

DORI TUNSTALL WORKSHOP

# communitas digitas

STUDIO SPRING 2008 : 1.11.08

THE GREATER “LEARNING” COMMUNITY :  
parents of children with special needs



THE SPECIFIC COMMUNITY:  
those parents that practice artistic expression



THE SPACE THEY COMMUNICATE IN [ AKA WEBSITE ] :  
*our kids* : a place for exceptional expression

<http://ourkids.typepad.com>

VALUES OF THE COMMUNITY :

artistic expression is an important part of living an “a-typical life”  
committing thoughts to paper or canvas helps keep clutter out of the mind  
the practice of art can be magical and transformative  
the experiences with their children can be difficult yet unique

THE WEBSPACE FOR THE COMMUNITY:

provides an open forum to foster the artistic process  
explores artistic outlets—*“we’re here to encourage the process”*  
shows a glimpse into the journey of parents of children with special needs  
the more people it serves, the greater its value  
encourages artistic expression

WHAT THE COMMUNITY “LEARNS” THROUGH THEIR PARTICIPATION:  
how others express their emotions through the practice of art  
they learn of others in similar situations and make connections

#### HOW THE COMMUNITY IS STRUCTURED:

The creator of the webspace, Mya-Lisa, posts and organizes photographs, artwork, essays, and poetry from parents of children of special needs into an accessible webspace. Voluntary participation in the webspace creates the “digital community”.

**POET'S CORNER**



**She Is...I Am Not**

**THE STUDIO**



**Learned Hero, Age 2**



*by Teri Ann Shigeoka*

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Posted at 06:27 AM in [Photography](#) | [Permalink](#) | [Comments \(5\)](#) | [TrackBack \(0\)](#)

**Spring**



*by Emma Brooks*

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Posted at 08:29 AM in [Photography](#) | [Permalink](#) | [Comments \(2\)](#) | [TrackBack \(0\)](#)

**Seasons**

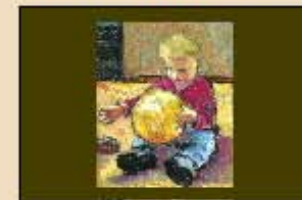


*by Kristie Amator*

**KID SPACE**



**THE GALLERY**



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[Leap Into The Unknown](#)

**ENTER THE SALON**

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CONTRIBUTE!

How To Submit Your Work  
Getting The Word Out  
Featured Work

CONTRIBUTOR SITES

And Other Links

OUR KIDS

Home

## Thoughts Unspoken



*by Amy Wyckoff*



This is the epitome of our daughter...contemplative and silent. It's taken me years to accept this reality. But now I watch in wonder at the beauty of her innocence and long to experience her serenity.

## The Dream

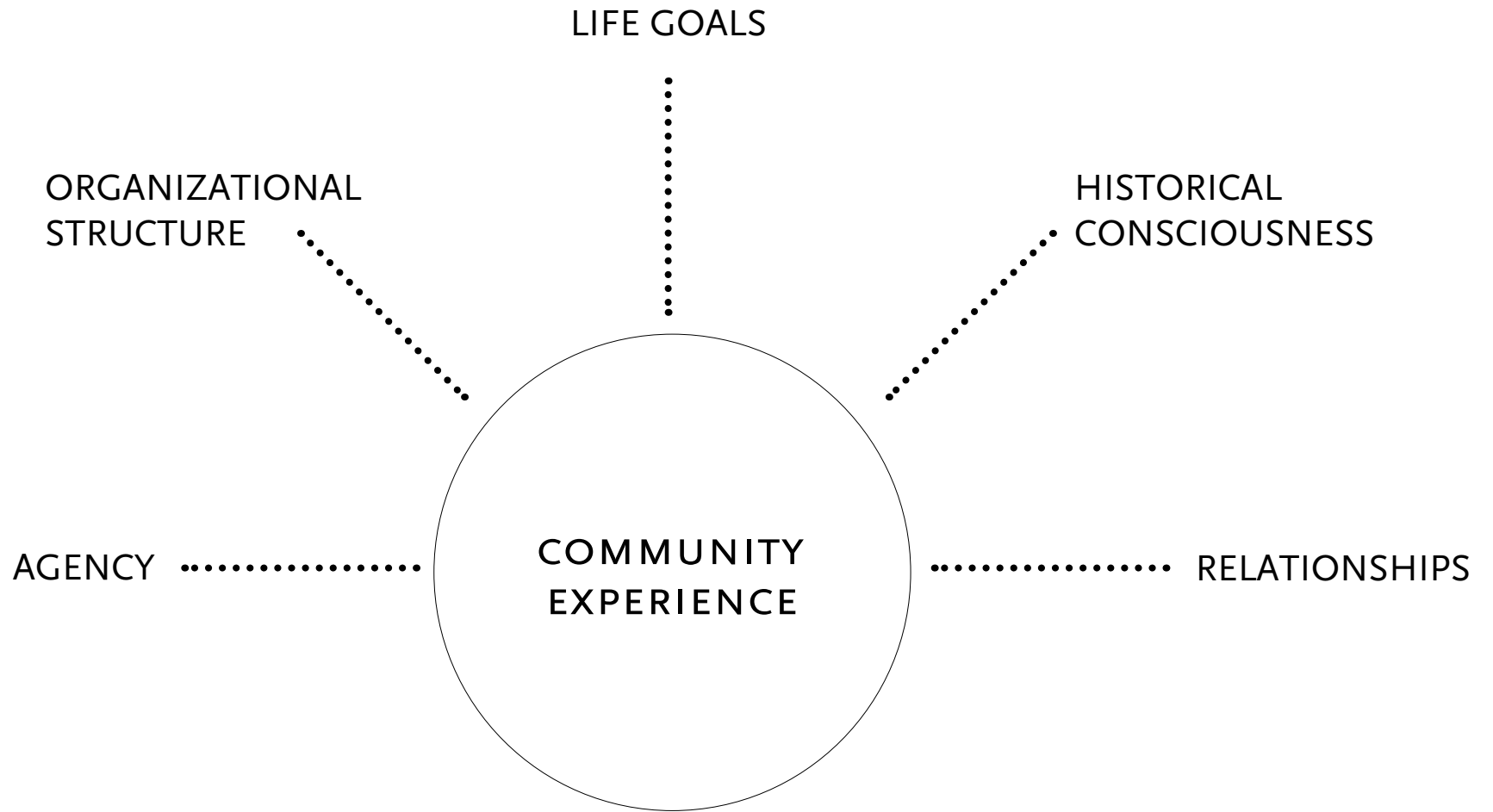


**by Mya-Lisa King**

**Oils on canvas**

*The solid skiff transports us through the murkiness of the landscape...of the future...of what will be and what we thought would be....*

Posted at 08:47 AM in Artwork | [Permalink](#)



## AGENCY

*People's ability to control, or at least influence, decisions about the things that impact their communities and themselves.*

Agency in the community begins with taking the initiative to commit to paper their emotions and then submit for publishing on the webspace.



COMMUNITY  
EXPERIENCE

## ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

*Mental map that provides people with an understanding of how they fit within and contribute to the greater whole. Often in groups, it outlines who is responsible, or what and how decisions are made.*

The organizational structure of the community is set by the creator of the webspace, the community's responsibility is to participate.



COMMUNITY  
EXPERIENCE

## LIFE GOALS

*People's articulation of what matters most to them. This is often things like helping other people, having an impact, supporting friends and family, and professional development*

The life goals of the community is to provide support and encouragement for parents of children with special needs (within the greater and specific community).



COMMUNITY  
EXPERIENCE

## HISTORICAL CONSCIOUSNESS

*People's understanding of where they come from and who they are. Their ability to openly express their history and to find themselves in the public image of their community affects the degree to which they feel they belong to that community*

Through the acts of photography, writing and painting, the community expresses their journey, then by sharing their works to the community, they enforce a connection to individuals of a similar experience.



COMMUNITY  
EXPERIENCE

## RELATIONSHIPS

*The basic units of community, through which people establish the trust and understanding needed to rely upon each other.*

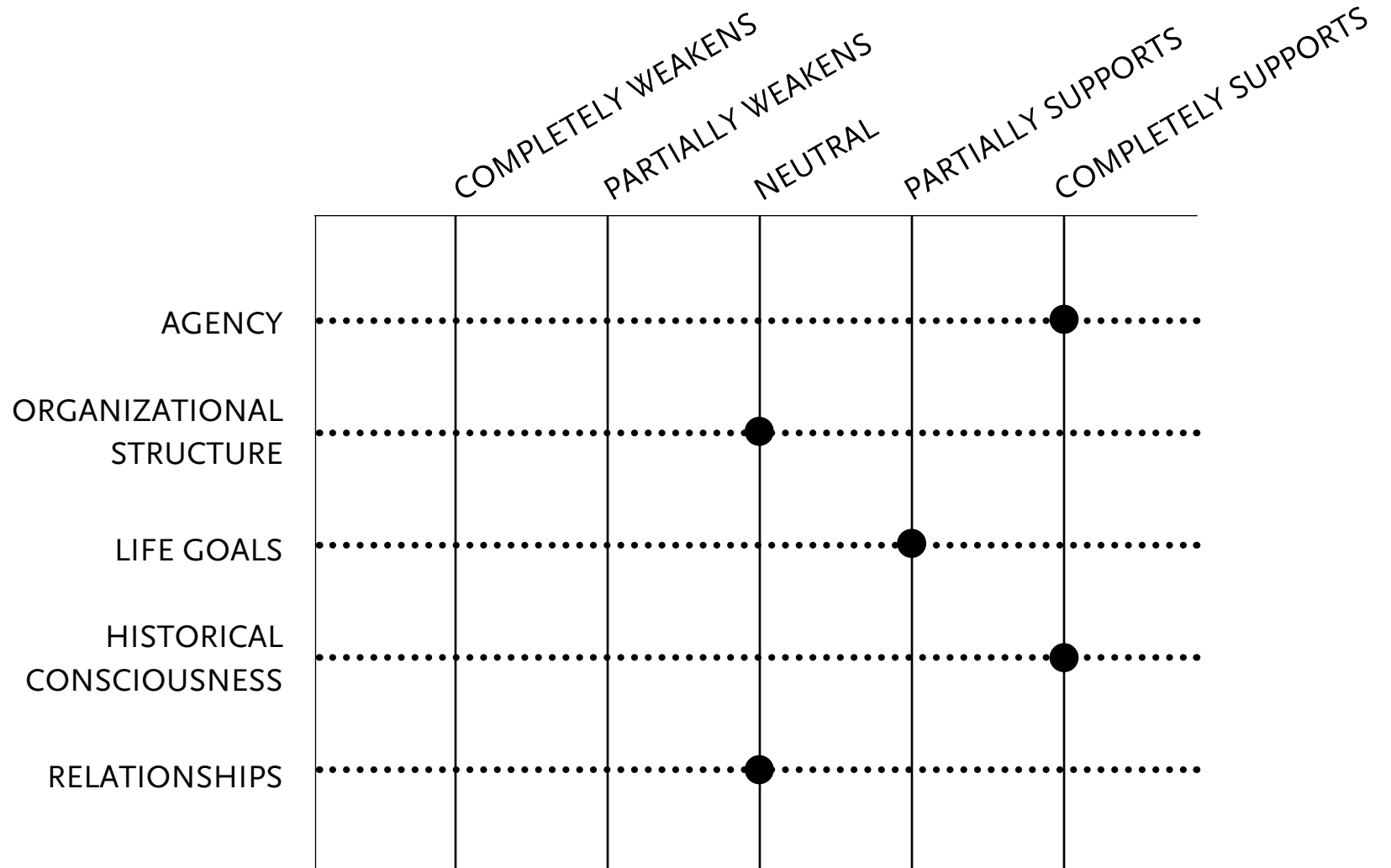
Through the open forum of the webspace, the community members connect and create relationships or support with other the others members. It gives them a sense that they are not alone in this experience.



COMMUNITY  
EXPERIENCE

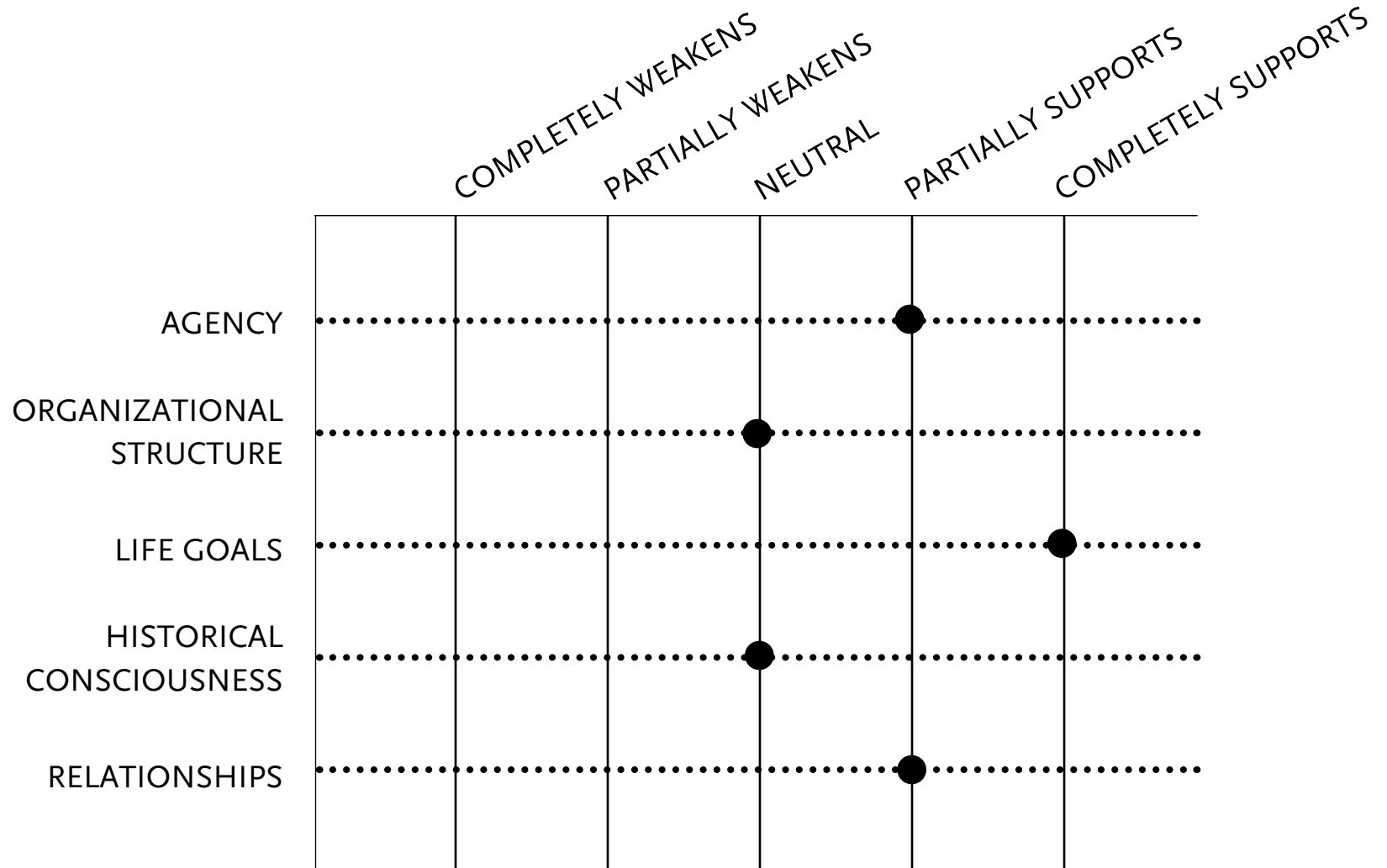


## SUBMITTING THE WORK



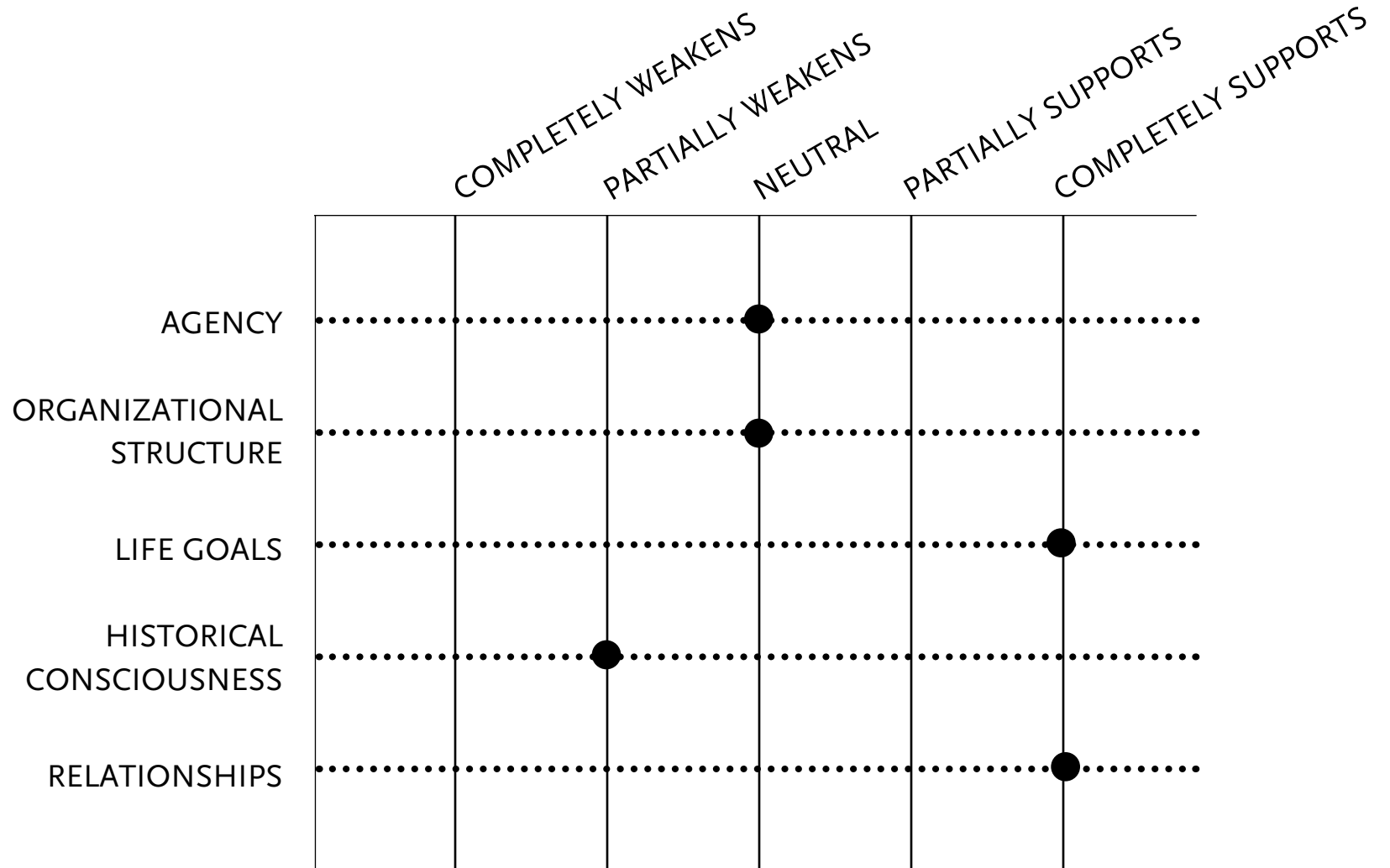


# GETTING THE WORD OUT



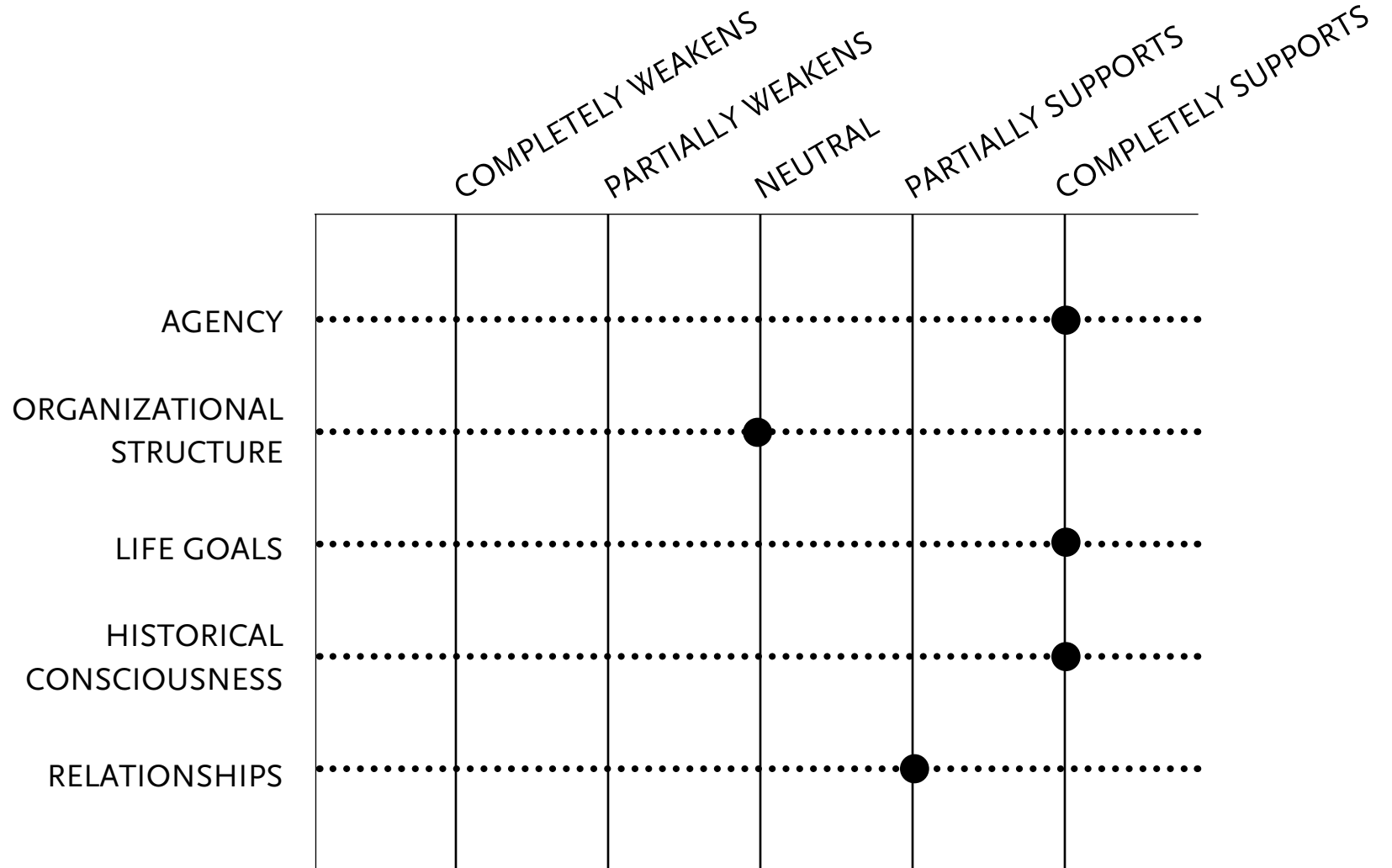


# COMMENTS



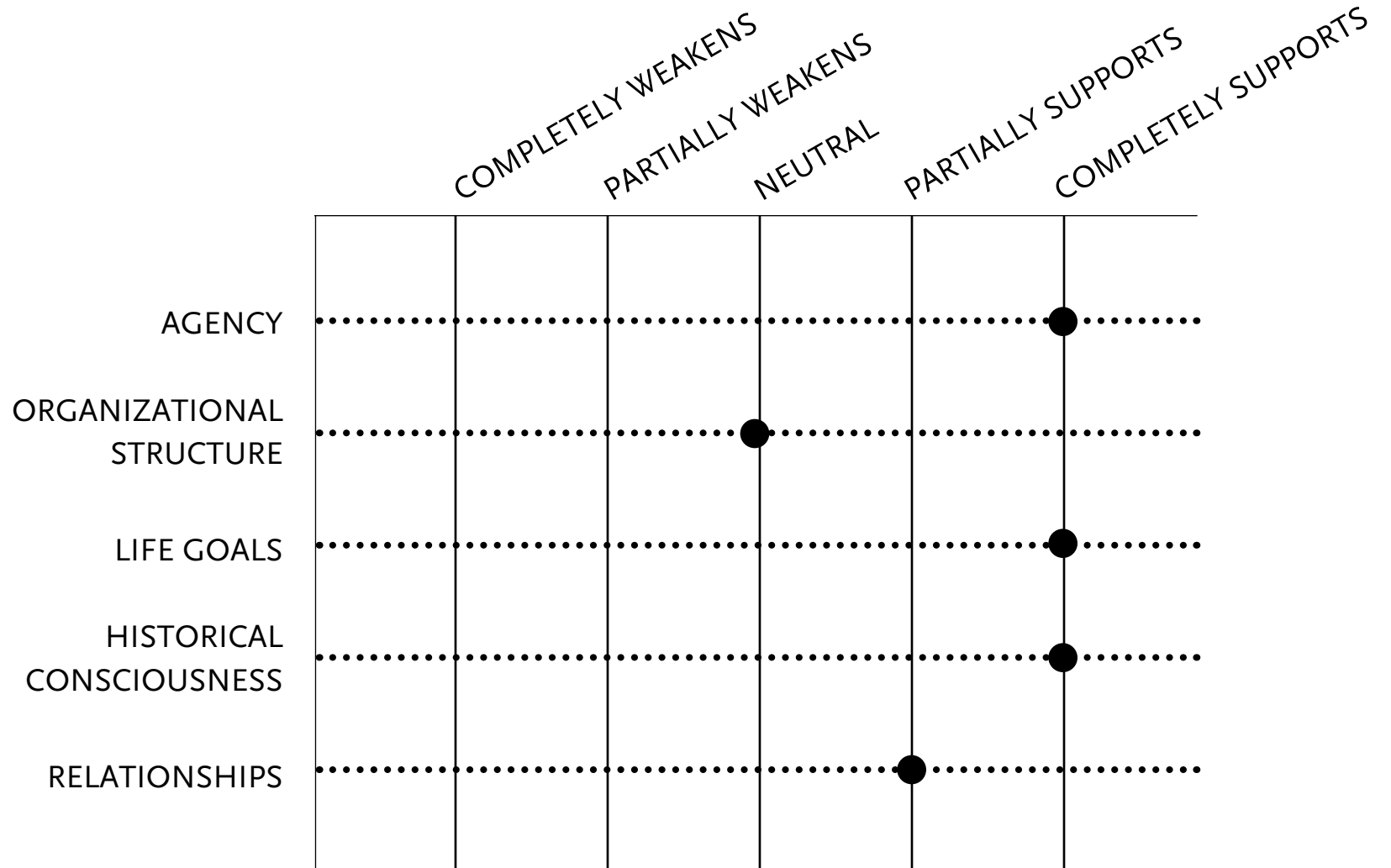


# THE SALON / PHOTOGRAPHY-PARENTS



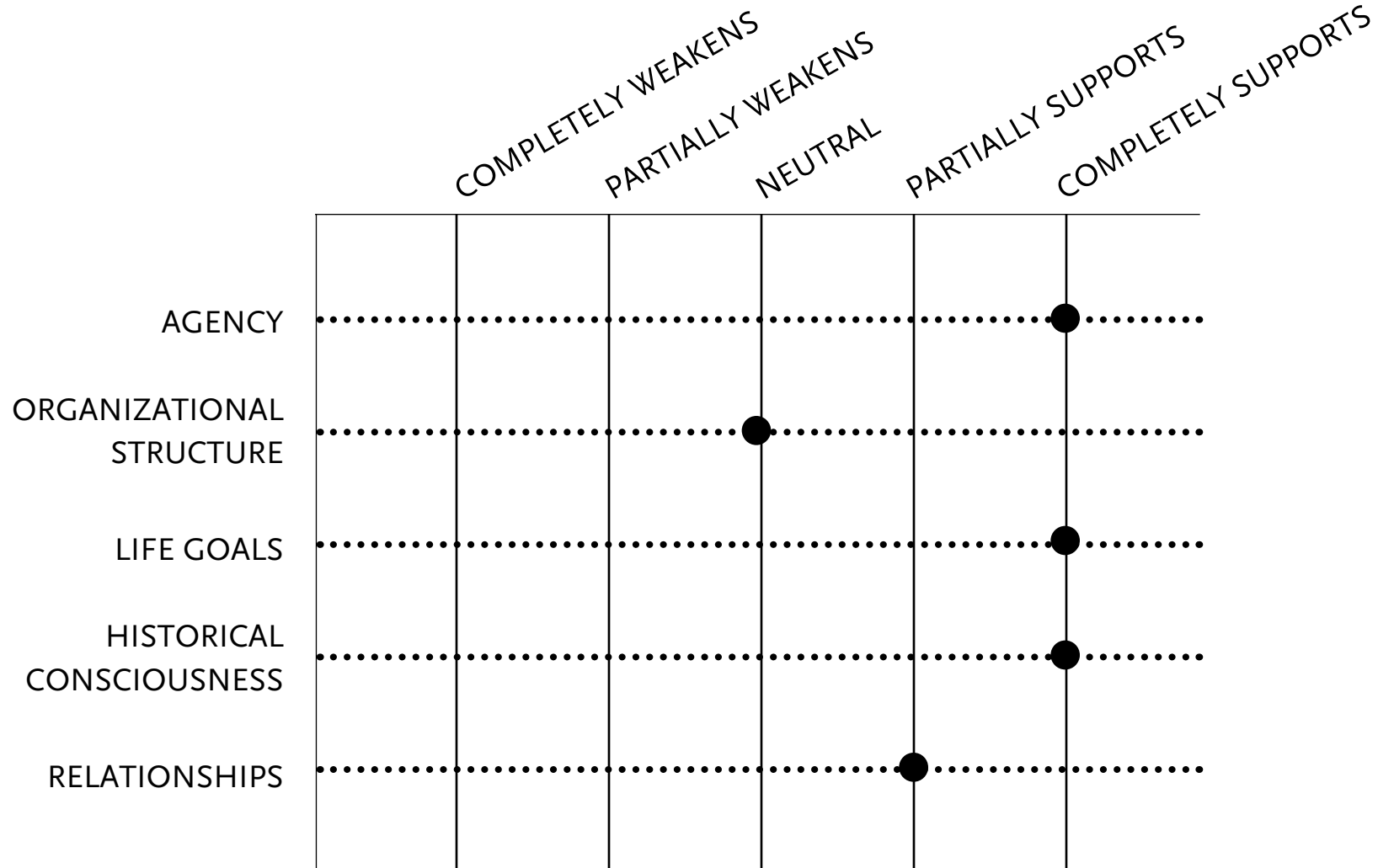


# THE SALON / ARTWORK-PARENTS



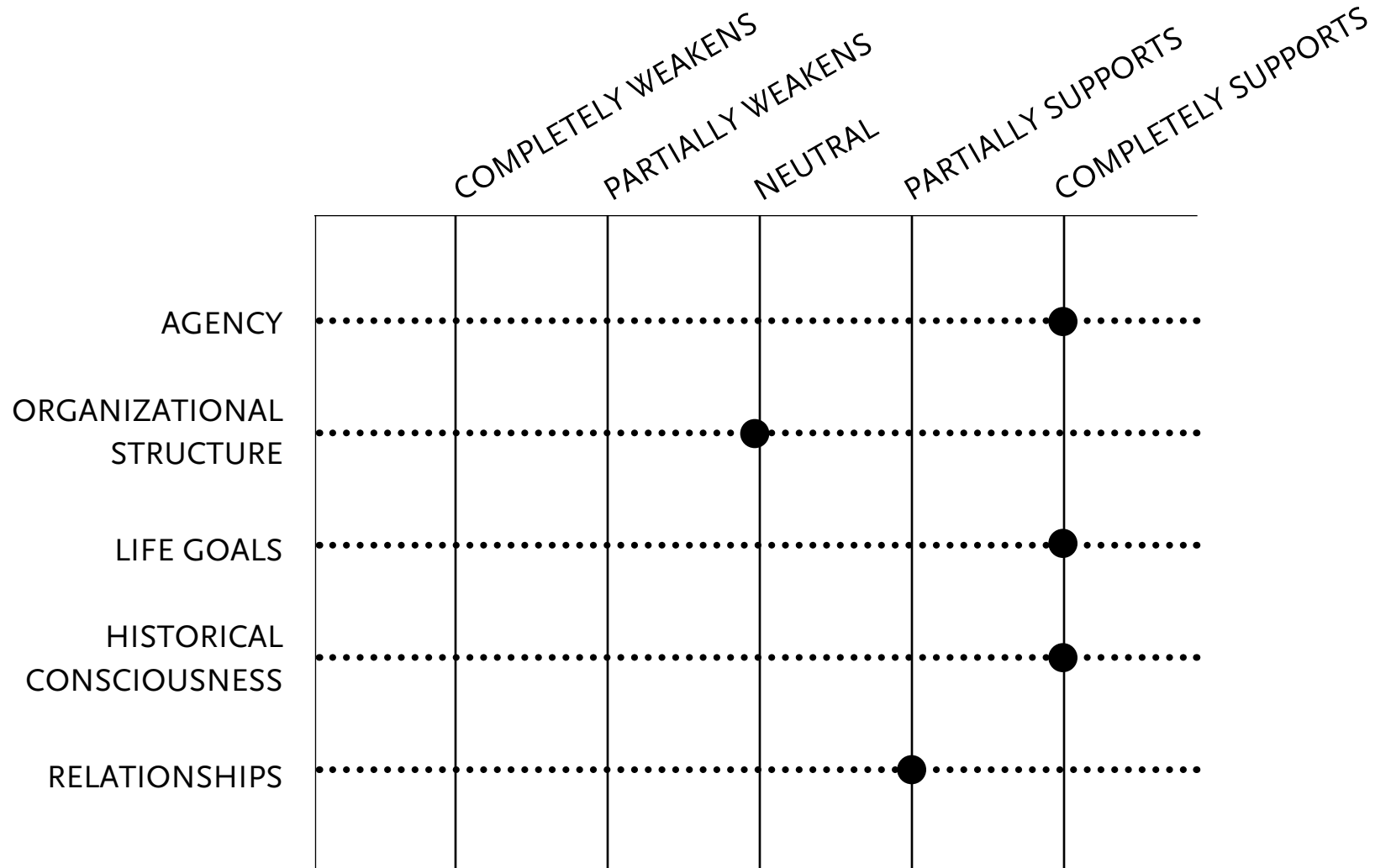


# THE SALON / POETRY-PARENTS



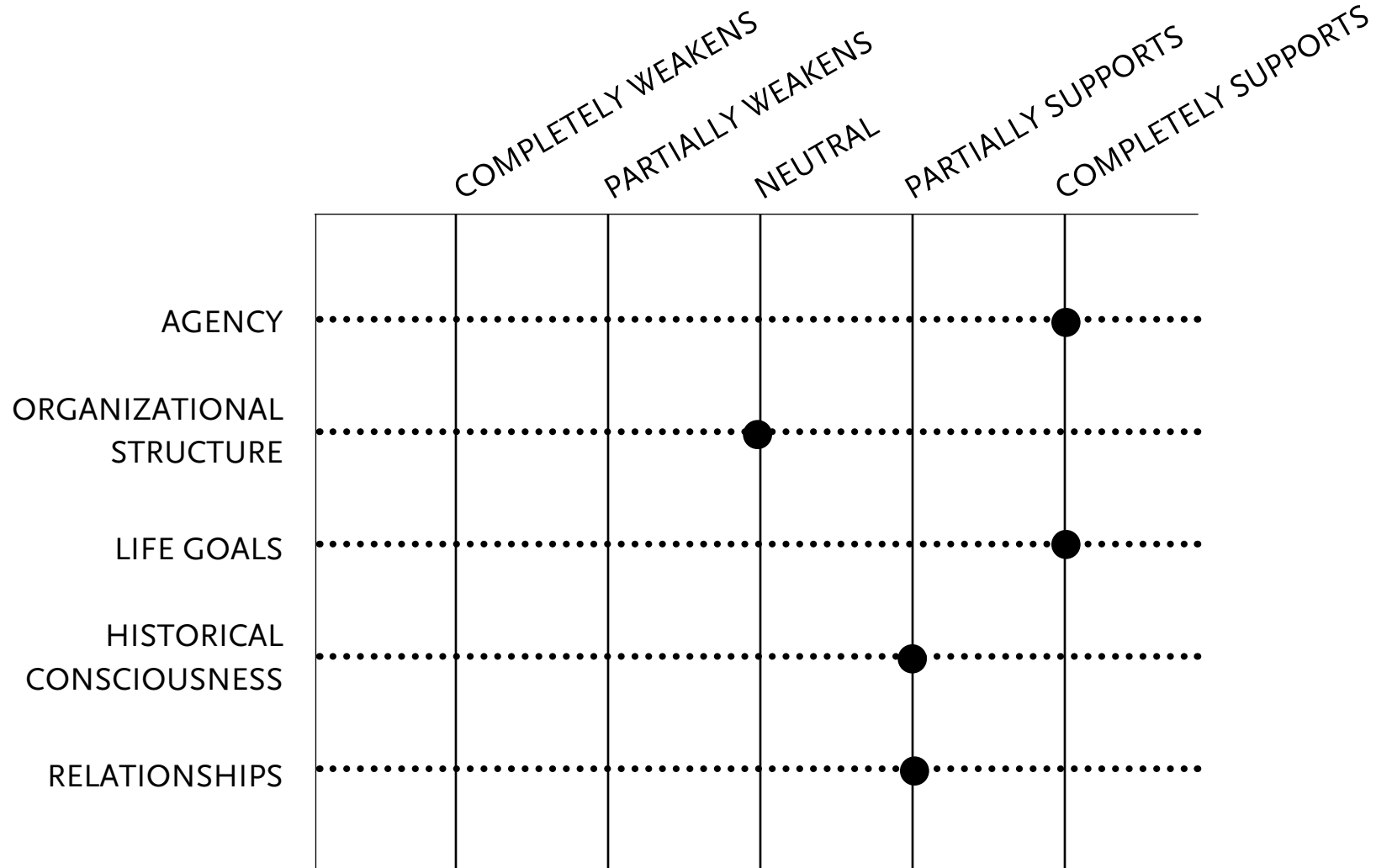


# THE SALON / ESSAYS-PARENTS



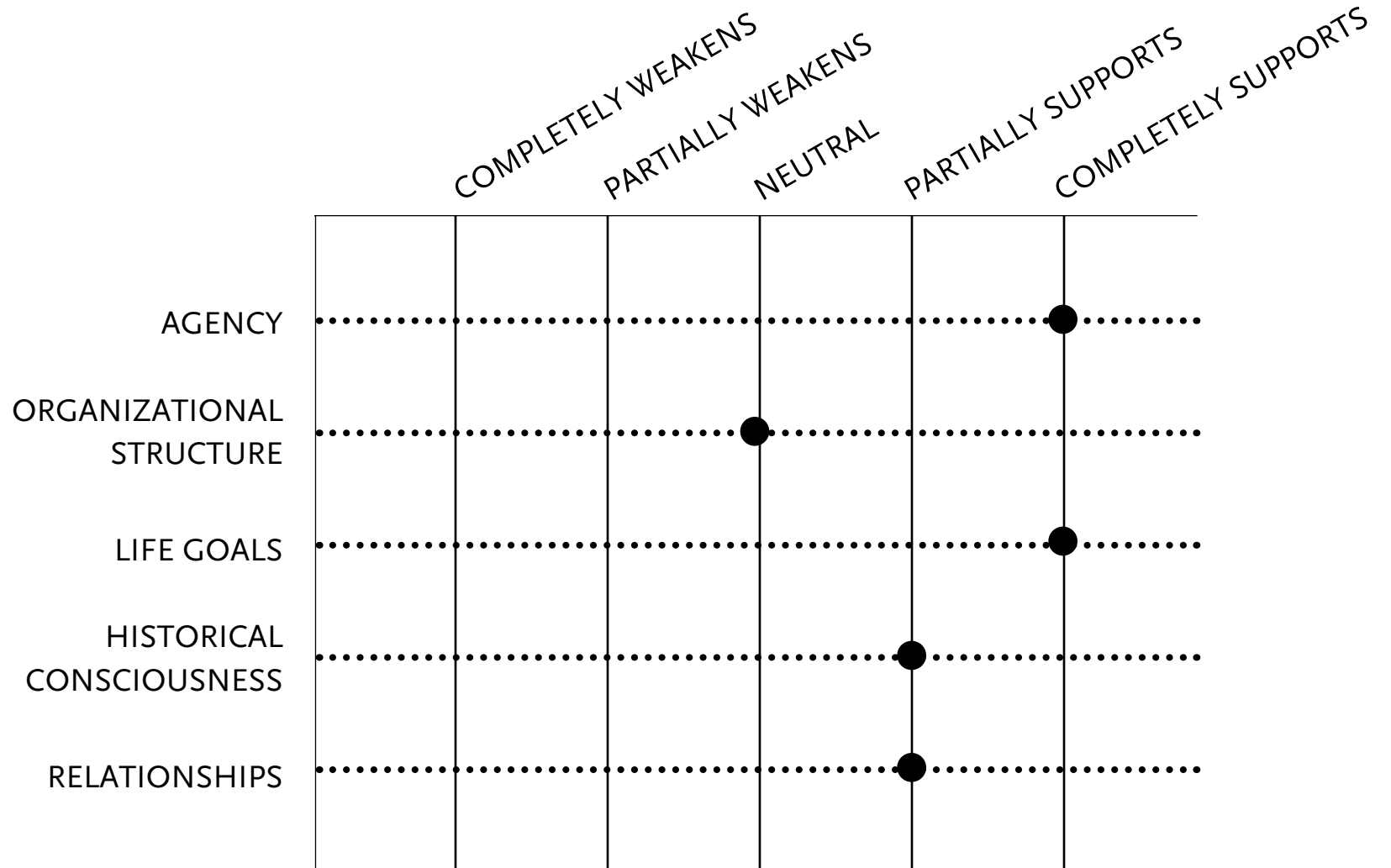


# THE SALON / PHOTOGRAPHY-CHILDREN



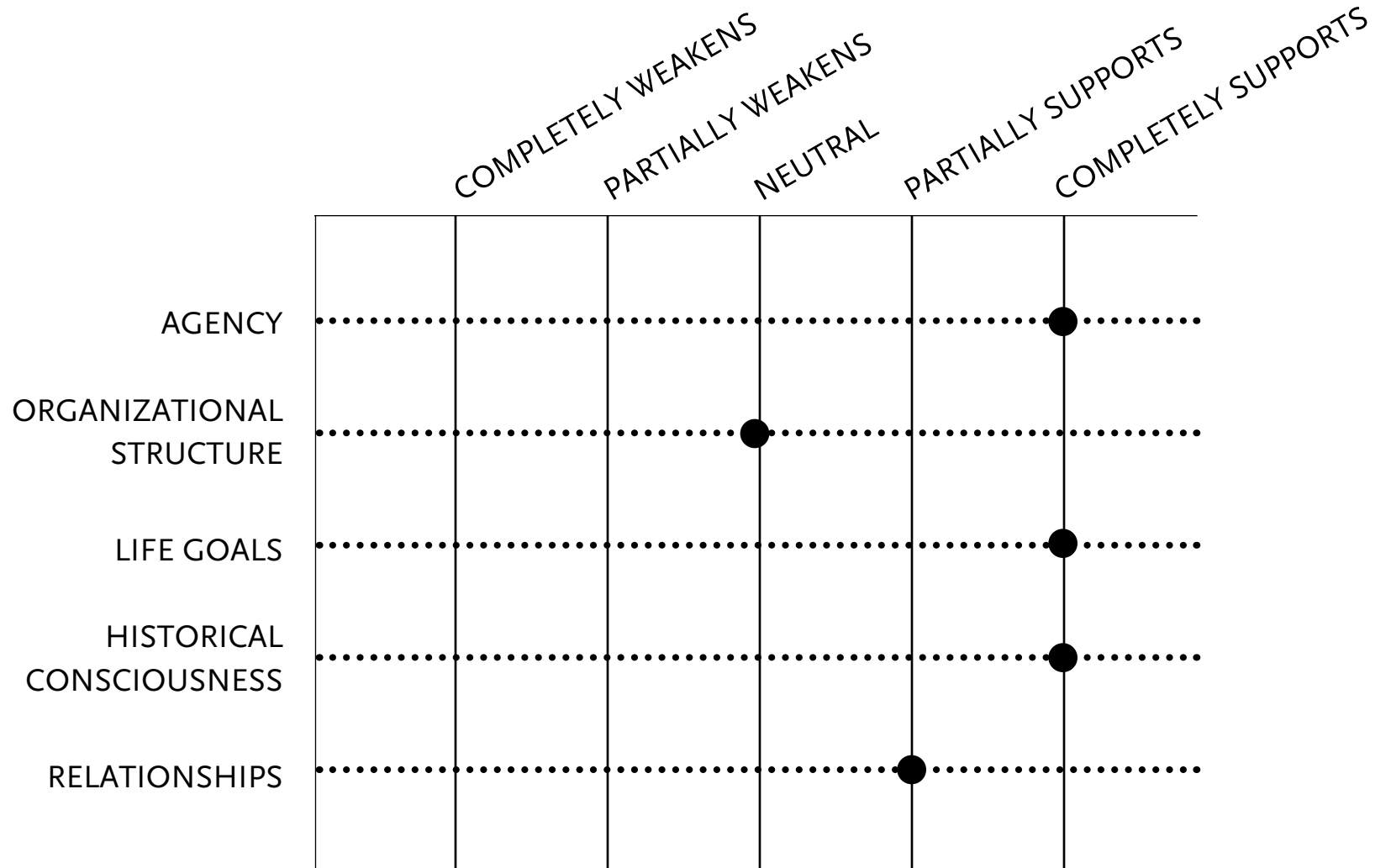


# THE SALON / ARTWORK-CHILDREN





# THE SALON / POETRY-CHILDREN





# THE SALON / ESSAYS-CHILDREN

