

You are invited to participate in an experience of participatory theater (forum theater) offered by the Wisconsin Conference Anti-Racism Task Force. Dr. Amy Sarno, director of theater at Beloit College will conduct the performance and training sessions. No prior acting or performance experience is needed.

Contact Rev. Lamarr V Gibson for more information at (608) 509-6832 or lvgibson48@gmail.com.

Description of the Workshops

Change isn't always easy – sometimes it takes practice. Amy Sarno, a participatory theatre facilitator with extensive experience in anti-racism work, will playfully guide participants through the creative process of Forum Theatreⁱ. June 8th and 9th, we'll play games, tell stories, and build scenes that provoke action and thought about anti-racism. June 10th, we'll rehearse the future with the whole in the general session. The only thing you need is a playful heart and the belief in a better future!

Workshop Schedule

The workshops build on each other. We hope many of you will be able to make all three sessions. Please wear comfortable clothes and soft soled shoes/barefoot.

Thursday, June 8: 6:00 - 9:00 pm: Introduction to Forum Theatre and games, games, games!

Tonight's activities will be all about discovery. We'll get to know each other. We'll develop trust. We'll also become more aware of what our bodies and voices can do. Tonight's session will be like being a kid again!

Friday, June 9: 9:00 am - Noon: Telling Stories, Inventing Scenes

This morning will start with story circles, move into sculpting experiences, and develop short scenarios that teams will be excited to act out.

Friday, June 9: 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm: Rehearsing for Revolution!

After a few short rehearsal exercises, we'll test out what it's like to have an audience member step into the roles you created. At the end of the night, we'll decide which scene we want to share!

Saturday, June 10: A 15-minute performance for the conference session (Time TBA)

ⁱ Brazilian dramatist Augusto Boal invented Forum Theatre as "a rehearsal for revolution". By creating short scenes about a hero's oppression, audiences can dialogue about solutions to some of tough social and moral problems. To find out more about his work, read Boal, Augusto. *Theatre of the Oppressed*. New York: Routledge, 2000.