Dear world,

So, what now?

As a global community, we are at an interesting crossroads. We don’t want to go back - we know we can do better. Yet forward is forked with some pretty big choices.

Coming out of the other side of COVID-19, the unequal impacts of the global pandemic are becoming increasingly clear, with some groups in need of immediate relief, while others are in a position to spark much needed long-term changes.

We may not all have the same footing, but we all need to go in the same direction. This month on Stories of place we explore society’s short and long term needs for the economic integration of newcomers and how they can be balanced. We then share some tools and stories of professionals who have been actively improving their intercultural collaboration and networking skills during the lockdown, and how you can do so as well. Finally, we finish off with some words for thought that resonate with the growing global call for change.

And talking of global change, the recent upheaval of the #blacklivesmatter movement has resonated so closely with our team and community that we sometimes found it hard to focus on continuing our respective daily routines. To say that PLACE stands behind #blacklivesmatter and black communities seems like an understatement, as many of us are active shakers on the topic of diversity in both our professional and personal lives on a daily basis. Yet it is a statement we want to make at this time, and we hope for all to make: black lives matter, and black communities need a voice, a power and a seat at the table that they simply have not had. Until all are given an equal chance to thrive, there’s no routine worth keeping.

So where do we go from here?

Forward, together.

Welcome to your monthly digest of Stories of place.

What does economic integration of refugees look like post covid 19?

The response to the economic integration of migrants and refugees has historically been based on entry-level jobs. A response that favours urgent income generation and autonomy, but understates the potential of newcomer talent and ignores the longer term needs for diverse leadership.

Our economies may not have been mastering the economic integration of newcomers in the past, but in the post-covid world we have a chance to make things work - for everyone this time.

Cultivating rich networks remotely

Coming out on the other side of the lockdown and into the new normal, we are not necessarily jumping back into the office. Remote working is here to stay – and with it comes a new skill to be mastered – remote networking. As we change the way we network, we have an opportunity to improve the shortcomings of past networking tactics to come out stronger and more resilient in the future of work.

Coaching emerging leadership

Earlier in 2020, PLACE put out a call for professionals from around the world who wanted to connect with emerging leaders from newcomer backgrounds. Through this far reaching call we welcomed 11 professionals, representing 9 nationalities and spanning across 5 countries to the PLACE community. After being trained on remote, agile, coaching methodology, the coaches were matched with the Catalysts of the Emerging Leaders program. Through monthly calls, coaches and Catalysts have been connecting, problem-solving and solution-finding as they work towards the Catalysts’ goals in the area of public leadership.

Did these stories spark some fresh ideas? Never miss a beat by following Stories of place on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

Take care until next time,

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