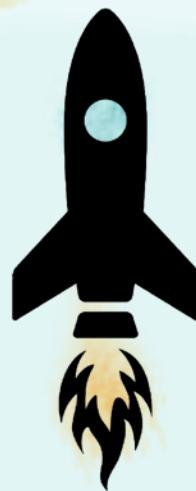




Half Way Point

Doubt creeps in. I second guess the plan, question if it's working and am dubious about the quality of my work. This is when I'm mostly like to reorganize my closet or take on boring administration tasks. I am amazingly productive, just not in terms of important project work.



Project Launch

The exciting part. Getting underway. Moving quickly and deeply into the work. Generating relationships, stories and aspirations. Feeling energized. Monitoring progress so that we can shift, grow or scale back. Time and good will are on my side.



Blacksmithing

When I forge the plan. Hammering out proposals and workshopping them with collaborators. Exploring goals, negotiating roles, identifying tasks and generating the timeline. Checking in with myself that the project meets personal goals as well as community and institutional partners' needs. Melding everything together into an agreed upon framework. Heat and light.

R&D The fun part.

Reading, thinking, and musing until I land on an idea that inspires me.

Talking It Up

My comfort zone.

Bouncing the project idea off of others, asking questions and getting input. Identifying additional research, gathering still more information (reviewing case studies, site visits, informational interviews), and chewing on various possibilities. Getting fired up.



Zooming Back Out

The urge to return to spaciousness.

Doing more reading, note taking and networking. This can lead to overwhelm or renewed inspiration or both. Either way, a time when serendipity reigns and I come across key information or resources to convince me that I should go forward.



2/3 Through

Major worry. I seriously question the project concept or if I can pull it off. I secretly wonder how I might get out of the gig, delay or even pull the plug. I am daunted, confused and unsettled. Being committed to others (collaborators, co-workers, funders, curators) keeps me going to get over this hurdle. I promise myself I'll do better next time so I won't find myself in this situation again (which I inevitably do).

Distillation Begins

Where it starts to get hard. Creating order out various project notes, considering the project scope, collaborators' needs, my resources and the timeline. Identifying additional questions.

The Final Sprint

Moving with the tide. Riding the flurry of energy generated in the run up to the premiere. Orchestrating people, tasks and resources. Getting work done and being amazed at how pieces are falling into place. Suspecting success but not quite sure. Too much coffee and not enough sleep. Witnessing my own abilities and reveling in how collaborators follow through.



Months Later !!!

I'm stunned. In retrospect, I see how great the project was. How much we achieved, the goals we hit and the lessons learned. I feel accomplished and can recognize the fruits of all the labor. Like childbirth, I forget any pain and craziness and instead focus on the miracle of what we produced. Rinse and repeat.