

ART OF HOSTING CONVERSATIONS THAT MATTER

Resources compiled by Madeline Snow, madeline_snow@uml.edu, September 2013

General: www.artofhosting.org and <http://artofhosting.ning.com/>

The Art of Hosting is a response to a world that is becoming increasingly complex and fragmented, where true solutions and innovation lie not in one leader or one viewpoint, but in the bigger picture of our collective intelligence. The Art of Hosting is a practice ground for all who aspire to bring out the best in others. It is based on the assumption and experience that human beings have enormous untapped wealth and resilience and that the sustainable solutions lie in the wisdom between us. (AoH Hosting Team, Awareness Day, Zagreb, 2009.)

Four Fold Practice: <http://vimeo.com/40051233>

1. Host yourself
2. Be hosted
3. Host others
4. Be part of a hosting community

Circle <http://www.peerspirit.com/gifts/PeerSpirit-Circle-Guidelines2010.pdf>

World Café <http://artofhosting.ning.com/video/world-cafe-guidelines-principles>
and <http://artofhosting.ning.com/video/art-of-hosting-world-cafe>

Principles:

1. Set the Context
2. Create Hospitable Space
3. Explore Questions that Matter
4. Encourage Everyone's Contribution
5. Connect Diverse Perspectives
6. Listen together for Patterns and Insights
7. Share Collective Discoveries

Open Space Technology: <http://artofhosting.ning.com/video/open-space-technology> and
<http://artofhosting.ning.com/video/example-open-space-in-u-s-west>

Open Space operates under four principles and one law. The four principles are:

1. Whoever comes are the right people
2. Whatever happens is the only thing that could have happened.
3. When it starts is the right time
4. When it's over it's over

The one Law is known as the "Law of Two Feet": *"If you find yourself in a situation where you are not contributing or learning, move somewhere where you can."*

Pro Action Café <http://artofhosting.ning.com/forum/topics/passion-for-pro-action-cafe>

3 rounds of questions: (1) What is the quest behind the question? (2) What is missing? (3) What am I learning? What is the next elegant step I will take? What do I need?

Harvest/Dialogue Poems

These are the kind of poems that are helpful harvests from circles, and other forms of social interaction. They are a way of creating visibility and form for the sometimes easy-to-lose flow and wisdom that is conversation and listening. (Tenneson Wolf blog, 11/21/11)

Powerful Questions

http://www.ncdd.org/exchange/files/docs/powerful_conversations.pdf and strategic questions
<http://www.cruxcatalyst.com/2012/05/21/strategic-questioning/#sthash.nNIdnNIN.dpbs>

Revealed Presence Photos and Story Cards: <http://revealedpresence.com/>