APPLIED ACTIVITY:
STICKY NOTE ICEBREAKER

Group discussion (in person/virtual event)
Purpose: This activity is designed to rapidly share skills at the beginning of a project or with a community that wants to deepen communication, connection, and share skills with each other. Following the activity, workshops can be scheduled so skills can be shared to members of the community.

What you will need:
1. Markers for each participant
2. Sticky notes (or) small pieces of paper and tape
3. A timer
4. A wall where the sticky notes can be posted

Directions:
1. Designate one person to be the timekeeper. This person can also participate in the exercise.
2. Break out into pairs. Pairs should consist of people of different generations whenever possible.
3. Timekeeper sets a timer for 5 minutes. One person in each pair is the writer, the other is the speaker.
4. When the timekeeper says “Go” and starts the clock, the writer asks the question to their partner: What specialized skills do you have?
5. In a rapid-fire fashion, the speaker begins to say out loud their various skills.
6. The writer quickly jots down one skill per sticky note and sets them aside as the speaker continually lists their skills. This process continues until the 5 minutes is up.
7. After this first round, the partners switch roles—the speaker becomes the writer, and the writer becomes the speaker.
8. Timekeeper sets a timer for 5 minutes.
9. Repeat steps 4 through 6.

10. When the time is up, each person should initial the bottom of each of their own skill sticky notes. (For example: I would initial the bottom of the notes which were written down by my partner but are representative of my own skills). The group reconvenes at the blank wall.

11. The group reconvenes at the blank wall.

12. Everyone puts their sticky notes up on the wall.

13. Everyone takes a few minutes to read all of the skills and take in the information.

14. As a group, begin to rearrange the skills in different categories
   • For example: sticky notes that say PHOTOGRAPHY, VIDEOGRAPHER, PHOTOSHOP, EDITING SOFTWARE might all be grouped together because they represent image-based media skills.
   • Feel free to take your time and discuss as a group.
   • As categories are solidified, create sticky notes for each category and place it above the group of skills.

15. Once the rearrangement process is complete, start with one category and bring whoever has those skills to the front of the room. Discuss if it would be beneficial for these individuals to host a workshop about this skillset.
   • If everyone agrees that it would be beneficial, set a date and time.
   • Not everyone in the group might want to share these skills. That’s perfectly okay. Whoever volunteers will host the workshop.

16. Repeat Step 15 for all other categories.