



the incubator hub by Healthy Teen Network

Co-Design as Collaborative Ways of Being, Relating, and Making

Reflection Guide

Denise Shanté Brown

Living Definition of Co-Design

Co-Design is the weaving of liberatory, collaborative ways of being, relating, and making. Co-design is a practice that is always led by the lived experience and abundant creativity of those who are most underrepresented and those who are (or will be) directly impacted by the design.

— Denise Shanté Brown

Two groups practicing co-design

1. **And Also Too:** <https://www.andalsotoo.net/stories/vision-archive/>
A community-accountable design studio who brings experience in design, visual art, cultural organizing, and facilitation to their collaborations with communities.
2. **Black Womxn Flourish:** <https://www.blackwomxnflourish.co/>
A “design for wellbeing” collective shaping the future of Black women’s health and healing through creative, community-led practices, communal dreaming, visionary gathering spaces, and storytelling.

Something to READ on co-design (through imagination)

adrienne maree brown on creating the future with DEEM Journal in Issue One: Designing for Dignity <https://www.deemjournal.com/stories/amb>

Reflection Question

Adapting one of the questions in the interview, who are your favorite non-human organisms demonstrating collaboration, and what can they teach you while practicing design?

Something to WATCH on co-design (through meaningful participation)

Impact Policy Podcast: Community and Championing Participation with KA McKercher https://youtu.be/6QoViQu8x_o?si=lqIWzWHtcCKBpkrW

Reflection Question

What forms of participation can you imagine and offer communities that honor choice, power, connection, and cultural differences?

Something to LISTEN on co-design (through playfulness)

Spotify Playlist, *Experiments in Imagining Otherwise* curated by Lola Olufemi <https://open.spotify.com/playlist/5sPV4IsjvKnWGT16fKX7c1> and curated to be the introduction to their book, also named *Experiments in Imagining Otherwise*

Reflection Question

If the qualities of your design process and practice took the form of a 14-track playlist, what songs would you choose and why?

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