


Connections Patterns Futures: Thinking About the Future

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**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=CKvMmtclUBA>

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?”**

Marsha Lynne Rhea. *Anticipate the World You Want: Learning for Alternative Futures*. Scarecrow Education: Lanham, Maryland. 2005.

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.”

adrienne maree brown. *Emergent Strategy: Shaping Change, Changing Worlds*. AK Press
Chico, California. 2017.

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

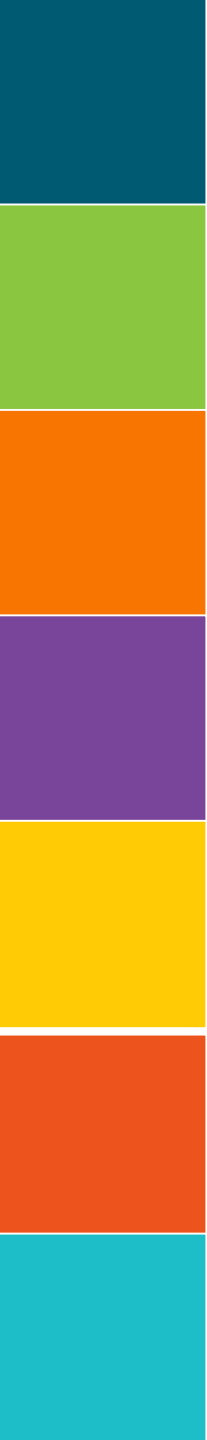




Environmental



Global



“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.”

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. “Overview of Methodologies.” Schooling for Tomorrow Knowledge Base.

<https://www.oecd.org/site/schoolingfortomorrowknowledgebase/futurestinking/overviewofmethodologies.htm>



SPACES





COLLECTIONS

PLAYLIST

Discover Weekly

Your weekly mixtape of fresh music. Enjoy new discoveries and deep cuts chosen just for you. Updated every Monday, so save your favorites!

Created by: Spotify • 30 songs, 2 hr 5 min

▶ PLAY FOLLOWING ... FOLLOWERS 0

Available Offline

SONG	ARTIST	ALBUM	
+ Strong - Claude VonStroke Remix	London Grammar	If You Wait - Remixes 2	3 days ago
+ California	Letch	+	3 days ago
+ Black Jeans	Mayaeni	Black Jeans	3 days ago
+ All I Want - Diplo Remix	Dawn Golden	Still Life	3 days ago
+ A Stranger Love (Salva Remix)	Classix	A Stranger Love (Remi...	3 days ago



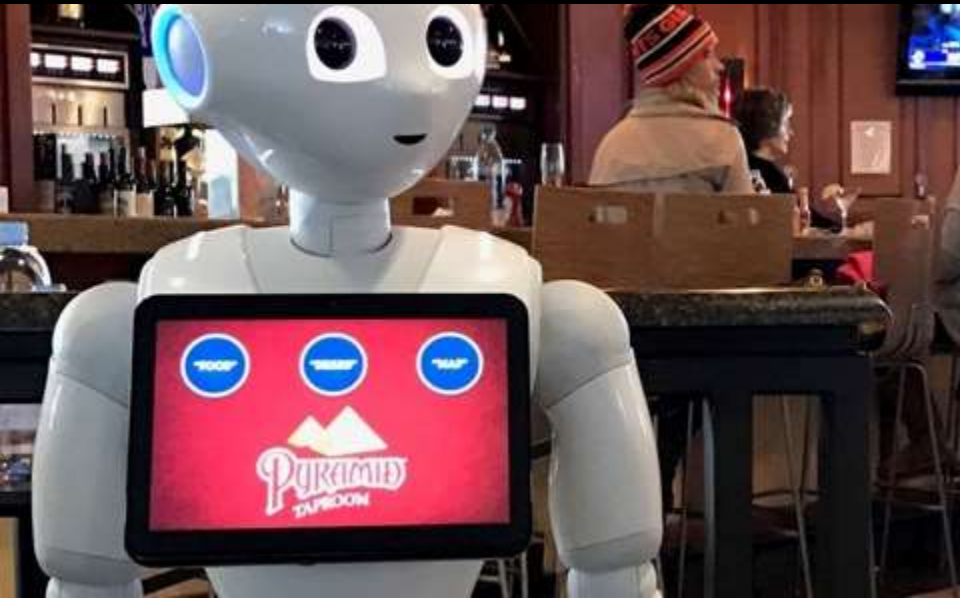


PARTNERSHIPS





ACCESS & SERVICE





LEARNING





MOVEMENT





Worksheet
Let's take 10
minutes.



Co-Working



Experiential Retail



Creative Placemaking



Short Reading



Streaming Media



Voice Control



Collective Impact



Smart Cities



Robots



Subscription



Flipped Learning



Micro Schools



Micro-Mobility



Delivery Bots



Self-Driving Cars



Drones

We Serve Values, Not Trends

ACCESS

CIVIC
COMMONS

CREATION
&
EXPRESSION

DEMOCRACY

DISCOVERY

DIVERSITY

EDUCATION

INTELLECTUAL
FREEDOM

LITERACY

PLACE

PRESERVATION

PRIVACY


PUBLIC
DISCOURSE

SERVICE

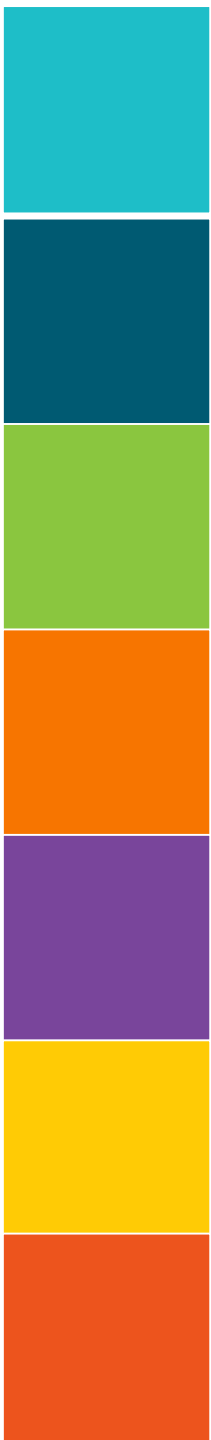
TRUST



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.”

Ryan Gravel. *Where We Want to Live: Reclaiming Infrastructure for a New Generation of Cities*. St. Martin's Press: New York, New York. 2016.



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.**

Steelcase – 360 Real Time. (2018). *How Beth Comstock Survived the 'F' Word in Business*. November 19, 2018.

<https://www.steelcase.com/research/podcasts/topics/culture/beth-comstock-survived-f-word-business/>



Worksheet
Let's take 10
minutes.

Images

Spaces

- BeSpoke Co-Working <https://bespokesf.co/coworking-overview>
- mmmm...BUS. 2014. Blatimore (USA) <http://www.mmmm.tv/enbusstop.html>
- Branchannel. "Apple Chicago: Don't Call It a Store, It's a Town Square." October 25, 2017. <https://www.brandchannel.com/2017/10/25/apple-store-retail-chicago-102517/>

Collections

- **Amazon Rapids** <https://rapids.amazon.com/>
- Short Édition Short Story Dispenser <https://short-edition.com/en/dispensers>
- Sptofy Discover Weekly <https://www.spotify.com/us/discoverweekly/>
- Aristotle™ by nabi <https://fisher-price.mattel.com/shop/en-us/fp/baby-gear/aristotle-by-nabi-fmt68>

Partnerships

- The New York Times. "Free Lunch at the Library." [Photo credit Maddie McGarvey for The New York Times]. July 30, 2017. <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/07/30/well/family/free-lunch-at-the-library.html>
- Next City. "New Species of City Discovered: The University City." [Photo credit Britt Selvitelle]. September 16, 2015. <https://nextcity.org/daily/entry/what-is-a-university-city-new-definition-urban-typology>
- 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=j2oh432RFY>
- 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/>
- Utah Transit Authority - UDOT UTA Launch New Autonomous Shuttle Pilot Project in Utah <https://www.rideuta.com/News/2019/04/UDOT-UTA-Launch-New-Autonomous-Shuttle-Pilot-Project-in-Utah>



Thank You!!

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