2022 Collaborative Conference

Three-Part Framework for Workshop Presentations

Each year, presenters are encouraged to use this Three-Part Framework to plan and implement your **75-minute session**, for the purposes of consistency and connecting to the conference theme. Please adapt as appropriate for some of our shorter sessions (30-45 minutes) this year.

- ⇨ Why? To build trust, connections, and relationships between and among conference participants, presenters, and sponsors around the theme of *Building the Plane While Flying It.*

Over the years, we've learned that:

- ✓ *Participants gained more from the conference because we built in intentional times for people to learn from and get to know each other—as opposed to simply listening to presenters.*
- ✓ *Asking the right questions can help participants start from positions of strength (what is possible) rather than from positions of weakness (what is wrong). We also found that this greatly increase the energy level in the room.*
- ✓ *Looking for common threads and common vision between and within sessions helped to build relationships and trust between participants.*
- ✓ *Learning was spurred by promoting a climate of cultural responsiveness.*
- ✓ ***Having workshops follow a similar structure assisted in making all of this possible.***

A. PART ONE: Opening Question (First 5-7 Minutes)

Please open your session by having participants introduce themselves in small groups and ask each other a question, appropriate for your session. Here are a few examples of what we have in mind:

- ✓ What does "building the plane while flying it" mean to you?
- ✓ What is something you and/or your organization piloted during COVID that you intend to continue doing after seeing positive results? E.g., working from home, walking at lunchtime.
- ✓ If you could change one thing about your organization (or the nonprofit sector as a whole), what would it be and why? What will it take to make that change?
- ✓ Imagine a flourishing community. What does that look like and feel like?
- ✓ Talk about a successful team you've been part of. What made your team so successful?
- ✓ Think about a time when you were excited to be part of something. What made that experience meaningful to you?
- ✓ Tell me about a time that you had to overcome a barrier; what did you do to move forward?
- ✓ Talk about a time when you've pushed yourself outside of your comfort zone. What was that like and how did you get through that experience?

Any question asked should start from a position of <u>strength</u> rather than a position of <u>need</u>.

- ⇨ Why? Because…
- ✓ We want to build intentional times for attendees to develop relationships with each other.
- ✓ We want to tie the topic of your session to an experience in which participants have had to try something new and different, perhaps outside their comfort zone.
- ✓ We want to help participants ask questions that will start conversations from a position of strength so that their energy is focused on what is possible rather than what is wrong.
- ✓ Energy increases in the (virtual) room when participants engage in these conversations.

B. PART TWO: Session Content (60-65 Minutes)

Please ensure that workshop CONTENT answers the following questions:

- ✓ *What do participants already have that they can build on?*
  Oftentimes, we are primed to start from a position of not having enough resources, a position of scarcity. The challenge to you is to start by helping participants identify what they already know and/or what they already have that they can build on.
- ✓ What are the *resources and knowledge* that participants are gaining from this workshop that will help them increase their own or their organization's *impact in their community*?

Examples:

- ✓ If you are talking about an organization's board, the board itself is a group of people that help to enhance their organization's role in the community.
- ✓ If you are talking about a communication plan, the messaging used in that plan may help to increase visibility, which could in turn bring in more financial resources.
- ✓ If you are talking about collaboration, the relationships that are developed within that collaborative can be used to leverage additional contacts and supports—particularly if ALL organizations are working together to meet a common vision or goal.

C. PART THREE: Ending the Session (5-7 Minutes)

Reflecting on what has been learned.

- ✓ Please allow time for participants to share aloud any "*Aha moments*" they may have had during the session. Another way to ask about this: What is standing out to you right now?
- ✓ Please encourage participants to complete the electronic Evaluation & Reflection Sheet.