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LEADERSHIP EDUCATION ADVANCING
DEMOCRACY & DIVERSITY
A PROJECT OF INTERFAITH ALLIANCE

IDENTITY SCULPTURES

This activity requires up to 30 minutes, depending on group size. Herewith the instructions:

PART ONE

Take a few moments to get centered.

Think about yourself.... Consider four identities that you hold dear.

Write the four identities down on an index card.

Put the card away.

Select four pipe cleaners from the bunch of pipe cleaners herewith. Notice the beautiful colors.... Note that you must select four different colors.... Notice how you select your four colors....

Each pipe cleaner represents one of your four identities.

PART TWO

Now, here's the next step.

Work quietly by yourself and create an identity sculpture representing you.

Ensure that all four of your identities are reflected.

Note that this is NOT an art project!

Ensure that the four pipe cleaners are interconnected. (Do not have one, two, three, or four separate pieces.)

Complete your sculpture and wait for the instructions. Admire your work, your rendition of *you*.

PART THREE

Find a partner whom you do not know (well).

Stand up and introduce your sculptures to each other. Share highlights with each other. Affirm each other's sculptures and stories.

PART FOUR

Thank each other for participating in this task.

Assure your partner that you respect their identity sculpture.

PART FIVE

Find a new partner.

Without speaking, exchange sculptures.

Gently hold your partner's sculpture.

Without speaking, each of you pulls out (either literally or figuratively) one of your partner's identities aka pipe cleaners.

Discuss with this new partner what it feels like to have one of your identities ripped away from you.

Consider how many of us have to hide an identity for "safe survival."

PART SIX

Exchange sculptures. Each of you puts your sculpture back together.

Thank each other for participating in this task.

PART SEVEN

Regroup as one community.

Debrief each part of the activity.

What does it feel like to share deeply, that which you hold most dear?

What does it feel like to have your identity stripped away?

Give examples from the life experience of the group.

What does this activity show about how we are forced to live in our worlds....?

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