"Ideas are like rabbits. You get a couple and learn how to handle them, and pretty soon you have a dozen."  
John Steinbeck

"All human beings are born with the same creative potential. Most people squander theirs away on a million superfluous things. I expend mine on one thing and one thing only: my art."  
Pablo Picasso

“Originality is simply a pair of fresh eyes.”  
Thomas Wentworth Higginson

"To me the desire to create and to have control over your own life, irrespective of the politics of the time or social structures, has always been a part of the human spirit. What I did not fully realize was that work could open the doors to my heart."  
Anita Roddick, Founder/CEO, The Body Shop

"Discovery consists of seeing what everybody has seen and thinking what nobody has thought."  
Albert von Szent-Gyorgyi

"There is nothing mysterious about originality, nothing fantastic. Originality is merely the step beyond."  
Louis Danz

"Any activity becomes creative when the doer cares about doing it right, or doing it better."  
John Updike

"An idea is a feat of association."  
Robert Frost

"Dreams are renewable. No matter what our age or condition, there are still untapped possibilities within us and new beauty waiting to be born."
"The main fuel to speed the world's progress is our stock of knowledge, and the brake is our lack of imagination."

Julian Simon

"If you do not express your own original ideas, if you do not listen to your own being, you will have betrayed yourself."

Rollo May

"Creativity, my students learn, is as natural a function of the mind as breathing or digestion are natural functions of the body."

John Kao

"I believe everybody is creative, and everybody is talented. I just don’t think that everybody is disciplined. I think that’s a rare commodity."

Al Hirschfield

"I would sort out all the arguments and see which belonged to fear and which to creativeness. Other things being equal, I would make the decision which had the largest number of creative reasons on its side."

Katharine Butler Hathaway

"To live a creative life, we must lose our fear of being wrong."

Joseph Chilton Pearce

"What is now proved was once imagined."

William Blake

"Life isn’t about finding yourself. Life is about creating yourself."

George Bernard Shaw

"The imagination equips us to perceive reality when it is not fully materialized."

Mary Caroline Richards

"Imagination is the highest kite one can fly."

Lauren Bacall

"The future is not a result of choice among alternative paths offered by the present, but a place that is created--created first in mind and will, created next in activity. The future is not some place we are going to but one we are creating. The paths are not to be found, but made, and the activity of making them changes both the maker and the destination."

John Schaar
“Art is a terrific vehicle because it unlocks kid’s imaginations, touches us in emotional ways, brings to life what might otherwise be abstract.”  

Ted Mitchell

“A firm grounding in the arts teaches practical skills and such characteristics as self-discipline and critical thinking. The arts naturally embrace paradox and ambiguity; to study them is to learn flexible thinking. Those who have trained in an art form are more likely not only to grasp the nuances in real life, say the experts, but also to persevere in finding novel solutions to everyday problems.”

Susan Gaines

“We need people who can read and write. But what we really need is people who can not only read the instructions, but change them. They need to be able to think outside the lines.”

Richard Gurin, CEO and President, Binney & Smith, Croyola Products

“Insanity is continuing to do the same thing over and over and expecting different results.”

Albert Einstein

“To stimulate creativity, one must develop the childlike inclination for play and the childlike desire for recognition.”

Albert Einstein

"Imagination is more important than knowledge."

Albert Einstein

- "If you hear a voice within you say 'you cannot paint,' then by all means paint, and that voice will be silenced."

Vincent Van Gogh

"Imagination was given to man to compensate him for what he is not; a sense of humor to console him for what he is."

Sir Francis Bacon

"The principle mark of genius is not perfection but originality, the opening of new frontiers.”

Arthur Koestler

"Man can only become what he is able to consciously imagine, or to `image forth.'"

Dane Rudhyar

"Creativity can solve almost any problem. The creative act, the defeat of habit by originality, overcomes everything.”

George Lois,
"Every artist was first an amateur."

Ralph Waldo Emerson

"I learned... that inspiration does not come like a bolt, nor is it kinetic, energetic striving, but it comes into us slowly and quietly and all the time, though we must regularly and every day give it a little chance to start flowing, prime it with a little solitude and idleness."

Brenda Ueland

"Making the simple complicated is commonplace; making the complicated simple, awesomely simple, that's creativity."

Charles Mingus

"There are two ways of being creative. One can sing and dance. Or one can create an environment in which singers and dancers flourish."

Warren Bennis

“Creativity represents a miraculous coming together of the uninhibited energy of the child with its apparent opposite and enemy, the sense of order imposed on the disciplined adult intelligence.”

--Norman Podhoretz

“You can't depend on your eyes when your imagination is out of focus.”

Mark Twain

“Imagination and fiction make up more than three-quarters of our real life.”

Simone Weil

“It is better to fail in originality than to succeed in imitation.”

Herman Melville

Education for creativity is nothing short of education for living.”

Eric Fromm

“Creativity is the encounter of the intensively conscious human being with his world.”

Rollo May

“Far out thinking is a means to an end—To him whose elastic and vigorous thought keeps pace with the sun,The day is a perpetual morning.”

Henry David Thoreau
“The vast majority of problems, decisions and situations which confront us daily are those which do not have just one answer. Several solutions are usually possible. Logic suggests that if one can mentally generate many possible solutions, the more likely it is that an optimum solution will be reached. This a creative process—the formation of new and useful relationships.”

Richard E. Manelis

“If you can walk you can dance, if you can talk you can sing.”

Zimbabwean Proverb

“People who do not break things first will never create anything.”

Tagalog (Filipino) Proverb

"Money isn't the scarcest resource -- imagination is."

Linda Yates, Painted Wolf Ltd.

"Happiness...it lies in the joy of achievement, in the thrill of creative effort."

Franklin D. Roosevelt

“To think creatively, we must be able to look afresh at what we normally take for granted.”

George Kneller

“The ability to relate and to connect, sometimes in odd and yet striking fashion, lies at the very heart of any creative use of the mind, no matter in what field or discipline.”

George J. Seidel

“You unlock the door with the key of imagination”

Rod Serling

"In the world of words, the imagination is one of the forces of nature."

Wallace Stevens

"Imagination was given to man to compensate him for what he is not; a sense of humor to console him for what he is."

Francis Bacon

"Creativity is a type of learning process where the teacher and pupil are located in the same individual."

Arthur Koestler, Novelist

"If I have a thousand ideas and only one turns out to be good, I am satisfied."

Alfred Nobel

"The Possible's slow fuse is lit / By the Imagination."

Emily Dickinson
"Creativity is inventing, experimenting, growing, taking risks, breaking rules, making mistakes, and having fun."

--Mary Lou Cook

"Every child is an artist. The problem is how to remain an artist once he grows up."

--Pablo Picasso

"Creativity can solve almost any problem. The creative act, the defeat of habit by originality overcomes everything."

--George Lois

"You are creative. Your creativity may be in a deep sleep, but it is there. All you have to do is wake it up and put it to use."

Kevin Eikenberry, Speaker and Consultant

"Let us consider an alternative style of thinking, which we can call 'creative thinking.' It is playfully instructive to note that the word 'reactive' and the word 'creative' are made up of exactly the same letters. The only difference between the two is that you 'C' [see] differently."

John Quincy Adams, U.S. President

"The reward for conformity was that everyone liked you except yourself."

Rita Mae Brown

"It is better to fail in originality than to succeed in imitation."

Herman Melville

"The main fuel to speed the world's progress is our stock of knowledge, and the brake is our lack of imagination."

Julian Simon, economist

"It is wonderful to be in on the creation of something, see it used, and then walk away and smile at it."

Lady Bird Johnson, U.S. First Lady

"I dwell in possibility."

Emily Dickinson

"The only job we have been given when we came to this earth is to create. Everything we do is a creation, from a job, to children to thoughts. We all create all the time, it is all we do."

Tom Justin, author and trainer
Source:
These quotes originally compiled by Emeritus Professor Art Costa.
Also available at www.instituteforhabitsofmind.com