This activity is one exercise from the SEED Facilitator Guide, designed for community members to host open conversations about economic justice.

You can find the entire guide at stocktondemonstration.org/community-engagement.
On my way to work, I often see people asking for money outside the luxury condos. When driving to school, I can feel the difference between north and south. My best friend has to work two part-time jobs to pay for his siblings' school supplies.

"I am going to ask you to reflect on the signs of the times that you see in your daily life, the signs that tell you how the economy is doing in your neighborhood or your city. Think of something at work, school, or in your community. For example, [insert your own example]."

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"On a sticky note, summarize what your partner shared in three or four words. If you have trouble remembering what was shared, ask your partner for clarification."

- Homelessness, inequality, stress
- Insecurity, several jobs, divorce
- Improving, optimistic, solutions

"Let's have a few volunteers share what they wrote on their sticky note. We will place your sticky note on the whiteboard... For those who haven't shared, please come and put your sticky notes on the board. What patterns do you guys hear and see?"

Optional Talking Points

- Many of us are experiencing some form of economic hardship. We are working longer hours with more debt and less job security. Hunger and homelessness are on the rise.
- We start our conversation about guaranteed income here, with your stories, because many of us know all-too-well that there are few guarantees for poor and middle-class families. Many of us are just one emergency away from financial hardship.
- And while it gets harder and harder for working families to make ends meet, large corporations and the 1% seem to amass more and more. We see vast inequality in the United States that can be redistributed to help people struggling.
Facilitation Tips

You don’t have to be an expert to lead these activities. As a facilitator, your role is to support the group in their process of learning, community building, and transformation. Like any skill, great facilitation comes with practice. Here are 10 important tips to help you hone your craft:

1. **Provide clear instructions** -- Review and visualize the activities before you facilitate them. This will save time and help you keep participants engaged.

2. **Ask open-ended questions** -- There are many questions in this guide, use them! This encourages dialogue and empowers participants to take charge of their own learning.

3. **Let the people speak!** -- Wait for people to comment, leaving silence if necessary. If they do not, ask the question again. Many people will participate if given the right opportunity.

4. **Read the group** -- Listen closely to people’s responses. Regularly scan the room and read people’s body language. This will tell you a lot about how people are receiving the workshop.

5. **Make a plan; adapt as necessary** -- Start late? Participants low on energy? Maybe you need an energizer or you need to change from large to small group discussion. Whatever the change, anticipate how it will impact the rest of your agenda.

6. **Challenge unequal power relationships** -- Allowing people to speak will sometimes reveal oppressive attitudes and behaviors. Find ways to address those behaviors directly without discouraging constructive participation.

7. **Know your own story** -- Our stories are one of our most important tools we have in our work for social justice. Reflect on why you are working to end racial and economic inequality and practice telling it out loud.

8. **Contribute to the discussion** -- Consider beforehand some of the points you think are essential based on the goals you have for your workshop. If they don’t emerge from the group, offer them yourself as part of the discussion.

9. **Work as a team** -- We highly recommend working with a co-facilitator, particularly someone from a different race & class background. Meet before and after the workshop to plan and reflect.

10. **Be yourself!** -- There are many ways to be a great facilitator. Find your own voice. Try new things and reflect afterwards on what went well and what you might do differently.