

Towards Step 9: From Individuals to Community

Purpose of Step 9

In Step 8, each member of your Pub set a personal goal for making the world more beautiful, either by creating art immediately, or setting themselves up to create art later. Everyone then shared their goal with the group and with a particular accountability partner. In Step 9, we transition from creating art as individuals to creating art as a community. *The Community Endeavor*. The benefit of this is everyone's unique strengths plays a part, thus non-artistic skills are integral towards the creation of art. (Someone has to handle the budget!)

The goal of moving towards Step 9 is for your Pub to identify, commit to, and pursue a *shared community project* that fosters the arts.

Prerequisites

- The Pondering Plus has been launched.
 - Step 8 is actively pursued: Each member is working on their personal beautification goal and leadership is having regular updates on progress.
 - An end date is set on when to transition fully to Step 9.
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Remember! Reflect on Individual Beautification Goals

At the beginning of each Pondering, remember to have:

- Each member briefly update the group on their beautification goal progress.
- Reflections on what was learned, what obstacles came up, and how beauty was fostered.
- Recognition of successes and encouragement for perseverance.

This creates a bridge: showing that individual commitments are real and preparing for the community to set a shared one.

Towards determining what your Community Endeavor will be:

4 steps:

1. Determine flavor - Truth, Beauty, or Goodness?
2. Decide impact
3. Discern initial strengths, opportunities, and scope
4. Do more research
5. Specify
6. Repeat 3-5 until an endeavor is decided.

Reflect on the upcoming Community Endeavor

At the beginning of each Pondering, after the beautification updates have occurred, set aside 10 minutes to further clarify the community challenge. Remember: Not everyone has to be completely sold on this goal, you can have more in the future.

Encourage brainstorming without pressure. Record every idea.

Step 1: Determine the Flavor - Truth, Beauty, or Goodness?

What type of goal do you want to be pursuing? This is the emotional why. The type or flavor of goal you pursue will provide the driving motivation throughout the endeavor. This is your spark, the thing that gets you going.

- Truth - Do you want to bring beauty out into the world, so that others are forced to face that God is Good; by hosting a poetry night or “intellectual discussion nights” at a local business, by starting a new Pondering somewhere, or continuing to refine and encourage individual members to publish their own artworks?
- Beauty - Do you want to pool your efforts to create a work of art that can only be created by a group; such as a play, a *collection* of poems that center around a theme, a cookbook, photo excursion, or other medium that crystalizes the culture of your time?
- Goodness - Do you want to co-ordinate your efforts towards more traditional means of charity; such as volunteering to build houses for the homeless, volunteering at end-of-life centers, or participating in grant writing?

What types of projects most excited your Pub? _____

Ask your Pub what flavor they would like to pursue. _____

When your Pub has settled on a project (generally), record it here: _____

Step 2: Decide impact.

This is your logical why. When things get hard and emotions fade, these rationales will remind your Pub why they keep going.

How will the pursuit of the endeavor make the world more beautiful? How will it help your Pub draw closer together? How will this help your Ponderers become more creative?

Make sure each core member gives at least one reason. Record who says what. That way, when they get discouraged, you can remind them why this is important to *them individually*.

More beautiful?

Draw closer together?

More Creative?

Step 3: Discern initial strengths, opportunities, and scope

First, decide the scope. Do not overcommit. Given your current information, what is a realistic commitment? What is a realistic start date? How much time and resources *can* each person commit? How much does each person *want* to commit?

Figure out what each person wants to contribute to this project. Then, figure out what they can commit - where do their strengths lie. After you've determined your Pub's capacity, determine what might be a good opportunity for you to pursue.

What is the current endeavor? _____

What is each Pub member's ability to commit, and what role or skills can they offer in achieving the endeavor in its present state?

Ponderer: _____

Commitment Limitations: _____

Skills or Role: _____

Ponderer: _____

Commitment Limitations: _____

Skills or Role: _____

Ponderer: _____

Commitment Limitations: _____

Skills or Role: _____

Ponderer: _____

Commitment Limitations: _____

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Commitment Limitations: _____

Skills or Role: _____

Ponderer: _____

Commitment Limitations: _____

Skills or Role: _____

Step 4: Do more Research

Between this Pondering and next, what opportunities presented themselves that more closely fits your Pondering's Community Endeavor? When you group, share what each person came across at the start of the Community Endeavor section.

Keep in contact with the Outreach Coordinator. The Pondering Pub is a network of artists and doers. If your Pub wants to do something, see if someone has done the goal already that can teach you how to do it. Don't reinvent the wheel.

Step 5: Specify

As information becomes available and the goal becomes clearer, refine the community endeavor. Make sure the goal is:

- **Specific & Meaningful:** It fosters beauty and connects to the arts.
- **Collective:** Everyone has a role to play.
- **Realistic:** Achievable within 3–6 months.
- **Visible:** Something the group can look back on as a milestone.

What does the goal's end look like?

What individual tasks will need to be done to accomplish this end?

What will it take to complete each task?

Who will be doing what tasks?

Step 6: Repeat.

Repeat steps 3-5 until an endeavor has been formulated that can be completed from beginning to end. If you don't have all the info, that's alright. You only need enough. Enough to know the direction you're headed in, with the momentum to pursue, and goalposts to measure that you're on the right path.

The Community Pledge

Once a Community Endeavor has been set, Commence it with the Pondering Pledge:

- Each member pledges to uphold the community goal.
 - Consider reading the **Pondering Pledge** together.
 - Close with a prayer of thanksgiving and blessing for the shared endeavor.
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Ongoing Practice

- **Check-ins:** At every Pondering, allow time to brainstorm progress towards the community goal alongside individual updates.
- **Accountability:** The Pub Rep ensures each meeting keeps the project moving forward.
- **Celebrate Milestones:** Recognize progress along the way, not just at the end.