of the Mission Tribe. Compost is the best money a farmer can buy.

"Here, let me paint your body with blue henna hatching," cooed Halo.

"Just as long as I retain my warrior status," laughed Kat Wing.

Their masks and costumes are an attempt to relive the tribal tale of good and bad times in the hood from the beloved garage painting still preserved in the former Caledonia Alley.

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The Light Network crew visits each fire dance, every seed sourcing party, keeping watchful eyes on the Children of the Sun.

V. Community Return Stage – (Process Keys: Live and teach the New Myth; create new rituals and songs)

Workshop participants share the New Myth with the community through oral and electronic channels, generating additional ideas and Artifacts for new rituals and songs.

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Mythic Imprinting the Neighborhood - Possible Outcomes:

One key outcome is that we design and share new artifacts that resonate from / with our neighborhoods.

We can create our own new stories, songs and myths without interference from corporate and governmental profit mandates.

The Lab can stitch together the ideals of permaculture, transition and Nature to further develop localization as the key guiding principle moving forward.

The Myth Lab is a low cost, high return process that can bring together all kinds of people: Nature lovers, poets and activists to create unforeseen synergies and messages.

As a new incubator, the “Myth Lab” can use many existing types of community artifacts to achieve creative and collaborative solutions.

Start to finish, this process is also akin to a “mapping” exercise, pointing to issues and next steps in our evolution.

Is this Chaos Era mythic process, driven by group imprinting, an evolved Nature / Transition mytho-archeology?

Questions for Students:

1. What makes an object a good Artifact for the Myth Lab imprinting process?
2. Do you understand why mythic imprinting is a two-way (human – Artifact) experience?
3. What other sources for new myths can you list?

Willi Paul

New Mythologist & Transition Entrepreneur

newmythologist.com | PlanetShifter.com Magazine | openmythsources.com

@planetshifter @openmythsources @permaculturexch

415-407-4688 | pscompub@gmail.com