

The Story Of A SART

Learning to Find Ourselves in the Stories We Tell

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“The power of a story rests in its ability to shape what we believe is possible to do, have, and achieve in our lives. Stories condition us over time with messages telling us who and what are worthy to exist in the world.”

–Angela Lemus-Mogrovejo

“Stories are powerful because they transport us into other people’s worlds.”

–James Baldwin



Objectives

- Identify the story of your SART, your community, and your response
- Demonstrate how community storytelling is integral to SART work.
- Expand the SART/community feedback loop

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Why Stories?

- Stories build community.
- Stories create connections.
- Stories provide political & social context.
- Stories spark action.
- Stories cast vision.

The Issue

“If survivors do not see their experiences reflected in the narratives awareness and outreach professionals uplift, it is less likely that they will access the supportive services professionals aim to promote.”

-Ohio Alliance to End Sexual Violence



Sometimes, sexual violence responders don't see themselves as part of the community they serve. This creates distance between them and the community.

Impact

- Barriers between SARTs and Community
- Lack of Trust in Responders
- Less People Accessing Services
- Extra barriers for marginalized communities

Why could there be a lack of trust?

- Fear of racial bias
- Fear of homo/trans/biphobia
- Fear of being blamed or disbelieved
- Fear of deportation
- Fear of being criminalized for reporting due to profession
- Fear of the response in a tight-knit community

The Opportunity

“Rather than feel as though I was merely a spectator in the fight to achieve freedom for oppressed communities, I could be part of those leading the charge for justice. All of this simply from engaging in the power of stories and storytelling.”

-Angela Lemus-Mogrovejo

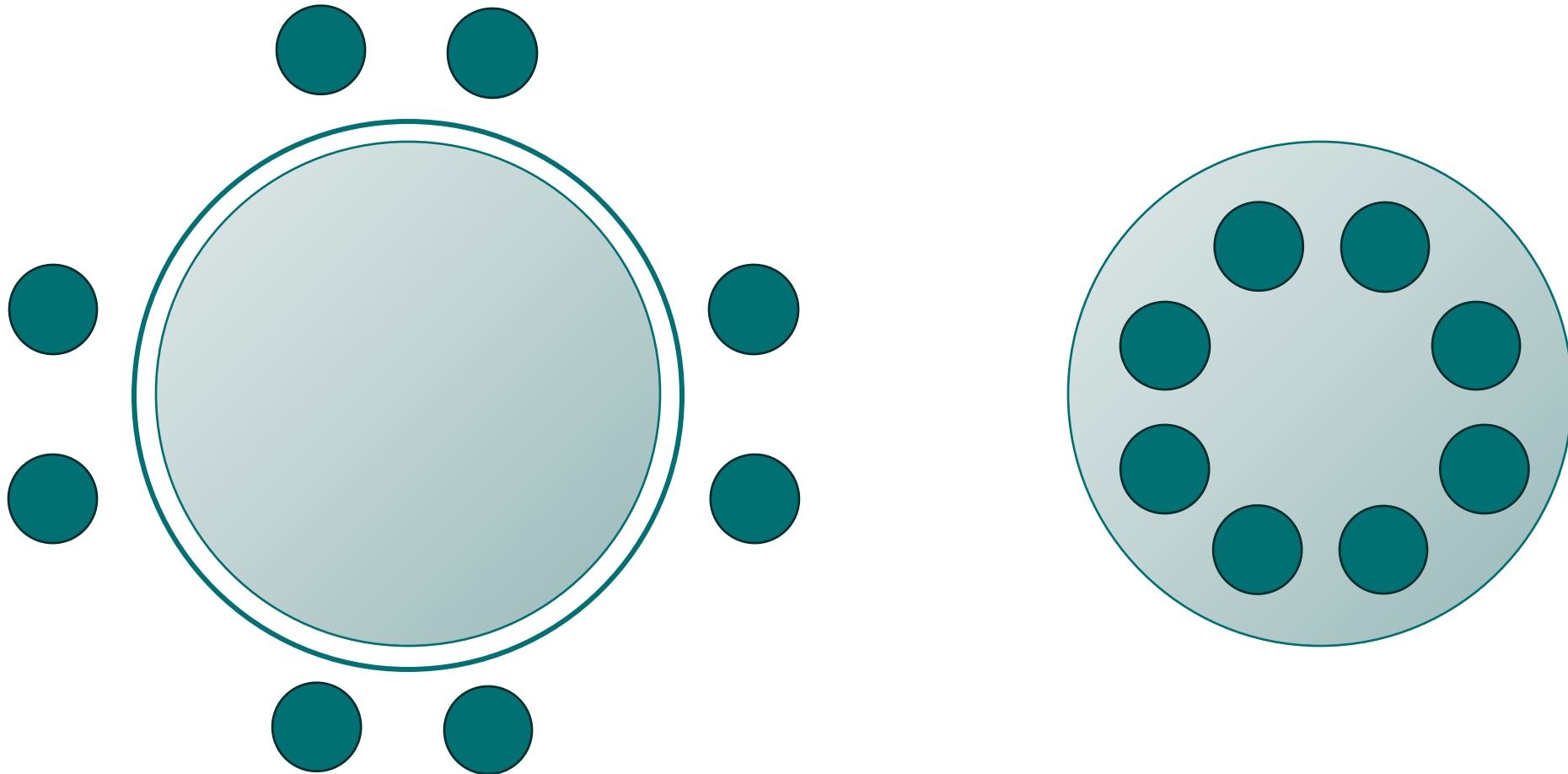


We can only create change when our community is active and invested in that change.

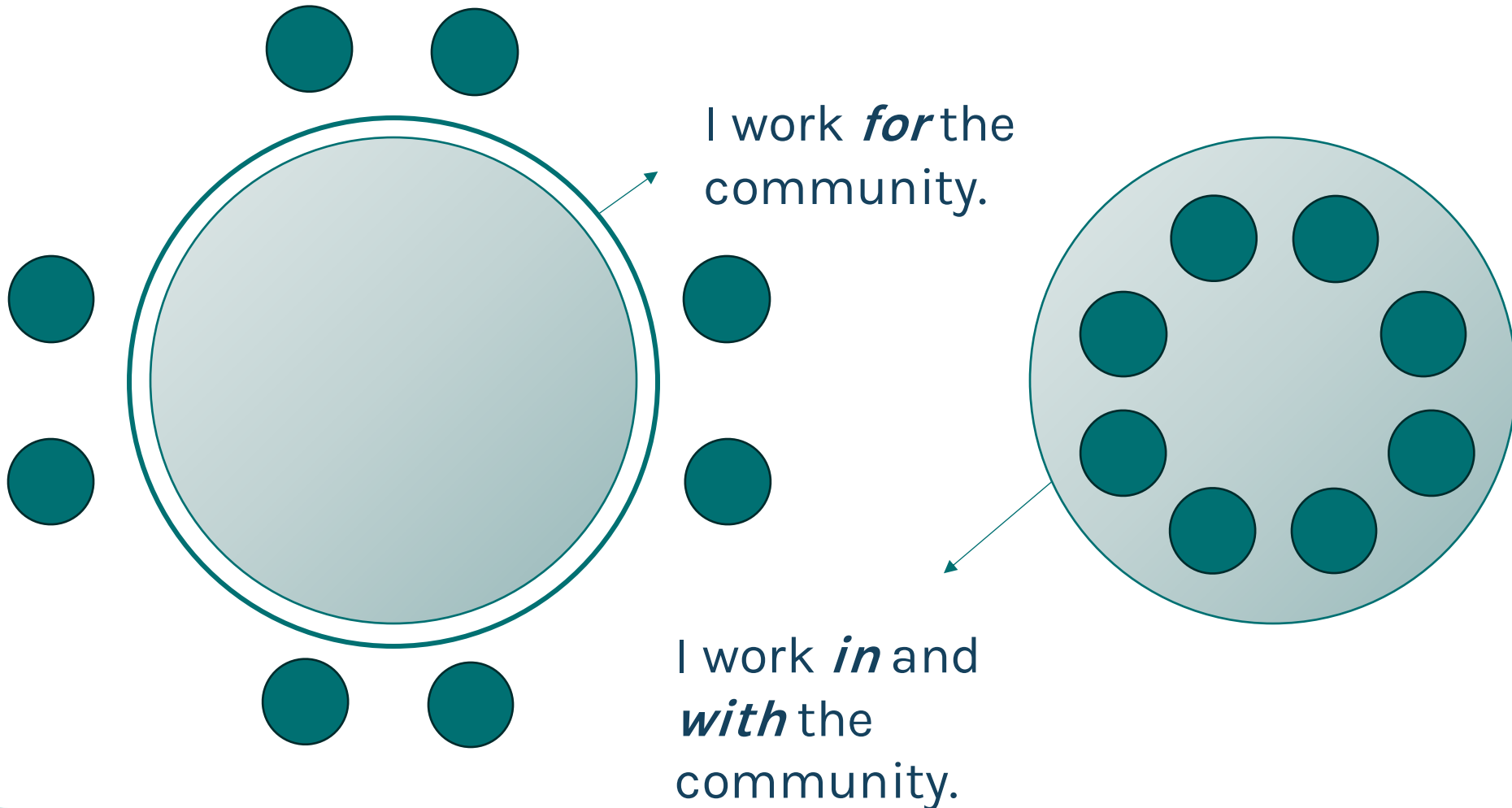
Storytelling As A Pathway to Connected Community



What do you observe about the illustration on the left compared to the right?



A Small Difference With A Big Impact



What Is the Story of A SART?

- **WHO** is your community?
- **WHY** are you doing this work?
- **WHAT** is your SART's relationship with your community?

When you tell your community story, you are telling your OWN story.

Does that impact how you would want the story to be told?

What Is Ethical Storytelling?

- Trauma-informed
- Consent-based
- Power-aware
- Nuanced

Ethical Storytelling Practices

- Who has power in the story you are telling? Is it people who harm? Is it you and your team?
- What is the relationship between you/your team and the audience?
- Does your messaging challenge or deepen a stereotypical narrative?
- Has the subject of your story given *informed* consent?
- Is there a risk of harm to anyone by sharing the story?
- Do you have the right to share the story?
- Why are you telling this story? What are your and your team's motivations



Closing the SART Feedback Loop

Treat your community as experts on their experiences and needs.

- Participatory Research
- Anonymous Storytelling Platforms
- Community Roundtables or Listening Sessions

Activity Time



Go forth and
tell good
stories!

