Fostering Conditions for Social Innovation & Community Engagement

We live and work in increasingly complex times. The Art of Hosting Conversations that Matter is a set of patterns and practices for addressing complexity. It asks us to be curious and nonjudgemental and invites generosity of spirit and actions. It believes conversation matters and that good conversation leads to wise action generating different results. It invites us to work together and to be in continuous co-learning with each other, enabling us to keep building our skills and mastery.

Social Innovation is the generation of new ideas that work to resolve existing social, cultural, economic and environmental challenges for the benefit of people and planet. True Social Innovation is systems changing. We can’t do it alone.

A new set of leadership skills is being cultivated. Skills that tune into and are responsive to ambiguity and emergent circumstances, that foster generative conversations where perspectives can collide to spark new ways of thinking. Skills that invite engagement in whole new ways - in our communities, systems, organizations and teams. tapping into collective wisdom, knowledge and intelligence inherent in any group, any system, any community.

What happens when we grow our courage and resilience in working with the status quo that says it wants to change but doesn’t seem to know how?
Three Days - Not for Spectators

What is it?
This three day intensive is designed for you to experience and learn simple yet powerful processes that build community, activate collective intelligence, foster individual and collaborative leadership practices, tap into the inspiration and collective brainpower of your teams and stakeholders, sparking and sustaining imagination to drive innovative thinking and foster high value output. Collectively, these practices and patterns are known as “The Art of Hosting Conversations That Matter”.

Who Should Come?
Forward thinking leaders, other innovators, organizational and community leaders who are seeking higher impact ways to engage, inspire and activate innovation and business value within their teams and stakeholders. Come prepared to step in, step up and practice. Those who have been part of an “Art of Hosting Conversations That Matter” training, have been exposed to some of the patterns and practices and want to continue to build their skills as they work with their organizations and communities. Those who have heard about AoH and are interested in learning how to embody and apply the processes where they are called to work and lead.

What to Bring?
Bring your key issues, challenges, existing and emerging projects, provocative questions. The stuff you are working on now - or want to begin soon. Bring your team, a colleague, a sparring partner, an ally. You will gain a common language, frame of reference to support each other and fuel your courage. You will gain and continue to build a common language, frame of reference to support each other and fuel your courage.

“Look for small steps of things you can do with people with whom you traditionally would never have cooperated - and do something useful, no matter how small.”

Peter Senge
your hosting team:

We are particularly inspired by the power of true collaboration, the strategic impact of leadership that leverages networks and relationships for innovation, engagement and wise sustainable action. We are involved in collaborative contexts locally and around the world.

AOH – A SET OF PATTERNS AND PRACTICES THAT INVITE US TO SHOW UP HUMAN TO HUMAN, WORKING ACROSS IMAGINED AND REAL BOUNDARIES TO DO GOOD, MEANINGFUL WORK TOGETHER

Frameworks we explore:
• World View
• Living Systems
• Four Fold Practice
• Divergence-Emergence-Convergence
• Chaordic Path
• Theory U
• 2 Loops of System Change

Approaches we use:
• World Cafe
• Open Space Technology
• Appreciative Inquiry
• Circle and Dialog
• Chaordic Stepping Stones

What emerges:
• Deep learning
• Powerful questions
• Engaging strategies
• Bold action
• Local Allies
• Courage and inspiration
• Emerging frameworks
• Imagination
• Community
• Engagement

Kathy Jourdain is passionate about co-creative leadership and creating the conditions to help shift the shape of our work at a time it is most needed in the world. She is a steward and practitioner of the Art of Hosting Conversations that Matter and is recognized for her prolific writing (http://shapeshiftstrategies.wordpress.com/) on what she is learning as she co-hosts on training and consulting teams in Canada, Brazil and the United States. Kathy has recently published her first book: Embracing the Stranger in Me: A Journey to Openheartedness which is generating rave reviews as an empowering, though at times heartbreaking, work that seeks to encourage others to embrace their inner selves in the face of adversity (www.KathyJourdain.com).

Michelle Murton believes that health and well-being are fundamental, sacred, and precious, and offers her experience and passion in service of ‘real’ conversations and action in these domains. Michelle has worked as a nutritionist and public health practitioner for over two decades where she has been involved in co-creating sustainable health and food systems with the support of Art of Hosting practices. Michelle is a registered yoga teacher and co-owner of the Fall River Yoga Centre (www.fallriveryoga.com). She is dedicated to nourishing the deep power, collective wisdom, and limitless potential of her fellow humans, by creating spaces of trust and authenticity.

Amanda Hachey is driven to help herself, individuals, communities, and organizations leave this beautiful world even better than we found it! With a BBA from UNB Saint John and a Master’s in Strategic Leadership towards Sustainability from Sweden she has experience in economic and community development with small-to-medium sized enterprises, non-profits, and social enterprises in strategic planning and facilitation. She gained a global perspective during projects in the US, France, Panama, Vietnam, and Sweden. Amanda is now in Moncton, NB working with the Co-operative Enterprise Council of NB and a founding board member of La Bikery Co-operative. Work, life, play balance is important, so you can find Amanda on a bike, a yoga mat, or around a kitchen table with family and friends on a regular basis!

Dennis Atchison’s work is to challenge the status quo with compassion towards a new “way”... one which nurtures the individual and the community’s soul. He believes the models and paradigms of the past 60 years no longer serve us. We need to “let go” and enter an era of creation at many levels at the same time at a very large scale. The Art of Hosting invites us to remember how to play and create together. He is one of the instigators for the Great Gathering in Fredericton, NB November 2012 which explores the question, “How can we work together to make greater Fredericton better?” www.dennisatchison.com
Logistics
Fredericton, New Brunswick

Location
Killarney Lodge
Address: 1600 St. Mary’s Street, Fredericton, NB

Dates and Times
November 5-7, 2013
Registration begins at 8:15 am on the first morning.
You are invited to arrive early each day for a 9:00 am start time.
We will end each day at 5:00. Early morning coffee, morning and afternoon snacks and lunch are provided.

Registration
You can register online: http://bit.ly/AoHFredNov2013
Space tends to fill quickly. Registration is not confirmed until payment is received.
Registration Deadline: October 30, 2013

Your Investment
Corporate and Government Rate: $550.00 +HST
Not-for-Profit Rate: $395.00 +HST

(“Leadership in complexity requires different skills than traditional models of leadership. It requires us to think of leadership as inquiry, and this in turn means that we need to think much more critically about the kinds of questions that we ask. It may not be the answers that need changing, but the questions.”
Brenda Zimmerman)

“ART OF HOSTING CONVERSATIONS THAT MATTER
November 5-7, 2013 from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm each day

For more information contact:
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Amanda Hachey, amanda.hachey@cecnb.ca or 506 850 6669

What can we do together that we can’t do alone?
What begins to shift and change when we engage people fully?
What more in me needs to show up to make that possible?”