

SCENARIO for Unit 2a:

Integration of the three projects described in scenario 1b drew enthusiastic participation not only from the targeted neighborhood but also from those all around. During the weekend celebration that showcased Igbo themed sculpture, women's storytelling and historical accounts of Oak Park, many participants drew attention to the particular needs of young adults of this and surrounding neighborhoods who are in their late teens & early 20s, many of whom are drifting in the face of high unemployment and crime. So now the OPSS City Repair staff would like to develop a project specifically for this age group, and they are considering three options.

Knowing that you have studied medieval Chinese practices that inspired and deepened reflection, the City Repair staff consults you about the three options they are considering (see links in on-line schedule for more information):

- A. A local landscape photographer has offered to mentor a group of interested youths in her art, which requires only a simple camera; she will lend her tripods and a few special lenses to the effort. Using the local American river and nearby Sierra foothills as subject matter, she will meet with this group each weekend to teach both composition and how to present one's work.
- B. A neighbor who attends Spirit Rock Meditation Center in Marin County has expressed a wish to sponsor 10-20 youths from the neighborhood to attend a one-month silent retreat there. Teaching monks for Pa Auk Monastery in Burma will come to oversee the retreat, teaching proper rules for daily life and leading meditation sessions. (See also video of daily activities at Pa Auk.)
- C. A Latino family has offered to teach interested youths and their families the Day of the Dead customs they grew up with. They will begin meeting the fall to hear each family's stories of both distant ancestors and relatives recently passed, and to provide instructions on how to create a home altar with photos and objects representing the dead. At the beginning of November they will visit each others' homes for ceremonial food offerings and remembrance of the dead.

Having heard from you that these practices are similar to the Neo-Confucian and Chan practices of medieval China, the City Repair staff has asked that you **offer some advice about how to facilitate these activities effectively**, given that they want to inspire and deepen the reflection of the young adult participants that they hope to attract.

HOMEWORK: Using annotations &/or separate notes, gather evidence from the historical records of the medieval Chinese practices assigned for this unit (see schedule) that helps you evaluate the way(s) that the **practice inspired** and **deepened the reflection** of those who engaged in the practice

- Identify **actions, objects, spaces/locales & people** involved in each practice and **words & images** about which participants reflect, which show ways those practices inspire &/or deepen participants' reflection about unseen beings & forces. ****MAKE SURE TO CITE PAGE #S FOR EACH EXAMPLE****
- Since you will eventually be asked to apply what you learned to activities A-C proposed above, **look for ways that the historical Chinese practices are similar to those contemporary activities.**