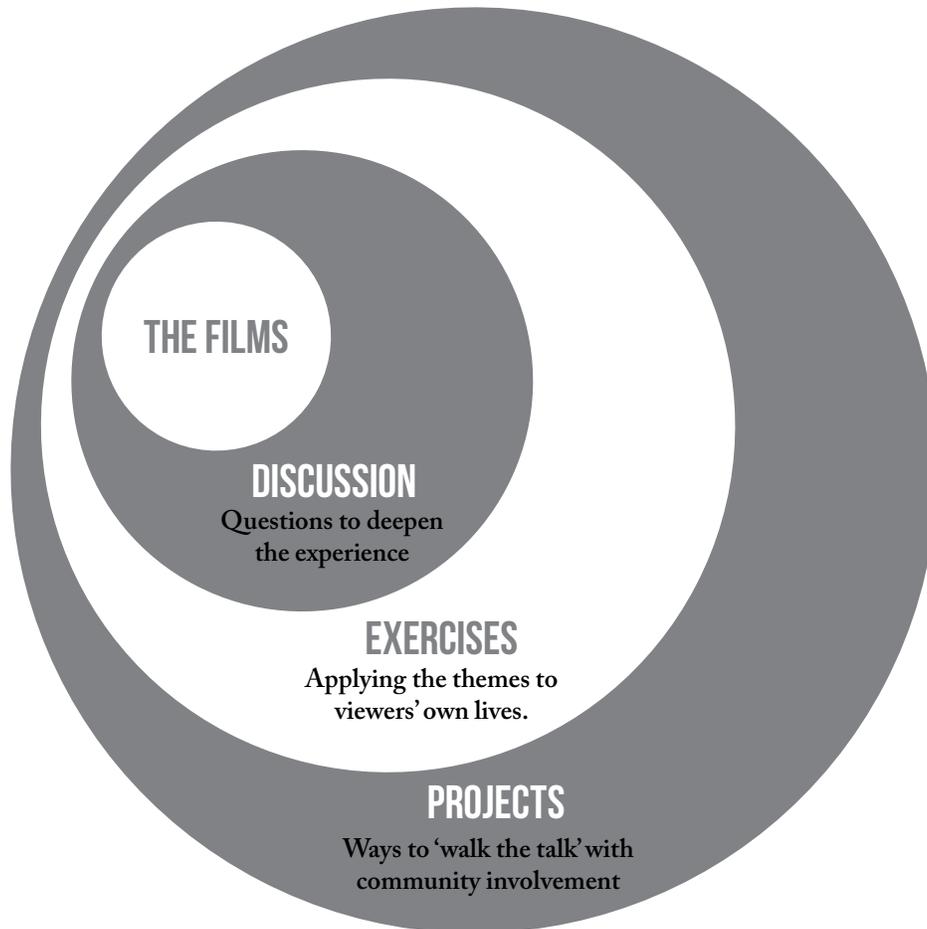# CONNECTIVITY PROJECT

Screening Toolkit

HOSTING YOUR EVENT: A ROADMAP

This toolkit is made to help you organize your screening event. It includes discussion questions, exercises and projects that you can cherry-pick from, to involve as much or as little audience participation as you like. Turn the page to see how different hosts might approach their screening events.

THE FILMS

DISCUSSION
Questions to deepen the experience

EXERCISES
Applying the themes to viewers' own lives.

PROJECTS
Ways to 'walk the talk' with community involvement

HOW TO VIEW THE FILMS

Once you have requested a screening through our website, you'll recieve a welcome letter with links and passwords to access the films on Vimeo.
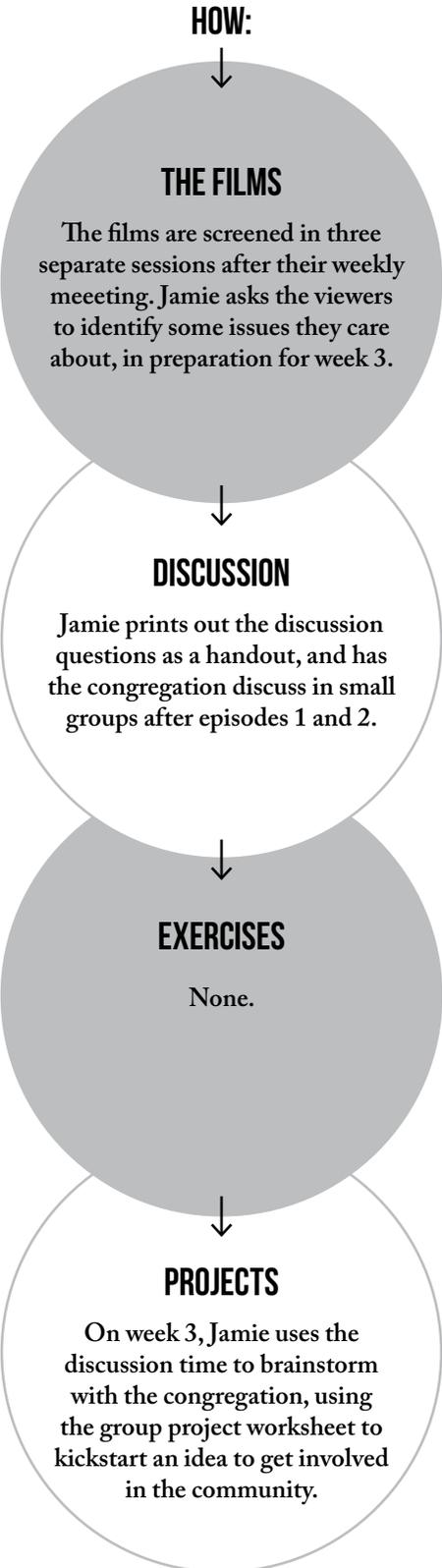
How you screen the episodes is up to you. You can view them all in one sitting, or as a three part series. If you have the time, we recommend watching the series over time (one episode each day, or each week) followed by discussion. You can talk as a group, or have your audience split into pairs or small groups to discuss amongst themselves, sharing ideas at the end.

Some hosts have chosen to screen just one episode that is particularly relevant to their community group. Others have chosen to view all three; however, factor in some time after each episode for deeper discussions and exercises.

Each episode and accompanying discussion encourage a deeper understanding of the elements introduced, so you'll get the most out of the series by using these materials to help instill a sense of belonging, a more inclusive way of seeing, and ultimately an empowering sense of responsibility.
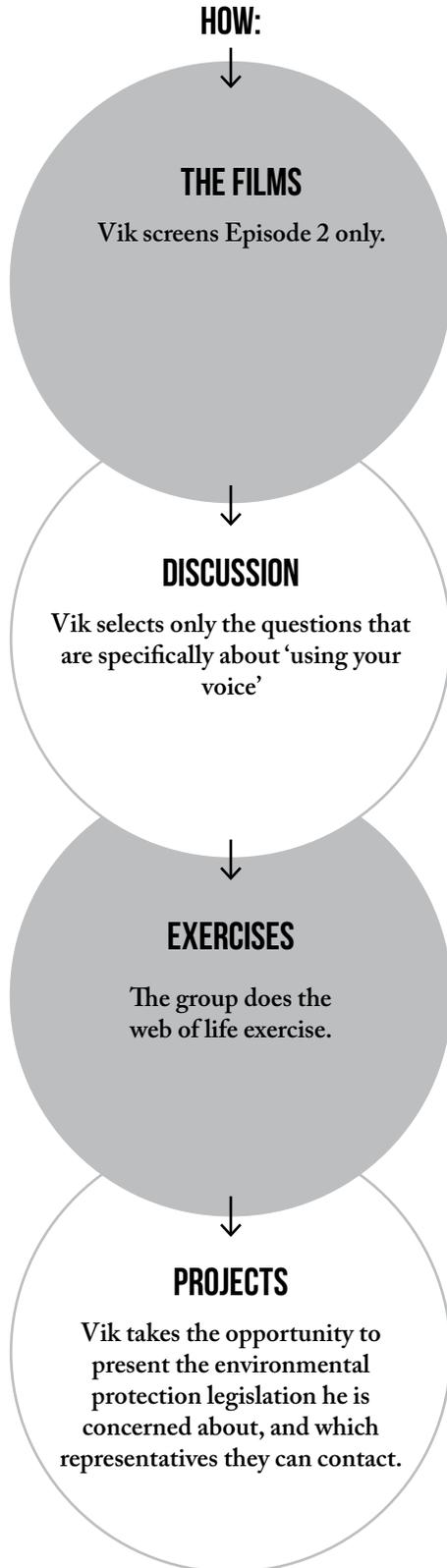
WHO:

Jamie at Unitarian Universalist Church

WHY:

Jamie wants to use the films as a community building experience, and to inspire the congregation to put their own values into practical action.
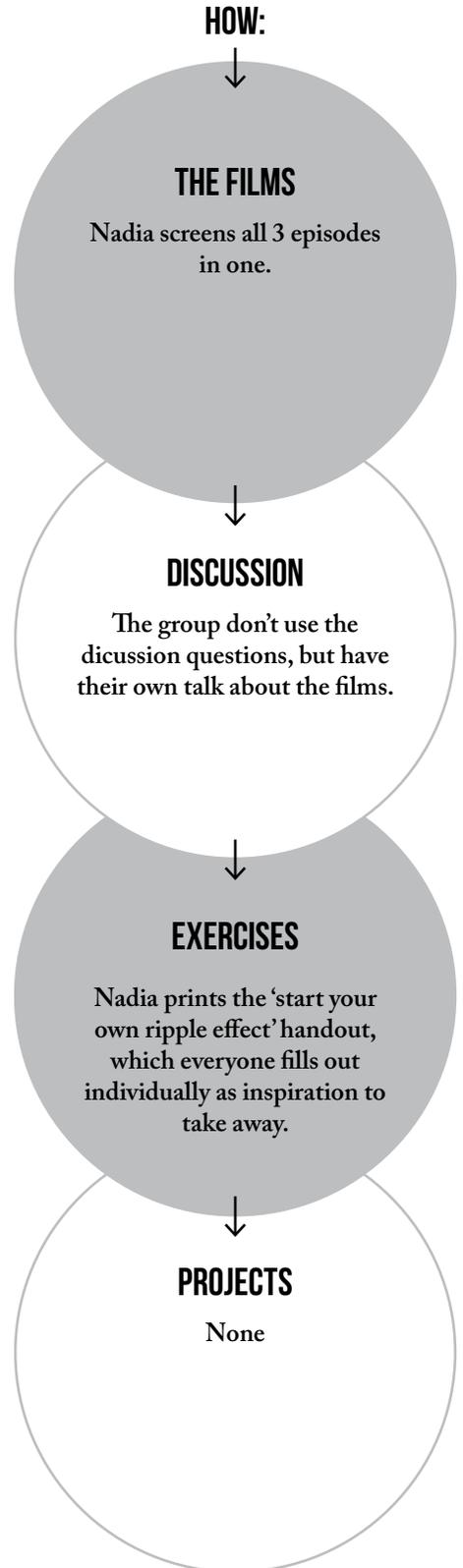
HOW:

↓

THE FILMS

The films are screened in three separate sessions after their weekly meeeting. Jamie asks the viewers to identify some issues they care about, in preparation for week 3.

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DISCUSSION

Jamie prints out the discussion questions as a handout, and has the congregation discuss in small groups after episodes 1 and 2.

↓

EXERCISES

None.

↓

PROJECTS

On week 3, Jamie uses the discussion time to brainstorm with the congregation, using the group project worksheet to kickstart an idea to get involved in the community.

WHO:

Vik at his local farmer's market organization group

WHY:

Vik wants to inspire his group to speak up to their government on environmental protection laws.

HOW:

↓

THE FILMS

Vik screens Episode 2 only.

↓

DISCUSSION

Vik selects only the questions that are specifically about 'using your voice'

↓

EXERCISES

The group does the web of life exercise.

↓

PROJECTS

Vik takes the opportunity to present the environmental protection legislation he is concerned about, and which representatives they can contact.

WHO:

Nadia - at home

WHY:

Nadia wants to have a movie night with friends who've been questioning what they can do to help the world.

HOW:

↓

THE FILMS

Nadia screens all 3 episodes in one.

↓

DISCUSSION

The group don't use the dicussion questions, but have their own talk about the films.

↓

EXERCISES

Nadia prints the 'start your own ripple effect' handout, which everyone fills out individually as inspiration to take away.

↓

PROJECTS

None

HOSTING GUIDE

A screening can be as informal or as structured as you like – from a bunch of friends and a couch, to a publicly promoted event with a group discussion. Here's a general guide for planning your event.

STEP 1
LOCK IN THE DATE, LOCATION, AND SCHEDULE.

Check that your preferred date doesn't conflict with any important events for your community. Consider the time of day - if you're using a projector, sunlight can make a big difference to visibilty, and you might need to cover windows. Decide whether you're going to split the series or watch it in one sitting. Plan a schedule for the evening. Include the time you'll need to set up, figuring in arrival times for anyone that might be helping you out. Once the event starts you'll need a few minutes to introduce the film and time for discussion and possible activities at the end.

STEP 2
GET A TEAM TOGETHER.

Think about any help you may need to make the event go smoothly. Will you need help with technical setup? Can your organization help you with promotion? Will you be emceeing the event (introducing the series and facilitating the discussion)? Are you comfortable speaking in front of a group? If your event will involve any extras like ticketed entry, parking directions, or food & drink, can you get an extra pair of hands on board so that you'll be free to oversee the event? Make and share a list of roles and responsibilities, so that everyone on the team knows what's needed. Do you want to partner with a local organization or two, for them to come and offer information about a topic to add to the discussion? If so, make sure to give them enough notice so they can put it on their calendar.

STEP 3
GET THE WORD OUT.

Send out screening invitations. You can customize the promotional materials in this toolkit with your event details. If inviting people via email or a Facebook event, encourage people to watch the trailer at connectivityproject.com

It's up to you if you will charge for tickets. This is one way for you to make up for the cost that you pay us upfront for the rights to use of the material. Or to accrue donations if this is a fundraiser for a cause. Consider whether you'll need to track the numbers and provide an address to rsvp to.

If your screening is public, you can send out a press release like the one we've provided, adding in your event details. Call your local media outlet to ask who the best person is to send the release to, or to speak about event listings.

Is there a radio station that would also promote this event? Even offer to host an interview about it? Contact us with your event details so that we can promote your event on our website and social media.

STEP 4
SET UP.

Print out any pages from this guide that you want to use as handouts for your viewers, and have the discussion questions on hand.

It always pays to have a practice run! Especially if you're using a projector or AV setup. Make sure the sound works, etc. Run through your introduction and closing remarks with a friend.

STEP 5
CURTAIN UP!

The way you structure your event is up to you. If screening all three episodes, you may want to break in between each episode for discussion. Or, kick off the discussion with the general questions, after finishing the whole series. Make the handouts available at the end. Most of all, enjoy!

STEP 6
LET US KNOW HOW IT WENT.

We'd love to hear about your screening and the audience response, and share a snap of the night on our social media.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

GENERAL QUESTIONS: APPLICABLE TO WHOLE SERIES

Before watching

- In what way do you feel you can make a difference in the world around you, or have some kind of impact?
- Think of an example of someone who has made a difference through their actions – no matter how small.

After watching

- How does seeing the world through this interconnected lens influence the way you think about things?

EPISODE 1: INTERCONNECTIONS

Before watching

- What common ideas and beliefs can you think of across religions or ethnic traditions?
- If people view the world in a disconnected way, what impact does that have on their actions?

After watching

- What common ideas and beliefs did the episode identify that are shared across religions or ethnic traditions?
- How do you see this interconnected way of being reflected in your life or in the lives of others?
- If people view the world as connected, how does or can this guide their actions and the impact of their actions on the world?
- What issues call you to act on and make a difference?

EPISODE 2: SPEAKING OUT!

Before watching

- What are some of the ways we interact with the air? How does air quality affect our lives, and how do we affect air quality?
- If you could change one thing in the world what would it be? What problems in the world feel too big to tackle?

After watching

- Based on what you learned from the episode, describe further all the aspects of life that air and air quality are a part of?
- Think of another example where interconnectivity between several aspects of life is apparent. Can you think of anything that is isolated and has no connection to any other aspect of life?
- What do you think influenced Clarissa to be able to speak out?
- How does the episode affect the way you think about the issue you identified earlier? What ideas have been sparked about how they could be addressed? What steps can you take to start?

EPISODE 3: PLANTS HAVE WINGS

Before watching

- How do bees and other pollinators impact our lives?
- What are your favorite foods to eat?

After watching

- What have you learned about pollinators now that you've watched the episode? Let's revisit the questions, How do they impact our lives? How do we impact their lives?
- Go back to your favorite food - do we depend on pollinators to produce it? What about your lunch today?
- What are some of the problems facing pollinators, and what can we do about them?

EXERCISES AND PROJECTS

The following pages can be printed as handouts for your class or audience. Use them as a starting point to take the ideas from the films and apply them to your own life and community.

RIPPLES EXERCISE

As a group or in smaller teams use the following steps:

- Generate a list of all the problems that the group feels are important to address. Use a whiteboard or large sheets of paper to map out the ripple effects surrounding one issue at a time.

- Map out the ripples that come from the problem. How does it impact other areas of life?

- Add all the ripples that could potentially arise if we **don't** address the problem.

- Then, map out the ripples that could manifest if we **do** address the problem. What impact could be made by taking action? Think about each area of life that this issue touches.

WEB OF LIFE EXERCISE

As a group, use the following steps:

- Each viewer or student will represent plants and animals living in a forest habitat. Have each person choose what they will represent - from moss, to fish, to wolves, to earthworms, or anything in between. They could also choose elements of the forest, like freshwater streams, rain, and clean air. Make nametags to remember who is what.

- Sitting or standing in a circle, toss a ball of string across the circle from person to person. With each throw, the 'thrower' should call out how they are connected to the 'catcher' in the life of the forest. Who depends on who?

- As the string unravels, these connections represent all the ways the forest inhabitants depend on each other. As they make connections, the **string** forms a visual **web of life.**

- Have one person tug gently on the string. Notice who is being impacted by that. Pull a bit harder to see if the impact is felt in more ways. This is a useful lesson to see how impact on one species can influence many others.

START YOUR OWN RIPPLE EFFECT

How many times have you wondered 'Does what I do make a difference in the world? Do I have the potential to accomplish great things?'

As we have examined through the Connectivity Project series, the answer is yes. We don't have to totally change our lives to begin making ripples of change in the world around us. In Fritjof Capra's wise words, *"The good news is that since everything is interconnected, it doesn't matter where you start. So if you ask 'what can I do?', I would say do what you're already doing, but do it differently. So it doesn't matter wherever you are, when you keep the interconnectedness of problems in mind."*

Turn the page for a few ideas to jumpstart your own ripple effect, by making small changes in your everyday life.

"DO WHAT YOU'RE ALREADY DOING, BUT DO IT DIFFERENTLY."

THE BUTTTERFLY EFFECT

As we learned, the Butterfly Effect shows that as the impact of our actions progresses, it can spread in countless non-linear directions. There is no telling just where the effects of a single action will end up.

"A butterfly beats its wings in China. A week after, a tornado forms in Texas"

So if we act in a way that aligns with how we want to see the world, we have a much better chance of creating that world - even if we can't predict the results.

Learn more about the butterfly effect:
archive.boston.com/bostonglobe/ideas/articles/2008/06/08/the_meaning_of_the_butterfly/?page=full
and wikipedia.org/wiki/Butterfly_effect

Find more ideas and inspiration on our site:
connectivityproject.com/directory.html
Connect with us on Facebook to share your own ideas. We'd love to hear about what you're doing to start a ripple effect.
facebook.com/ConnectivityProject

WHAT WILL YOU DO DIFFERENTLY?

Inspired to act? Maybe you know just what you want to do, or maybe you are seeking a few ideas to inspire you? The answer could be right in your backyard. Here are a few simple but effective changes you can make to start your own ripple effect.

SHOP DIFFERENTLY

Buy less packaging: quit disposable coffee cups, bottled water, and plastic bags.

Choose organic products when possible.

Vote with your dollars: buy from small companies that share your values, or invest in socially responsible companies and projects.

DO THE HOUSEWORK DIFFERENTLY

Cut back on, or stop, eating meat. You could start with one meat-free day a week as a new family tradition.

Garden with all plants and creatures in mind: avoid pesticides and toxic products.

Donate what you no longer need, instead of adding it to the landfill, and consider buying lightly used items yourself.

CONNECT TO YOUR COMMUNITY DIFFERENTLY

Say something kind, complimentary, or helpful to someone.

Call your local government rep about an issue that concerns you.

Volunteer when you can - whether it be a homeless support group, helping a child to read, being company for an elderly person, or a local environmental group.

What can one person can do? One answer is 'Don't be one person, find your people.' Identify your passions and you will find a tribe that will inspire you to get active. What organizations are associated with where your passions lie? Animal rights? Master Gardeners? Family support? Inventors with a cause?.... Start there.

Vote for what you believe in.

Why not take this opportunity to make a formal commitment to yourself? Pick one simple change you want to make, and put it into words. Then keep this page somewhere visible as a daily reminder.

What I'm going to do differently, to start my own ripple effect: ....

....

Signed: ....   Date: ....

HOW TO START A GROUP PROJECT

"People acting together as a group can accomplish things which no individual acting alone could ever hope to bring about." – Franklin D. Roosevelt

Perhaps you and some inspired friends have decided to take action on an issue that's important to you, to start a ripple effect in your own community. Here is a guideline on how to get started.

1. THE PROBLEM

The key to a good solution is a good understanding of the problem. Use everything at your disposal - talk to your local community, learn from existing organizations, and research online. Learn about the root causes of the problem, and what attempts have been made (successful or unsuccessful) to solve it in the past. Get specific, asking not just the 'what' of the problem but the 'why, how, when and who' questions. You might start out with a goal like 'helping the homeless', and find a much more concrete problem through your research, such as 'homeless women in our area have no access to sanitary products' or 'not having the resources to dress appropriately for a job interview is a big barrier to returning to the workforce.'

2. THE TEAM

To solve a problem, you also need to know the scope of your ability. Who is your core team? Beyond a passion for solving the problem, what are their skills, abilities and availability? Who will be the key decision-maker when members disagree? What resources (meeting space, time, transport) do you have at your disposal? Are there any skills you know you're missing, that might mean you need to recruit an additional team member?

3. THE IDEA

Now that you have a handle on the problem and your abilities, you can focus on the solution. Don't stop at your first idea - as a team, brainstorm as many solutions as you can think of. When you've done your brainstorming, take a step back. Identify what will have the most impact with the resources available. Be brutally honest - for example, you might find that holding a fundraising event for an existing organization will be more effective than starting your own organization. Whatever the project, it should have a concrete, measurable goal, and a specific timeline.

4. THE PLAN

So you have a goal, and a team. Now it's time to organize. Write down or mind map everything you'll need to achieve the goal, and assign a team member to take charge of each aspect of the project. This might include volunteer coordination, publicity, finances, logistics, communicating with venue owners or local government, cleaning up, etc. Get advice from people who've been there before - ask questions like 'what do you wish you'd planned for when you started your project?' Decide on specific and realistic time commitments. Break the project down into smaller sub-goals so you can focus on one task at a time.

5. THE ACTION

Now it's time for the rubber to hit the road. Remember to track your progress as thoroughly as you planned it. Hold regular team check-ins to reassess your goals, adapt to any changes in the plan, and celebrate your achievements as you go. If you're having fun, seeing progress, giving each other support, and holding each other accountable, you've got the key to a successful and sustainable project.

THE PROBLEM

THE TEAM

THE IDEA

THE PLAN

THE ACTION