


**Spoken Word Group Poem**  
**Collaborative Participant Performance**

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***Dare to Dream! A New Era of Public Engagement***

1. What excites you about this moment in time?
2. What would you like to shout out of your current challenges and struggles?
3. What is your message of hope for the future?



Methods Source: Spoken Word Group Poem Activity, by Lisa Heft, see Appendix.

## **DARE to Dream! A New Era of Public Engagement**

*I'm excited about the growing awareness in our communities that we're all connected. Collaboration is emerging around our common purpose and concerns.*

*We're awakening to the limitations of our systems to sustain life as we know it. As we wake up, the whole world seems to be asking, "How can we do this better?"*

*It's the opportunity to take part in the transformation of consciousness that it'll take to bring about positive Well-Being for all living things, including the earth itself.*

*With so many forces pulling toward division, our unity can push for connectivity.*

*New technologies are emerging, allowing real-time, online collaboration.*

*There are so many opportunities to support government and developing member countries for public engagement and adjust their approaches accordingly.*

*I want to shout out: "I wish the boss understood public involvement and valued its outcomes!"*

*There's sometimes just too little generosity of spirit.....  
NIMBYism, greed and power are often the selfish drivers behind people's behaviour!*

*Government public information managers: Please open up!  
Hear the new ideas and interesting possibilities for public involvement!*

*Misunderstanding and fear are being mistaken for apathy or agreement!*

*I want engaged leadership  
I want belief and confidence  
I want us to share responsibility for  
Creating constituencies for our future!*

*Bring on the resources for strengthened public participation!*

*Our message of hope for the future – Live within the SPECTRUM:*

*Serve the  
People  
Encourage  
Community  
Trust  
Remember  
Unity, and  
Most of all, impart your wisdom to others.*

*Listen to the children. Respect them as citizens. Open your hearts to their dreams.*

*Seize the opportunity for inter-generational collaboration on sustainability!*

*Approach the new and different openly and respectfully, no matter how ridiculous it might seem; even if it comes from your own imagination.*

*Bridging our differences is worth it. "We" create our future!*


*Be brave, take a chance; it doesn't need to be scary.*

*We are so powerful and the work too urgent; we must go together.*

## List of 18 Poet Participants:

Alejandro	Diaz
Alicia	Puusepp
Anne	Pattillo
Anne	Thomas
Audrey	Clarke
Brenda	Pichette
Catherine	Rockandel
Crispin	Butteriss
David	Hill
David	Campt
DeAnna	Martin
John P.	Falchi
Leanne	Nurse
Lewis	Michaelson
Lucky	Radebe
Lynda	Friesz-Martin
Sari (Syarifah)	Wooster (Aman-Wooster)
Tahnee	Robertson
Wendy	Sarkissian

## Method:



### Spoken Word

## Creating A Group Poem

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- *When Use?* Valuable closing activity at a workshop conference to share experiences/tools learned
- *Number of Participants:* 6 to 24
- *Process:* Distribute slips of paper to selected diverse participants to prepare their phrase. Group can meet the evening or morning before the presentation.
- *Preparation:* Think of 3 questions. Suggested focus: 1) the context; 2) the challenge – invite an emotional response (“if you could shout at...); 3) the message of hope/spirit for the future

Source: Developed by Lisa Heft, Opening Space, [www.openingspace.net](http://www.openingspace.net)