Together, how will we begin to host and harvest conversations that matter in service of Kenya’s future?

Kenya is a fast growing and emerging country. Its rich cultural diversity coupled with a wealth of manpower and an innovative society is perhaps why the country is considered to be the economic hub of East Africa. The Kenyan people have a strong sense of communion as demonstrated during the 2011 drought and most recently the devastating terrorist attack in Nairobi. In both cases, Kenyans came together to help those who desperately needed help. We witnessed Kenyans working for the good of Kenyans, co-creating solutions in extremely dire situations. There was a clear demonstration that the Kenyan people have the strength and vision to help come together, as one nation.

Kenyans value democracy as reflected in the embrace of the country’s new constitution. The County Governments present an important opportunity for power and resources to finally return to the people. Therefore conversations among diverse stakeholder groups are necessary. Frustrations, prejudices and confusion about responsibilities we all have toward the wellbeing of our communities has us asking the fundamental questions:

- How will we look courageously into the future and open up spaces for Kenyans to have challenging conversations?
- How will we ensure that we create a space for all voices to be heard?
- How can we bring peace to the forefront of our everyday practice?

We are all part of living systems that yearn for holistic solutions to complex and chaotic questions whether they are based on global challenges such as climate change, peace building, education, youth employment, poverty and health.

Join us for the first unique Art of Hosting Training in Kenya

As people who care for the future of Kenya we have the unique opportunity to learn how to host and harvest meaningful conversations as well as learn and practice the art of participatory leadership for the common good of our communities. Art of Hosting presents and opportunity to converse about complex issues and use the collective intelligence of the people by co-creating paths that could lead to sustainable solutions. Create shifts where they are needed!
During the workshop we will practice and explore:

Hosting conversations as a core leadership practice and skill sets for leading change.

Apply what we are learning to the ‘change projects’ you bring. From policy and national initiatives to grass roots community organising and movement building.

Developing competence in interactive processes that support participatory leadership, like Open Space technology - Appreciative Inquiry - Circle - World Cafe - Pro-action Cafe.

Frameworks and Process Design tools such as: Chaordic Design - Theory U - Organisational Paradigm and Living System designs.

As the staff of the European Commission who are using participatory leadership in their day to day work explain, “Imagine a meeting of 60 people, where in an hour you would have heard everyone and at the end you would have precisely identified the 5 most important points that people are willing to act on together.

For more information about Art of Hosting see www.artofhosting.org

Who should come?

We invite upcoming “Art of Hosting” practitioners, learners and leaders and all interested people who want to discover a co-creative process to bring sustainable change to their communities, organisations, companies and Government offices for new ways of participatory leadership across all sectors and industries.

When? Monday, 18th, start 8am to Wednesday, 20th November 2013, end 5pm.

Where? Don Bosco, Dagoretti Market Road (off Ngong Rd), Karen, Nairobi

Price? Including conference package, lunch, two tea breaks daily)
Kes 55,000 Organisational Contribution
Kes 35,000 for Non profit Contribution (self funded, small voluntary organisations)

Scholarships are available on request.

Price of accommodation:
additionally KES 2,000 two nights single room
full board or KES 1,400 two nights shared room (of four) full board; both at Don Bosco

The Art of Hosting training is an immersive learning experience and you will benefit most if you stay overnight. If for valid reasons (e.g. family or financial) you really cannot stay overnight, you will have to organise your own transport to the venue each day and back at night. Note there will be evening activities after dinner.

We acknowledge the generous sponsorship of Caritas Austria in making this training possible.
Please register online here:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1Sy3LH3vKL_asDcgplyLzQ3mjB6phCbykFA8svsq94U/viewform

There will be a maximum of 40 participants. Please insure that you register in time.

Apprentice opportunity: If you have completed an Art of Hosting training before and wish to develop your skills you can join the apprentice team and help host this training. You have to cover your own costs.

For more information or if you need some help please email: Joan Wandegi or Judith Stemerdink-Herret both available at aohinkenya@gmail.com

Your hosting team

Maaiianne Knuth

I am an experienced facilitator and designer of group learning and co-creation processes. I have worked in Africa, Europe and North America, moving between hosting large-scale multi-stakeholder processes to rural community development. I have been a part of the beginning of the Art of Hosting practices; have co-founded a global learning community called Pioneers of Change, and returned to Zimbabwe ten years ago to create Kufunda Learning Village, a leadership learning centre aimed at creating locally rooted sustainable solutions to community self-reliance challenges. I am passionate about supporting people to connect with their innate wisdom, and be able to bring these more fully into the world.

Simone Tiesinga-Poutnik

For the past 10 years Simone has been working on learning networks and leadership development in culturally diverse environments across the world. She is a practitioner of the Art of Hosting meaningful conversations is currently based in Egypt where she supports civil society organisations and projects to strengthen their capacity to collaborate beyond organisational egos and to host dialogue. Since 2010 she has been a co-learner and supporter of various initiatives at Kufunda Learning Village in Zimbabwe. Simone has co-founded Natural Innovation, the Hub Brussels – a collaborative work, learning and incubation space for social entrepreneurs and Tasting the Future – a systemic change process and community of practitioners working towards a sustainable food system in the UK. She frequently works with the European Institutions on participatory leadership trainings, organisational development and stakeholder engagement.

Linda Joy Mitchell

Linda Joy Mitchell is a process designer and dialogue host, a natural community builder and a gentle system disturber. With a background in psychotherapy and coaching and bringing 27 years experience of working in the UK civil society and public sector advising on strategic process and participative citizen consultation. Linda works with teams, individual leaders, strategic partnerships, and grass roots communities, developing collective intelligence and crafting opportunities for people to come together and build strong collaborative relationships with the power to systemically transform how we work as well as how we live our lives. www.lindajoymitchell.org.uk

The local organising team are Joan Wandegi, Dr Kennedy Mutundu and Judith Stemerdink-Herret