

What's Next?



a²ru
ALLIANCE FOR THE ARTS
IN RESEARCH UNIVERSITIES

**FUTURE
WORK
DESIGN**

What's Next?

This card deck is designed to unlock assumptions and cast open new opportunities for scholarship and creative research. It can be used by individuals, pairs or small teams identify their passions, skills, needs, and artifacts to brainstorm their next project, revisit assumptions, or scaffold collaboration. You will leave the conversation with clarity—energized and ready to get the project started.

How do we have a conversation about different modes of scholarship, research, and creative practice? How do we understand and agree on what counts? When planning research goals, what's next?



When to Use This Deck

- New faculty orientation
- Mentor meetings
- Self reflection and research planning
- Forming groups and collaborations
- Department research strategy



How to Play



1. Begin by laying the header cards out in a row in the following sequence: Passion, Skills, Needs, Artifacts.



2. Sort through the "Passion" card deck. Place any cards you have passion for in one pile, and discard the rest. Make new cards for things you have passion for and add them to the pile.



3. Prioritize your "Passion" cards, placing your highest ranked card under the "Passion" header card. Lay the cards in descending order in the "Passion" column.



How to Play, cont.



4. Repeat this process for the other categories: Skills, Needs, and Artifacts. Once you've laid out all of the cards, step back and look at them.

5. What patterns emerge? What cards are connected? How might this inform your next steps? How might this help you prioritize or coordinate your efforts? How might this help you develop your strategy for creating work driven by what you're really passionate about? What might this tell you about what is (and is not) possible?



What's Next?

Needs



What's Next?

Training



What's Next?

New Skills



What's Next?

PR Help



What's Next?

Laboratory Space



What's Next?

Studio Space



What's Next?

Course Approval



What's Next?

Hardware



What's Next?

Time Off



What's Next?

A Quiet Space to Work



What's Next?

Collaborators



What's Next?

Travel



What's Next?

Technical Assistance



What's Next?

Training



What's Next?

Designer



What's Next?

Library Help



What's Next?

Venue



What's Next?

Grant



What's Next?

Research Assistant



What's Next?

Money



What's Next?

Production Help



What's Next?

Advice or Feedback



What's Next?

IRB Approval



What's Next?



What's Next?

Passions



What's Next?

Artistic Creation



What's Next?

Roller Derby



What's Next?

Knitting



What's Next?

Being Challenged



What's Next?

Synthesizing Information



What's Next?

Invention



What's Next?

**Spending the Day
in the Library**



What's Next?

Using My Hands



What's Next?

Working as a Team



What's Next?

Budgeting and Spreadsheets



What's Next?

**Discovering
Ancient Knowledge**



What's Next?

Medieval Japan



What's Next?

Education



What's Next?

Philosophy



What's Next?

Exploring New Ideas



What's Next?

Social Justice



What's Next?

Coding



What's Next?

Equity and Inclusion



What's Next?

Cool Office Products



What's Next?

Taking Risks



What's Next?

Reading



What's Next?

Writing



What's Next?

**Solving Puzzles or
Finding the Answer**



What's Next?

Helping Humanity



What's Next?



What's Next?

Skills



What's Next?

Library Research



What's Next?

Project Management



What's Next?

Programming



What's Next?

Improv



What's Next?

**Coming up with New
Project Ideas**



What's Next?

Composing



What's Next?

Analyzing



What's Next?

Listening



What's Next?

Public Speaking



What's Next?

Collaborating



What's Next?

Interpreting



What's Next?

Writing



What's Next?

Organizing



What's Next?

Teaching



What's Next?

Creating



What's Next?

Graphic Design



What's Next?

Performing



What's Next?

Strategizing



What's Next?

Prototyping



What's Next?

Field Research



What's Next?

Craft and Technique



What's Next?



What's Next?

Artifacts



What's Next?

Paper or Manuscript



What's Next?

Review Article



What's Next?

Workshop



What's Next?

Virtual Reality Thing



What's Next?

Software



What's Next?

Exhibit



What's Next?

Monograph



What's Next?

Lab Research



What's Next?

Grant Proposal



What's Next?

Edited Volume



What's Next?

Building



What's Next?

Music Score



What's Next?

Performance



What's Next?

Recording



What's Next?

Podcast



What's Next?

Public Engagement Project



What's Next?

Art



What's Next?

Website



What's Next?

Course Syllabus



What's Next?

