🔗 Legacy Mapping Visual Exercise

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☰ Tags	

Purpose

Map out who benefits from your work—family, clients, peers, future cohorts, community—and see how your legacy connects to others.

Time: 20 minutes

Materials Needed

- Large paper or whiteboard
- Markers or colored pens
- Sticky notes (optional)

Part 1: Draw Your Ripples (10 min)

Create Your Ripple Diagram

Center circle: Write "ME" in the center

Next ring (Ring 1): Immediate circle

- Family
- Close friends

- Current clients or customers
- People you see regularly

Next ring (Ring 2): Wider impact

- Community members
- Alumni network
- Industry or field
- Strangers who see your story or work
- Future cohort members

Outer ring (Ring 3): Future generations

- Your kids or grandkids
- People not born yet
- The culture and narratives you're changing

Part 2: Add Connection Lines (5 min)

Show How Legacies Intersect

If you're in a group setting:

1. Post your ripple diagrams on the wall
2. Draw lines between your diagram and others' diagrams
3. Show where your work connects to theirs

Key message: "Your legacy connects to theirs. You're building this together, not alone."

Part 3: Reflection (5 min)

Reflection Questions

1. How does seeing this change the way you think about your choices today?

2. What would be different if you built your legacy in community instead of in isolation?

3. Who in this room (or in your network) is part of YOUR legacy network?

Facilitator Tips

- Show examples from alumni who mentored, hired cycle-breakers, or created opportunities for others

- Make it concrete—use real names and stories when possible

- Emphasize: **Interdependence is strength, not weakness**

- "No one here is an island. Your story strengthens someone else's courage. Their success opens doors for you."

Research Foundation

Granovetter's classic "strength of weak ties" research (1973) shows that bridges to new networks create opportunity. Peer and near-peer mentorship activates social capital and drives resilience across entrepreneurship, education, and community development.