# THE ROLE OF STORY IN BUILDING A BETTER WORLD

IPWEA WEBINAR

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#### WHAKAPAPA



#### THEORY OF CHANGE

A better world comes about through systems change...

...systems change is culture change...

...and any culture is built almost entirely on story, narrative, and myth.

#### AT A COLLECTIVE LEVEL...

"Any large-scale human cooperation—whether a modern state, a medieval church, an ancient city or an archaic tribe—is rooted in common myths that only exist in people's collective imagination."

—Yuval Noah Harari, Author

MYTH IS NOT A DIRTY WORD Myth ≠ Lies/Falsehood

Truth wrapped in story

Ten new myths for humanity

#### AT A PERSONAL LEVEL...

"Life is not made up a series of events, occurrences, and circumstances, but rather our interpretation of a series of events, occurrences, and circumstances.

-Unknown

"We don't see things as they are, we see them as we are."

- Anais Nin, Author, Novelist

## WHY STORY?

Humans are hard-wired for story

Story as the OS of the human brain

Builds bridges to shared meaning

Communicates values

Reaches hearts over minds

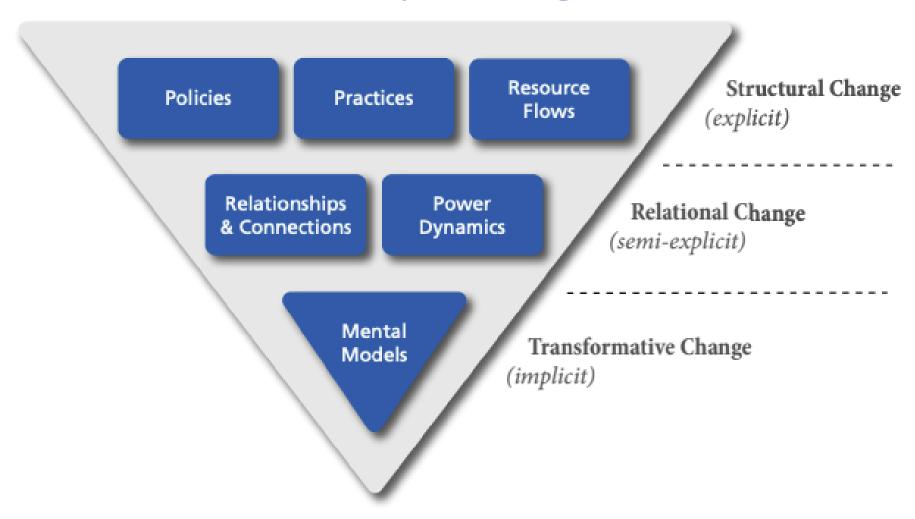
Works at the implicit level

"I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."

— Maya Angelou

Framing & Language Story Narrative Myth

#### **Six Conditions of Systems Change**



## FROM ME TO WE







## FROM TREE TO ME







#### FROM STUFF TO ENOUGH







#### FROM SCARCITY TO ABUNDANCE







# SO WHAT DOES ALL THIS MEAN FOR PUBLIC WORKS ENGINEERS??

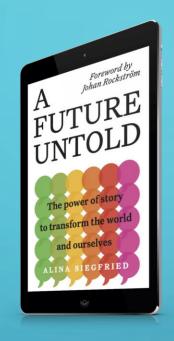
#### A BETTER WORLD THROUGH PUBLIC WORKS

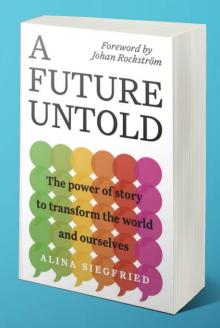
- What is the story or narrative you have of what you do?
- Whose story is it?
- What might be alternative ways of framing that story?

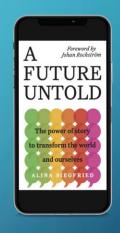


#### THANK YOU!

Book launching 28 October 2021!







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