



Collaging Workshop *BLUEPRINT*

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Zeffiro, Andrea. Collaging Workshop Blueprint. Designed in consultation with SWAP Hamilton and facilitated for the McMaster Office of Community Engagement's Supercrawl Pop-up Event. September 12, 2025. Hamilton, Ontario.

The **COLLAGING WORKSHOP BLUEPRINT** offers a starting point for anyone interested in designing a collage workshop. The materials can be adapted for various contexts, including but not limited to the classroom, team-building exercises, and community-engaged activities. The blueprint stems from These Are (Y)our Streets: Mapping Personal Geographies of Hamilton Through Collaging, designed in consultation with SWAP Hamilton, which was offered as part of the McMaster Office of Community Engagement's 2025 Supercrawl Pop-up Event.

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTION

This workshop invites participants to reflect on their relationship to Hamilton's public spaces through collage. How do personal and collective histories intersect with public spaces? Who do these spaces serve? Who and what is excluded? How do these spaces shape our sense of belonging? We will explore how our individual stories expressed through collage can spark dialogue, foster empathy, and envision more inclusive possibilities for public spaces in Hamilton. No prior collaging experience is needed, and all materials will be provided.

WORKSHOP STRUCTURE

- | | |
|--|--------------|
| 1. Introduction to the Workshop | [5 minutes] |
| 2. A Brief Introduction to Collaging | [10 minutes] |
| 3. How to collage personal geographies of Hamilton | [10 minutes] |
| 4. Let's Collage! | [50 minutes] |
| 5. Show + Share | [15 minutes] |

1. INTRODUCTION TO THE WORKSHOP [10 minutes]

a. Facilitator Introduction

- Introduce ourselves briefly.
- Welcome participants

b. Facilitator Collaboration and Use of Collage

- Discuss and share examples of how we've used collage previously.

c. Workshop Structure

- Go through the structure of the workshop with the participants

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2. A BRIEF INTRODUCTION TO COLLAGING

[10 minutes]

a. What is it?

- *Icebreaker*: ask the group what collaging is and about their previous experiences with it.
- Explain what collaging is and how and why it is taken up.

b. How to do it?

- Briefly explain how collaging is done.
- Share some considerations with workshop participants.

3. COLLAGING PERSONAL GEOGRAPHIES OF HAMILTON

[10 minutes]

a. What is a personal geography?

- Briefly introduce the concept and how it will be explored through collaging.

b. Introduce the ideation worksheet

- Go through the ideation worksheet with the participants.

c. Worksheet

- Participants will generate ideas for their collages using the worksheet for 10 minutes.

4. LET'S COLLAGE!

[45 minutes]

a. Material Distribution

- Invite participants to take the materials they wish to use.

5. DEBRIEF

[15 minutes]

a. Engage participants in a discussion

- Invite participants to show and share.
- Use the prompts for reflection and to facilitate a group debrief.

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Ideation Worksheet

Mapping Personal Geographies of Hamilton Through Collage

PART 1: PERSONAL REFLECTION

Instructions: Take 5 minutes to reflect on your experiences in public spaces in Hamilton. Use any of the prompts below in support of your reflection.

- Where do you spend time in Hamilton?
- Which public spaces make you feel like you belong in Hamilton?
- Who and what do you see in these spaces? Is anyone or anything missing?
- What is a place in Hamilton that holds a strong memory for you? What happened there?
- Where do you feel most connected to others? Where do you feel alone?
- Where do you go when you need to recharge or escape?
- What routes or paths do you take most often in your daily life?
- Which spaces feel like they were designed for you? Which ones do not?
- Have you ever felt excluded or unsafe in a space others enjoy?

PART 2: FORM + CONTENT

Instructions: Take 5 minutes to reflect on how your collage can express your personal geography.

- What is the core emotion or theme you want to highlight?
- What is the main message you aim to communicate?
- What key visual or symbolic elements would you like to include?
- What materials, imagery, textures, and colours best represent the theme and emotions?

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Show + Share Discussion Prompts

Mapping Personal Geographies of Hamilton Through Collage

Q1: What did you discover about your relationship to Hamilton through this process? Did any new insights or emotions emerge as you explored your connection to Hamilton through collage?

Q2: Which collaging techniques did you use, such as cutting, tearing, layering, juxtaposing images, or working within a specific colour palette? How did these choices shape the message or mood of your collage?

Q3: What do you hope others might feel or understand when they view your collage? Is there a story, idea or emotion the collage is communicating?

Q4: What other thoughts and observations did you have while collaging your personal geography?

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