



Narrative Pathways Through European Heritage

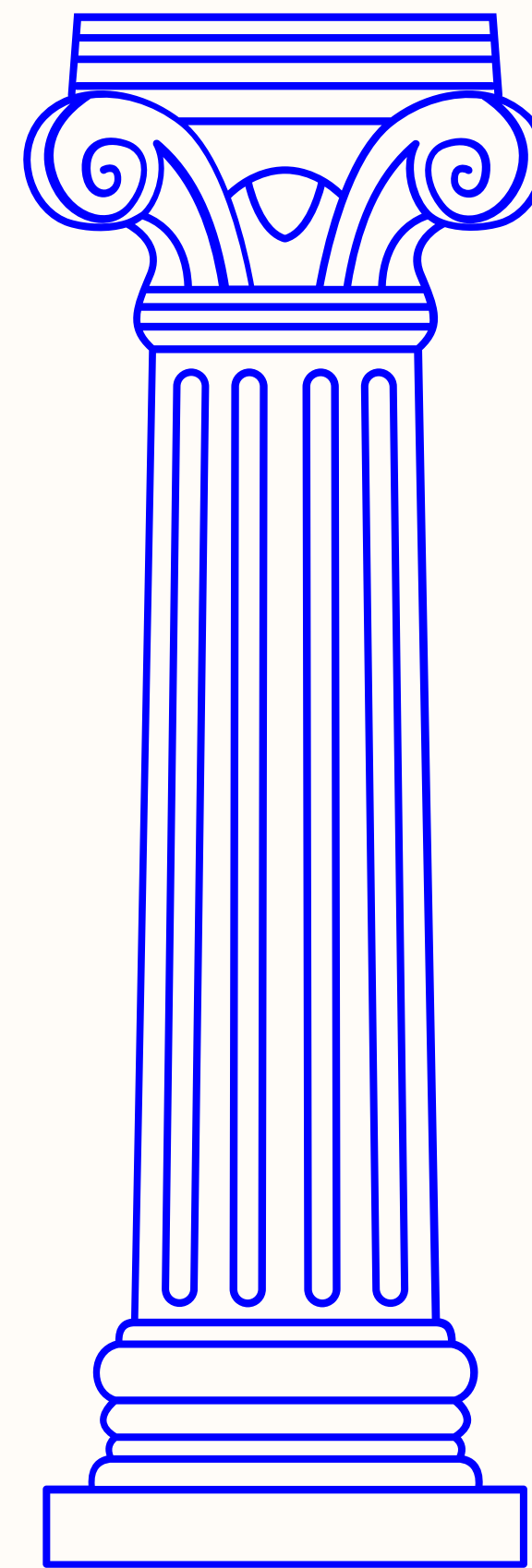
Interdisciplinary Cultural Mediation Model





History of the cultural subject linked to a specific element of European heritage

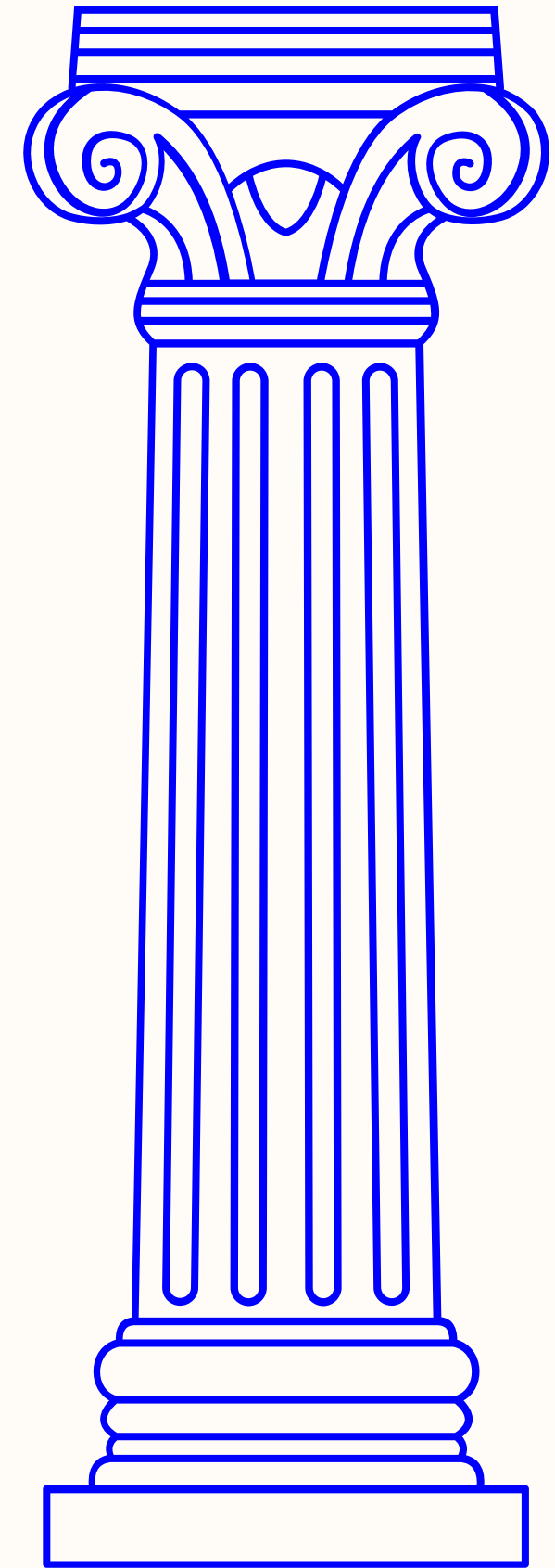
This workshop redefines heritage not as something fixed, monumental, or official, but as lived, emotional and subjective. Inspired by practices in oral history and participatory cartography, it values the intimate and diverse relationships people form with their territory.

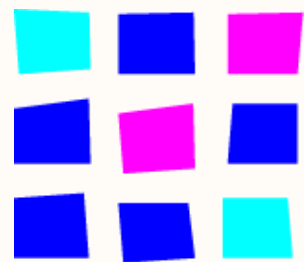


Participants are invited to express their personal experience of a city or region by choosing three types of places:

- A favourite place they love or feel connected to
- A place they avoid or that triggers discomfort or exclusion
- A dream location that does not yet exist, but could

These stories—personal, poetic, political—become fragments of collective memory when shared and geolocated on a common map.

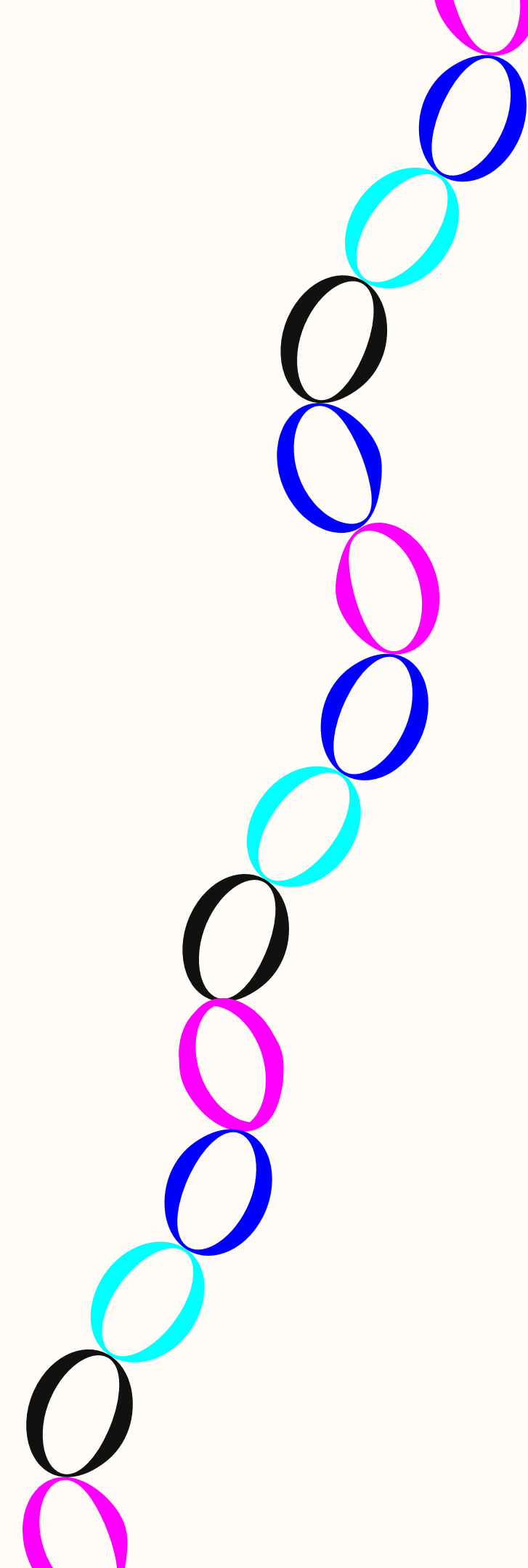




Link to active citizenship

The workshop supports territorial appropriation, civic expression, and intergenerational understanding. By giving voice to their experience of place, participants explore how space can include or exclude, heal or hurt, inspire or frustrate.

The collective map becomes a civic archive: a space for plural narratives, contradictions, dreams, and shared futures. It can inform local authorities, urban designers, educators and community workers.



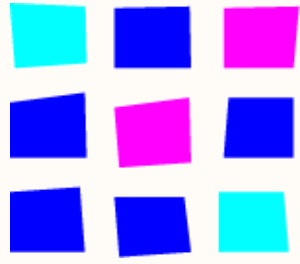


Innovative aspect of the activity



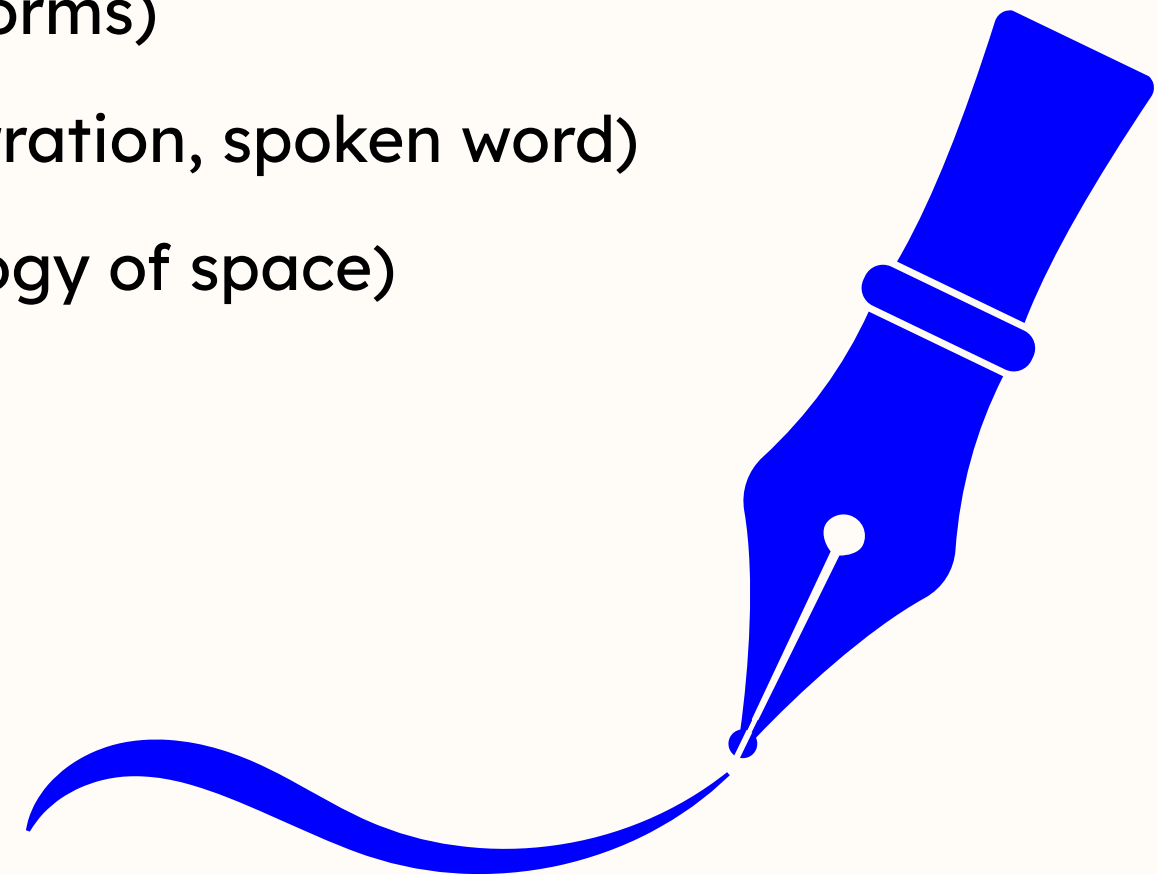
1. The use of geolocated audio storytelling transforms everyday places into emotional and narrative landscapes.
2. Each participant becomes both storyteller and cartographer, linking personal feelings to collective space.
3. The project merges oral tradition, digital mediation and citizen expression, breaking hierarchies between "official" and "unofficial" heritage.





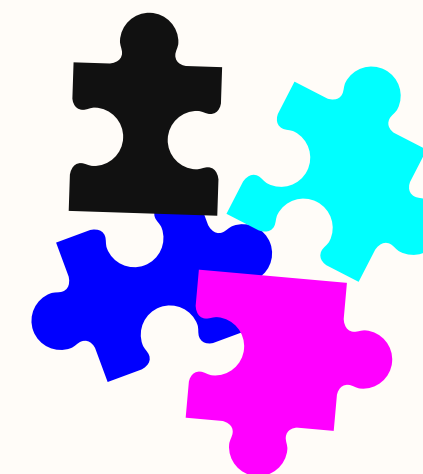
Specific subjects developed

- Civic education (freedom of expression, participation, public space)
- Geography (mapping, spatial perception, territory)
- Digital culture (interactive mapping, audio editing, web platforms)
- Language & literature (oral storytelling, autobiographical narration, spoken word)
- Social sciences (urban sociology, memory studies, anthropology of space)

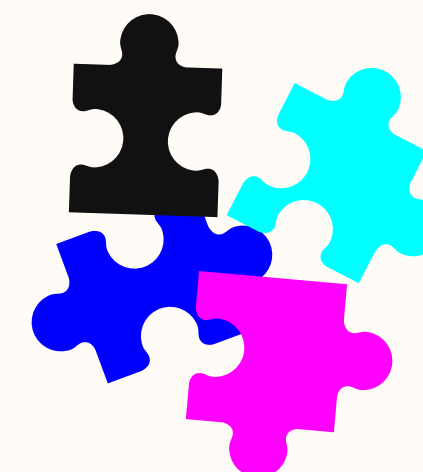
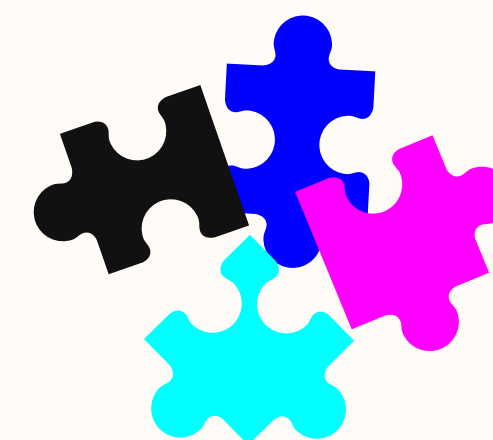


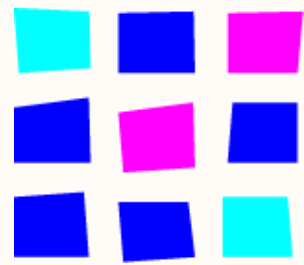


Accessibility



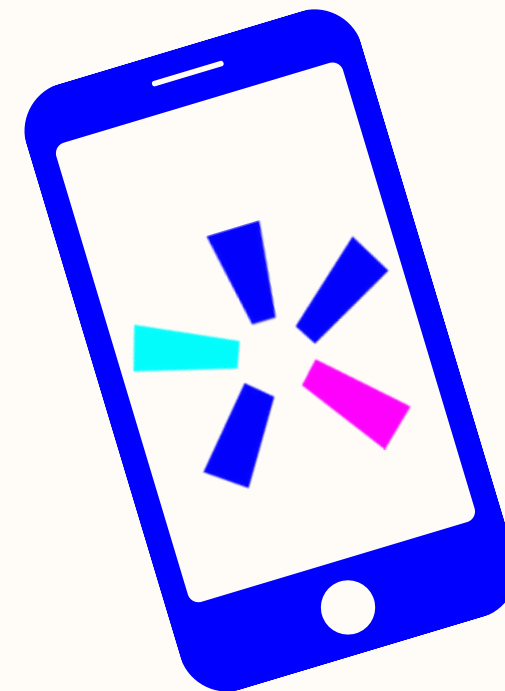
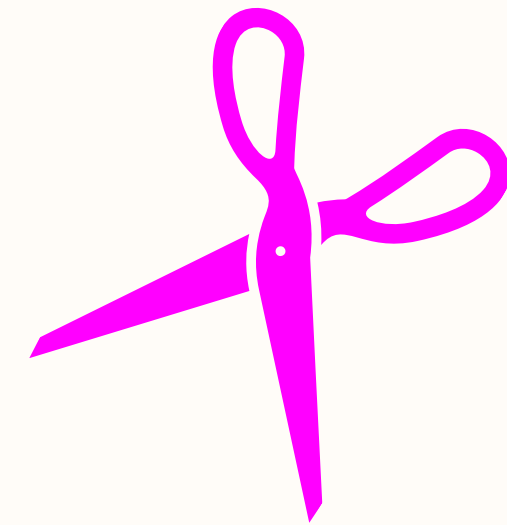
- Free-form oral expression allows participation regardless of writing or literacy level.
- Possibility to record in multiple languages
- Map accessible online and through QR codes or printed maps for low-tech access.
- Inclusive of diverse publics: youth, elderly, newcomers, people with disabilities.

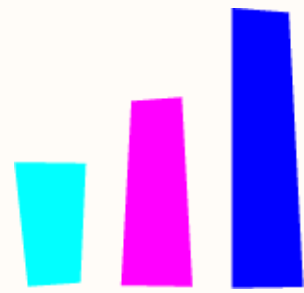




Materials required

- Smartphones or audio recorders
- Simple map of the neighbourhood/region
- Access to an interactive map platform (e.g. Google My Maps, Umap, or open source alternatives)
- Headphones for listening sessions





Duration of the activity

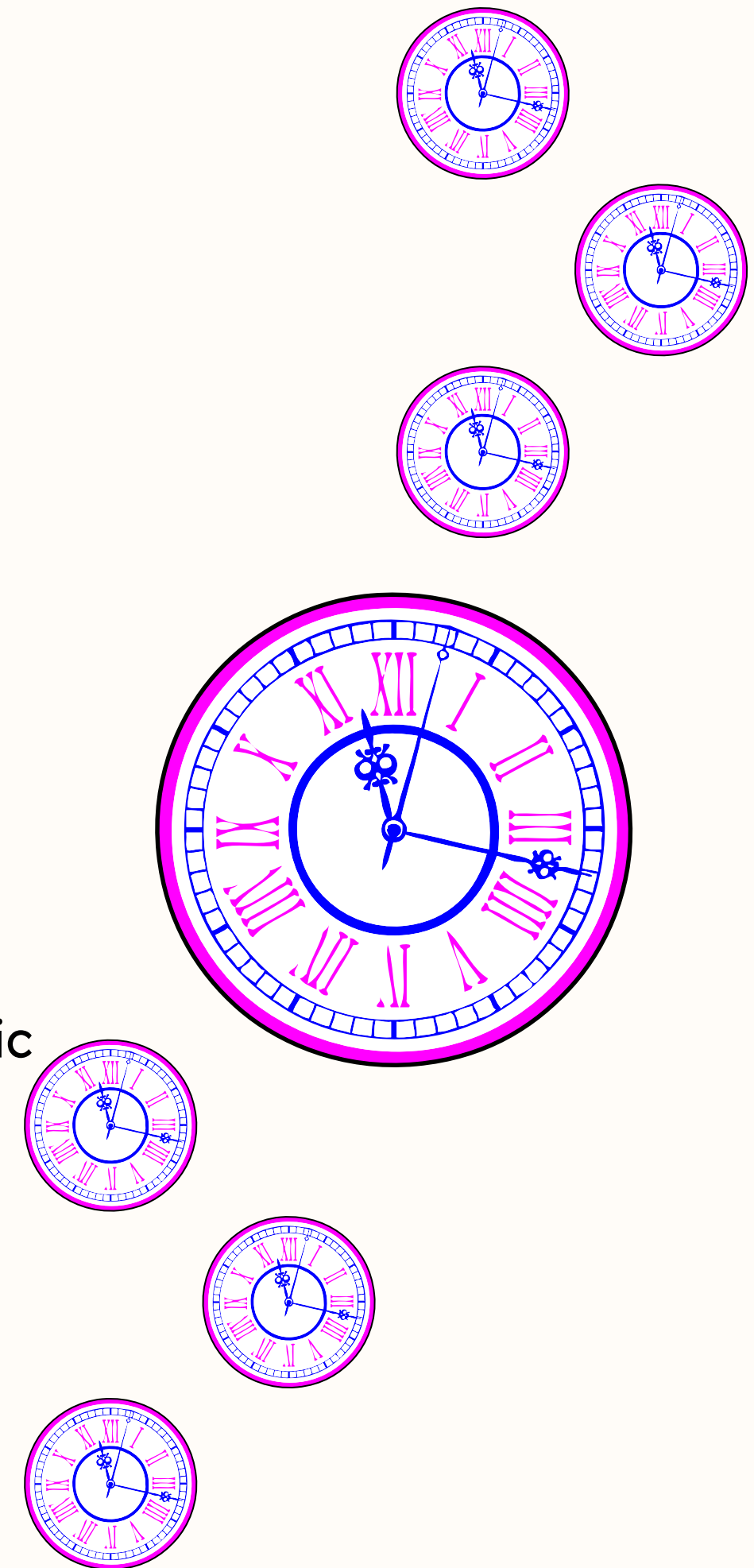
Standard format:

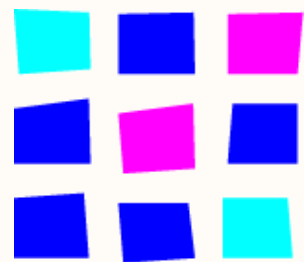
- 1h storytelling preparation
- 1h recording session
- 1h map input and listening/sharing

Extended format:

- 2–3 sessions including audio editing, community listening walk, and public presentation

Modular: can be used in short workshops, school projects, or cultural mediation programs





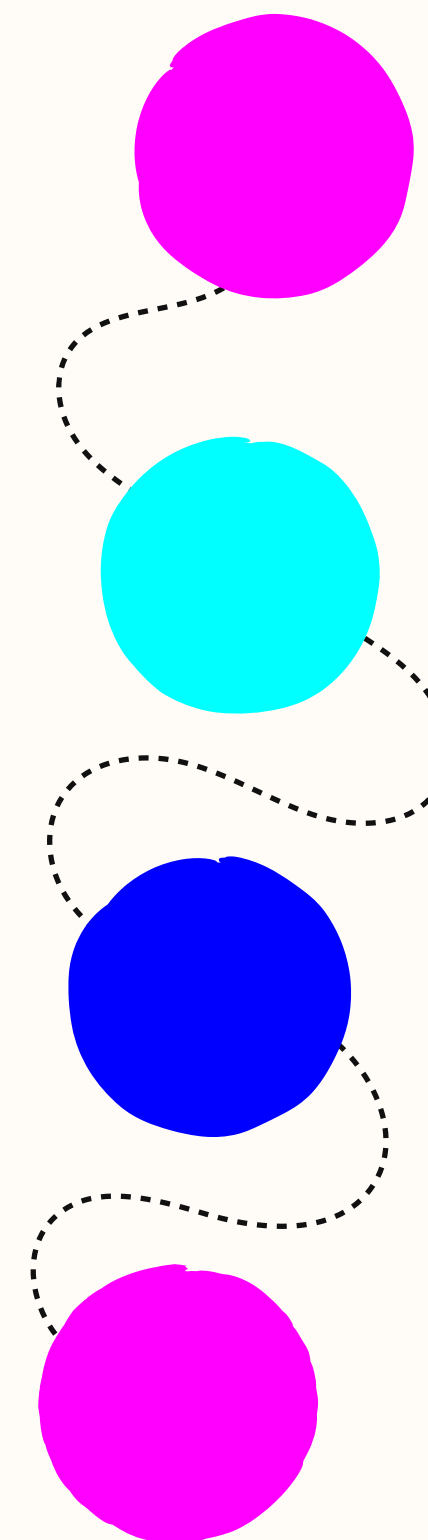
Description of the activity

1. Personal mapping

Each participant reflects on their relationship to the region by identifying three places (favourite / avoided / dreamed). They discuss their choices in small groups, sometimes with photos, objects or memories.

2. Recording the story

Participants record their accounts in a natural and personal way, focusing on what they feel, remember, or imagine. Recordings can be done individually, in pairs, or with a facilitator.

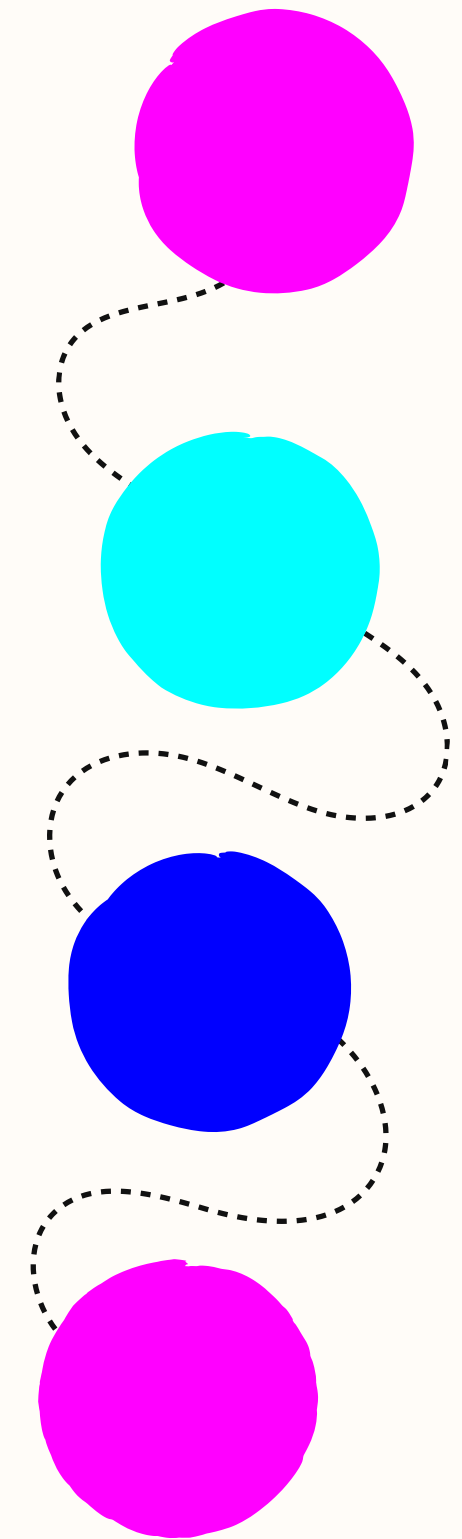


3. Geolocation and interactive map

The recordings are uploaded to a collaborative map where each story appears linked to a point on the territory. The interface can include photos or text if desired.

4. Public restitution: sound walk or exhibition

Participants invite families, neighbours or elected officials to listen to the map—online or via a printed map with QR codes—through headphones or small audio devices. A sound walk may be organized, creating an emotional and political journey through the city.



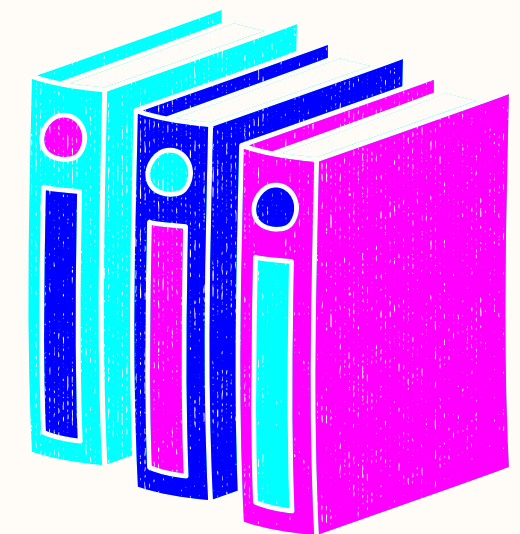
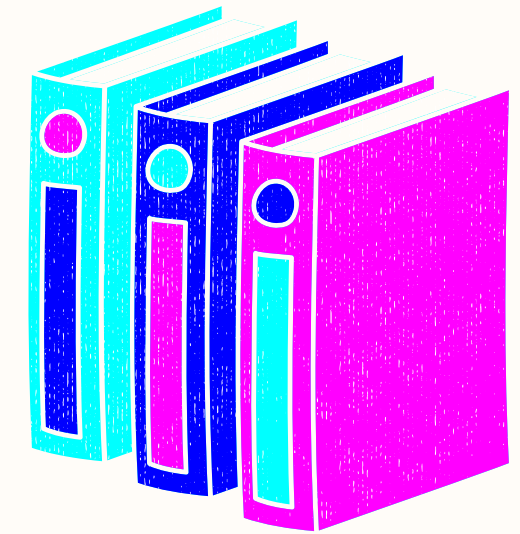


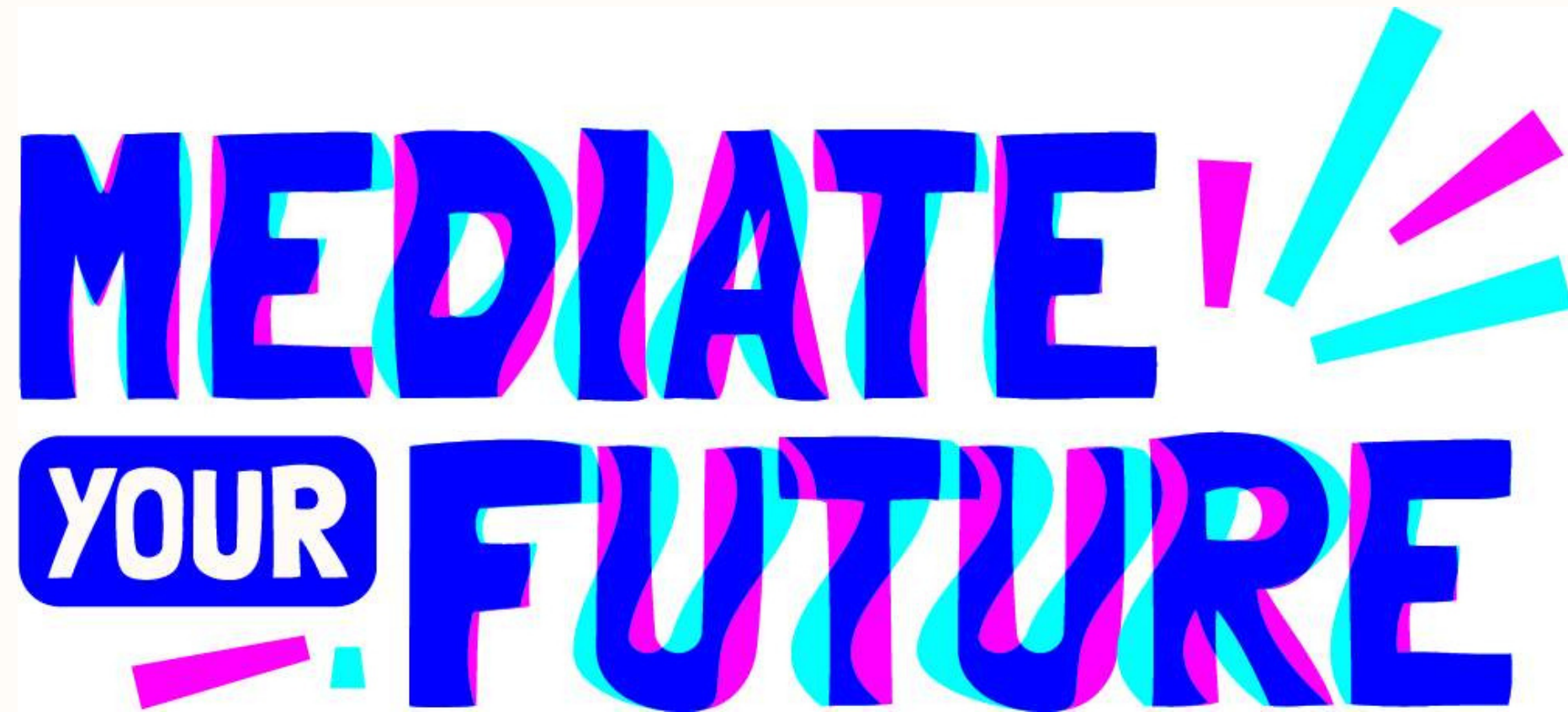
To go further & Resources

This model can be extended to:

- Memory projects with elderly residents in care homes
- Integration programs for newcomers or migrant communities
- School projects fostering place-based identity and civic awareness
- Urban design consultations involving youth voice
- Public libraries, using the map as a narrative resource for future generations
- Artistic residencies that explore the link between memory and space

The map can evolve over time, becoming a living and growing heritage object, and a tool for inclusion and dialogue.





Check out more project resources at mediateyourfuture.eu



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