



HAVING A DREAM

UNDERSTANDING THE CONCEPT

What do you mean by a dream anyway?

When we consider what it means to be a visionary leader, lots of images and ideas may come to mind. Let's take a quick moment to define what we mean here. Having a dream in leadership means to be able to sense into the future, imagine possibilities, discern direction, and relay all of that to others in a story, message, or pathway. Discerning your dream(s) is a co-creative act between you and you, you and your community, and you and life. What would you add to the ways you define having a dream in your leadership context?

Busting some myths...

1. Being able to dream with others as a leader is not a trait you are born with or not. *It is a creative competency that can be practiced and cultivated.*
2. Your dream doesn't need to be one of a kind. *In truth, it is helpful if your imagined pathway to the future is connected to the futuring that others have done before you and are doing now.*
3. Visionary leadership is not about being the smartest person in the room. *What folks respond to in dreamers is their ability to expand perspective and unlock possibility, which is often not at all about intellectual ability but rather creativity.*
4. Please don't get stuck in trying to perfect a dream before sharing it. *Invite yourself into what you sense in the spirit of co-creation with others, with life.*
5. Your dream may (hopefully will) change. *Visionary leadership is a praxis, it will transform as you engage with others and the world.*



DREAMING A DREAM

A SET OF GUIDED JOURNAL PROMPTS

Getting started

Journaling is a reflective process that engages the essential leadership and learning skills of being able to look at your experiences and explore patterns, connections, and meanings. We encourage you to consider it an embodied practice in which you *feel* what is emerging, connecting, inspiring through your energy and senses. We offer these prompts as a way of inviting you into discerning a future that inspires you. *Pen and paper is ALWAYS encouraged over keyboard and device when possible.*

Part One...

1. What do I believe about life?
2. What matters most to me right here, right now?
3. What makes me come alive in joy?
4. What breaks open my heart in love and compassion?
5. In the community or context you operate in, what do you believe is needed most? What change do you hope to see? Why?

Part Two...

6. Given what emerged in part one, what is your wildest dream for the future?
7. What does it mean for you to leave the world you inhabit better than you received it? What's your offering?
8. What accomplishment or accolade or quality do you want celebrated at the end of your life?
9. Who are your co-creators? How will you co-create?