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FEJ Certificate Final Project  
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### **Project Overview:**

This workshop invites participants to engage in reflection on a place of their choosing and to engage creatively with that reflection. In it, participants will use a white photo mat and a shadowbox frame to create a frame for a photo of a beloved place. They may use collage, drawing, painting, or mixed media sculpture to create their frames.

First, participants will be invited to select a place that is meaningful to them and to collect at least a photo of that place and, if they so choose, materials that may come from or help to represent that place. Then, the first workshop session will be held, with some time for laying a theoretical foundation, looking at an example project, beginning to construct the frame/mat, and then discussing in the group plans for moving forward. There will be time in between (anywhere from several hours to a week, depending on the setting) in which participants can complete their frame/mat. The second workshop session will consist of presenting the finished frames and reflections on experiences of em-place-ment. Finally, participants will be invited to choose whether to keep, gift, or dismantle their frames, and to consider how engaging in each one of these can be done in respect of the work.

Materials should be chosen in consideration of the place; e.g., a frame for the ocean might use recycled materials rather than new plastics, while a frame for a house might use scrap or new building materials. The setting for this workshop might be a church study group, youth retreat, or undergraduate ecology course; the theoretical grounding would be much the same, but language used and reflections for how to take the work into the future would be different.

### **Learning goals:**

At the end of the workshop, participants will be able to:

- Discuss how a particular place has shaped their life and work in ecological contexts
- Describe sensory interaction with that place
- Engage creatively with their own memories and sensory interaction with a place
- Use examples and tools from the workshop to enrich engagement in other courses and ecological justice activism.
- Draw on the experience of building a community of engagement around personal stakes and learning in ecological contexts and of exploring challenges for the sake of learning in new ways.

**If you would like to bring Framing Place to your church adult education group, youth group, ecology course, or other setting, contact Megan Berkowitz at [megberk@bu.edu](mailto:megberk@bu.edu).**