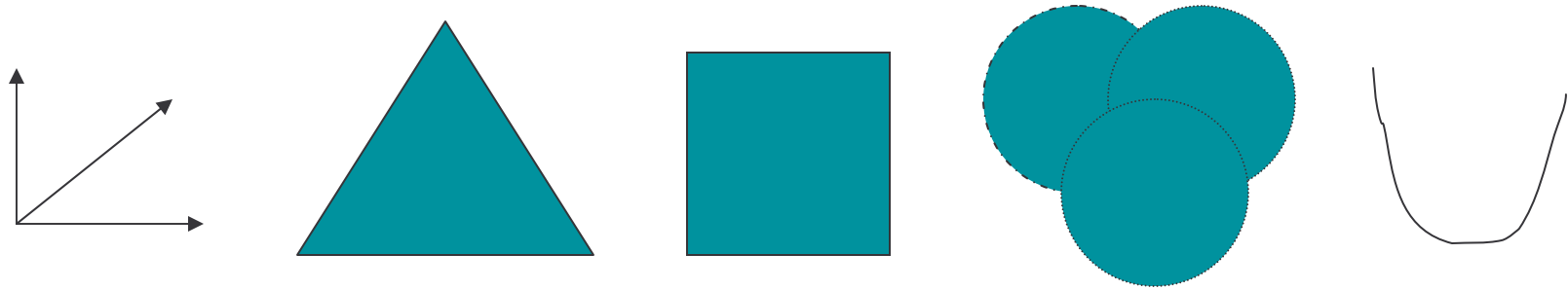


Center for Small Towns Symposium: Shaping our Future



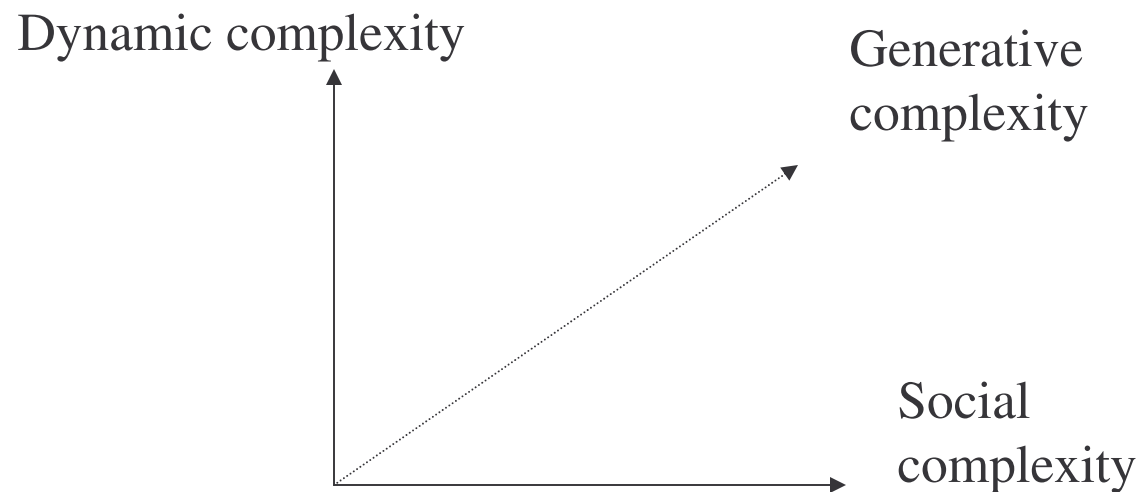
Bliss Browne, President, Imagine Chicago

www.imaginechicago.org

Dynamic complexity: cause and effect are distant in time and space;
requires whole systems approach

Social complexity: actors have different views and interests;
*requires multi stakeholder approach to take account of behavioral,
cultural worldview differences*

Generative complexity: what's happening tomorrow cannot
be predicted from past; innovation is disruptive;
requires sensing and presencing approach

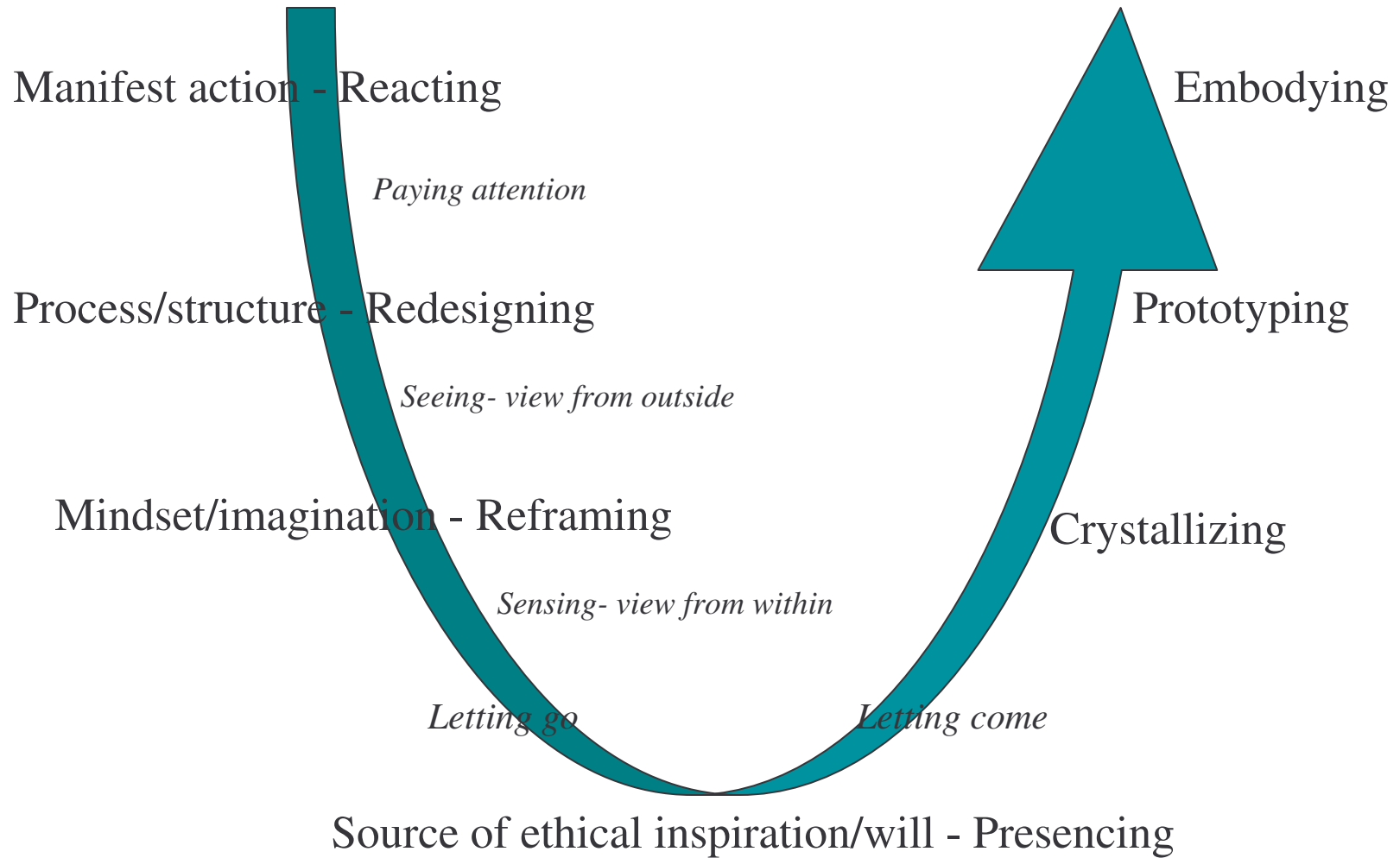


How do we listen for the future?

Is there an integrated approach we can use to address the 3 levels of complexity?

How do we help shape the fields of collective attention?

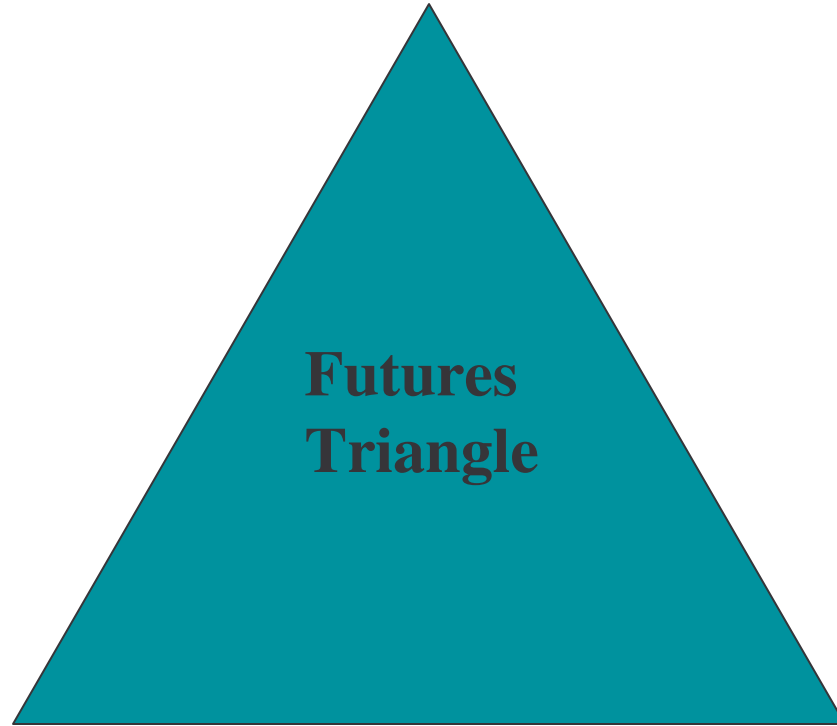
Levels of change opening mind, opening heart, opening will



How do we hold space to attend to and discover sources of inspiration and collective imagination about the future of???

May involve creatively changing structures (who is in the room, how space is organized), reframing problem talk into possibilities, creating opportunities for empathic listening, introducing creative processes which open participants to multiple perspectives in a field.

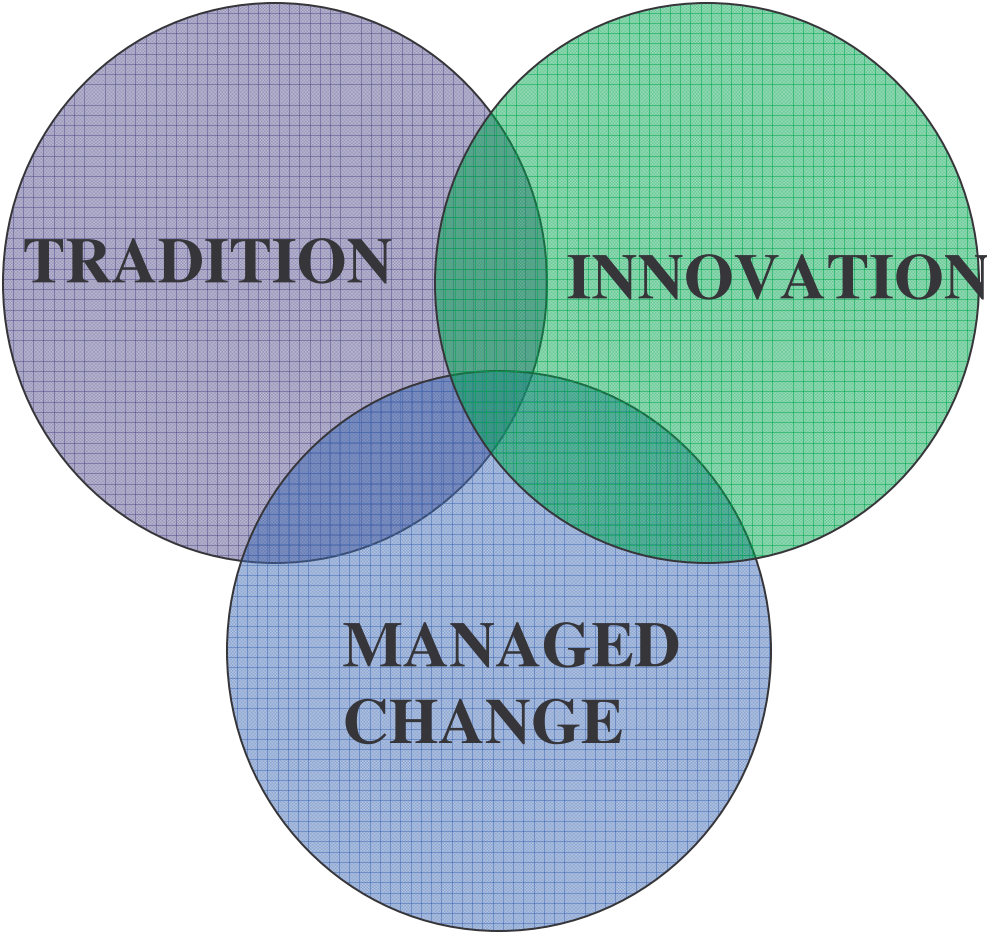
PULL

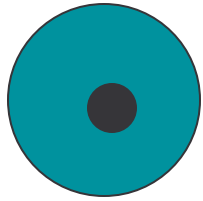


**Futures
Triangle**

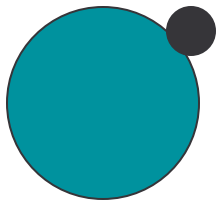
PUSH

WEIGHT

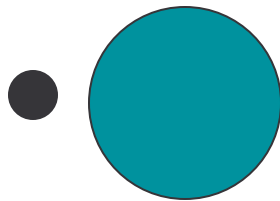




To give birth to *collective* dreams first requires shifting how we speak and see, where our attention is



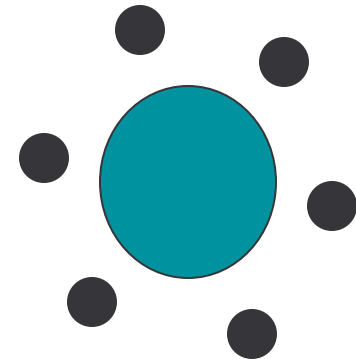
We must risk (and encourage others to risk) moving to the edge of established comfort zones, encountering people different from us who challenge our worldviews and language and open our minds.



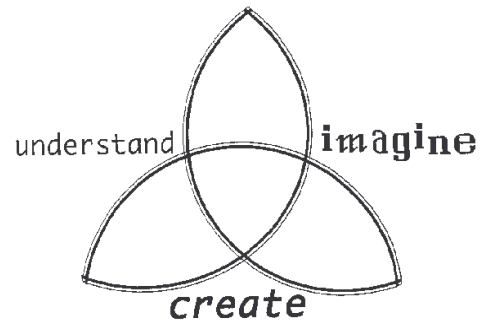
Sharing stories around meaningful questions (across divides of race and age and clan) offers a path to empathic seeing and listening which opens the heart. Listening and respecting what calls us forward can begin to heal divisions. Combining storytelling with arts-based processes can free imagination and open up sources of inspiration

Deep change can emerge once we not only digest necessary information, redesign structures, and reframe mindsets but attend to and align our actions with sources of collective inspiration and will.

Once a collective dream comes to birth, it is a shared responsibility to protect and sustain its life in the world.



In this deeply ordinary human work, we rediscover the commitment, purpose, and deep magic that aligns our lives and the whole system in a more life-giving direction



In every community there is work to be done.

In every heart there is the power to do it.

People will support what they help to create.

