We’re here to learn about how to think productively about the future. But we’re not here to predict the future.
How do we think about the future?

Collect signals from the future

Combine signals into forecasts

Create personal foresight

Play with the Future

Jane McGonigal. “How to Think (and Learn) Like a Futurist.” SXSWedu Keynote.  
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CKvMmtciUBA
How do we think about the future?

“Foresight is thinking ahead to how trends, issues, and developments that can be observed in the present are likely to shape alternative futures

• What are the key forces that are shaping the future?
• What might be their possible outcomes?
• What implications could they have for the learning and actions that must happen in the present?”

How do we think about the future?

**Past**
Look to the past to understand how we got to where we are.

**Present**
Look to the present to take stock of what is going on now as signals of change.

**Future**
Explore how the future might be different from today.

**Aspiration**
Determine where we want to go and what we want to accomplish.

How do we think about the future?

“Emergence is the way complex systems and patterns arise out of a multiplicity of relatively simple interactions”*...my vision is changing our how, more than seeing clearly our what. I see a how where we are all much more comfortable with change, and with our personal power to change conditions....I want a future where we are curious, interested, visionary, adaptive.”

The Through Line

Collect Information

Make Connections

Prioritize

Commit to Action
A Note About
The Worksheet
The future is defined by those who understand the larger context in which they operate.
Organizational
Environmental
“Scanning is a technique for detecting early signs of potentially important developments through a systematic examination of...novel and unexpected issues as well as persistent problems and trends.”

PARTNERSHIPS
ACCESS & SERVICE
MOVEMENT
Worksheet
Let’s take 10 minutes.
We Serve **Values, Not Trends**

- ACCESS
- CIVIC COMMONS
- CREATION & EXPRESSION
- DEMOCRACY
- DISCOVERY
- DIVERSITY
- EDUCATION
- INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM
- LITERACY
- PLACE
- PRESERVATION
- PRIVACY
- PUBLIC DISCOURSE
- SERVICE
- TRUST
Worksheet
Let’s take 10 minutes.
The signals for the future arrive as inbound change (change that happens to us), but we build our future through outbound change (change that we create ourselves).
“If we shape our vision around only what seems possible today, we surrender our opportunity to structure a really great life for ourselves. Big changes and compelling visions require some leaps of faith.”

Worksheet
Let’s take 15 minutes.
Manageable Action

• Incremental Adjustments

• New Language, New Connections

• Collaborative Ideation
Some Things That Help Us:
• Make room for discovery.
• Make it a practice.
• Connections make way for patterns to see where things are going.
• No one is expert in everything. Pick the things you seek to be expert in and use your network to broaden expertise.
• Ask people what they are interested in.

Worksheet
Let’s take 10 minutes.
Images

Spaces
• BeSpoke Co-Working https://bespokesf.co/coworking-overview

Collections
• Amazon Rapids https://rapids.amazon.com/
• Sotify Discover Weekly https://www.spotify.com/us/discoverweekly/

Partnerships
• Link NYC https://www.link.nyc/

Access and Service
• Walmart. Walmart Tests Automation to Scan Shelves, Free up Time https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ji2oh432RFY
• Amazon. Host Amazon Locker https://www.amazon.com/b?ie=UTF8&node=13853235011
• Amazon Prime Book Box for Kids https://www.amazon.com/Prime-Book-Box-Reading-Baby-2/dp/B072BYFR7R
• Softbank Robotics - Pepper https://www.softbankrobotics.com/us/pepper

Learning
• NuVu Innovation School [Photo credit Amro Arida] https://cambridge.nuvustudio.com/
• OutSchool https://outschool.com/
• Chicago Public Library - Adults, Take an Online Course at the Library https://www.chipublib.org/news/adults-take-an-online-course-at-the-library-2/

Movement
• Bird https://www.bird.co/
• Book Bot Pilot Project https://www.mountainview.gov/depts/library/services/bookbot/default.asp
• Google X Wing https://x.company/projects/wing/
Thank You!!

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