AGENDA

Welcome and Introductions
Training/Materials Overview
Review of the 7 Principles of Design- (1-3)
Café Planning Practice 1-3
BREAK (10 mins)
Review of 7 Principles of Design- (4-7)
Café Planning Practice 4-7
Review of Café Plans
Closing and Evaluation
Research by evolutionary biologist Humberto Maturana and cognitive scientist, Francisco Varela reaffirms the central notion of the World Café model:

- Humans evolved the unique capacity for talking together and making distinctions of meaning in language.
- Since our earliest ancestors, conversation has been our primary means for discovering what we care about, sharing knowledge, imagining the future and acting together to survive and thrive.
- Conversations create meaning-making networks that shape our lives.
- Conversations are the lifeblood and heartbeat of social systems and change.
The Tools

- Please refer to the packet you were given as you came in.
  - Café Planning Worksheet
  - Café Planning Guide
  - Sample menu
  - Table host guide
  - Supply list
  - Evaluation
  - Organizational survey
  - Parent survey
  - Cafe-in-a-Box letter
7 Design Principles
Planning Groups

- You will divide into groups of 2-3 (if you came here with the intention of working on a particular project with particular people, that can be your group)
- If you don’t have a particular café in mind and did not come with specific people to work with, find a partner or two. Here is a list of possible café scenarios to work with as practice:

Café ideas for parents
1) Resilience
2) Self-care
3) Social connections
4) Dealing with a difficult parenting situation
5) Discipline
6) Promoting literacy for children
7) Promoting social-emotional development in children

Café ideas for teens
1) Self-care
2) Social media
3) School engagement
1. Set the Context—Purpose, Participants, Parameters

The Purpose

- What is the purpose of your Café? Why are you bringing people together? What do you want to achieve? What need (or needs) will this conversation fulfill?
- Who should be part of the Café planning team?
- Who should participate in your Café?
- What is your budget?

The Participants

- Who needs to be in the conversation in order to achieve our purpose?
- What additional people or perspectives could add valuable insights?
- What do we know about who’s coming and what are they’re needs, interests and questions?
The Parameters

Consider the “givens” you have to work with:

- Time constraints
- Location/venue
- Politics
- Money and Human Resources
2. Create Hospitable Space

- Where will it be held?
- How does your physical set-up contribute to setting up a welcoming environment?
3. Explore Questions that Matter

- Do you want to explore a single question in all three rounds or use a progressively deeper line of inquiry through three rounds?
- What are the questions you plan to discuss at the Café?
- How do you plan to divide your time during the Café? (A World Café generally consists of three rounds of progressive conversation lasting approximately 20-30 minutes each, followed by a dialogue among the whole group.)
A Powerful Question:

- Is simple and clear
- Is thought-provoking
- Generates energy
- Focuses inquiry
- Surfaces unconscious assumptions
- Generates curiosity
- Stimulates reflective conversation
- Opens new possibilities

- Touches a deep meaning
- Stays with participants
- Evokes more questions
- “Travels well”—spreads into larger networks of conversation
3 Dimensions of Powerful Questions

Construction
- Linguistic construction of a question either opens our mind or narrows possibilities.
- Most powerful questions start with “how”, “what”, “why”* and are open-ended.

Scope
- Match the scope of the question to the needs of the group.
- Taylor the scope precisely—not too broad, not too narrow

Assumptions
- All questions have implicit or explicit assumptions.
- Check for assumptions or beliefs that may not be shared by participants.
When Framing Questions, Ask:

- Is this question relevant to the real life and real work of the people who will be exploring it?
- Is this a genuine question—a question to which we don’t know the answer?
- Is this question likely to invite fresh thinking?
- What assumptions and beliefs are embedded in the way this question is constructed?
- Is this question likely to generate hope, imagination, engagement, creative action and new possibilities rather than focus on past problems & obstacles?
- Does this question leave room for new and different questions to be raised?

(Adapted from Sally Ann Roth, Public Conversations Project, 1998)
4. Encourage Everyone’s Contribution

- What can you do to encourage everyone’s contribution?
5. Connect Diverse Perspectives

- Progressive “rounds” of conversations.
- As people move between tables, they “cross-pollinate” ideas.
- Participants build on, each other’s ideas and add their own.
- Common patterns may arise.
6. Listen Together for Patterns & Insights

- How do you want to handle Table Hosts for your Café? Choose them in advance? Ask for volunteers?

(you can also refer to the Table Host guidelines in your materials packet)
7. Share Collective Discoveries

- What creative ways for harvesting, documenting, and sharing discoveries will be most useful for a) the participants at the event and b) carrying the insights forward to other constituencies?
- Why did you choose that method?
- What do you want to make sure people get out of the harvesting?
Café Plans

- Please share
  - Purpose/participants
  - Questions
  - How you might harvest
Next Steps

- Please complete the training evaluation.
- Inspirations and Connections

Thank you for your participation!