

REPORT for GENERATION NOW Leadership Meeting
Hosted by the AGNT Leadership Council
September 21-23, 2009
Santa Barbara, California

INTRODUCTIONS

Each attendee was given the name of another in advance with clear bio and web links. Took a few minutes to introduce them. Each person introduced was able to add anything after. Within minutes of meeting, participants began to discover connections and commonalities. It became clear that many of us are working towards the same goals, or could provide connections to others that are.

Introducing one another helped to get at the heart of each person and to see why everyone was invited to be part of this circle.

Tuesday, September 22, 2009

Morning Session: "INQUIRY"

"Questions Floating in the Air"

Questions pivotal to the INQUIRY stage were distilled from phone interviews and attendee's additional input. As we sat in receptivity, these questions emerged before us on a screen. At the end, those spontaneously drawn to a question, gathered to discuss it in a small group. After these discussions, the group gathered to share insights.

We broke into 4 groups to discuss the following questions:

What is the relationship between crisis and breakthrough, and what unique opportunities does this offer?

- Crisis is the point at which a system cannot function
- Crises can be therapeutic and facilitate breakthrough
- Has every generation experienced this kind of crisis?

Often we are pushed to progress by the threat of destruction. Is there a way to evolve before reaching that point?

- Detroit's community gardens are an example of how we are capable of finding innovative solutions in the face of destruction.

What is the meeting point of our individual gifts and what we hear the world calling for?

- Looked at on 2 levels: spiritual and material
- How we identify our gifts and when we're not on the right path.
- Guilt, not feeling right

-What are the gifts of those around us who we've been drawn to?

-What are the world's needs, and how do they match up?

-Serve the collective

How can we shift the dynamic of decision making so that it includes the strengths of all generations?

-How do we harness the energy of the younger generation?

-Is it a process of giving or taking?

-Does life belong to us, or do we belong to life?

How do we build organizations and entrepreneurial models that work, while still embodying the pure intentions and principles to which we are dedicated?

-What are the building blocks of organizations that need to be shifted? Financial sustainability, individual character, collective vision and motivation, systems and practices, freedom and space, respect for process, contemplative, reflective ethic, honesty, transparency

-How do we go about resource allocation? Both qualitative and concrete.

-Idea of a Wisdom Council/ Co-Op: to shape wisdom, information in relation to problems. A consciousness of corporate culture. A think tank to provide perspectives; insight. What is the relationship between this group and the do-ers?

-A space or platform for mapping and matching needs and resources. Need for peer reviews and contextual information (story telling)

Tuesday, September 22, 2009

Afternoon Session: "OPERATIONS"

Gina and Christina led us through a voice and movement exercise to help bring us back to focus.

10 minute AGNT Video to efficiently map work and projects

The video gave perspective to those not familiar with AGNT's work.

A brief explanation of Living Map process leading to GEN NOW presentations on own work.

"What's Working: Real, Here and Now." Each GEN NOW leader took approx. 13 minutes (including Q&A) to touch on their most passionate projects and initiatives. Data was added to existing map during each presentation. Special attention was be paid to emerging NEEDS (linked to projects), and RESOURCES.

The group became familiar with each participant's projects at a deeper level and were able to ask questions. The presenters gave concrete needs and resources for each of their projects, which were then added to the "brain" map. People were also able to respond in real time about connections or resources that they could offer to a specific person.

"Revealing Our Collective Map"

Living Map was explored, revealing the OPERATIONAL relationships present among our projects, needs, resources, and capacities.

Time was given for everyone to offer resources to the group as a whole. These have been added to the map as well.

Tuesday, September 22, 2009

Evening Session: "EXPANDING THE CIRCLE"

AGNT introduced themselves and welcomed community to evening. GEN NOW leaders introduce themselves and explain what we've been up to all day in Santa Barbara.

RADICAL IDEA WRITING EXERCISE

Nipun recalled a great story about Gandhi to help illustrate a "radical idea".

Many opted to include a phrase from each person in the group.

The radical ideas that were shared with the group ran along the common themes of love, interconnectedness, forgiveness and service.

Gina closed out the evening with a performance of her song "Be the Change"

Wednesday, September 23, 2009

Morning Session: "UNIVERSALS"

Universal Principles for a Radically New World (whole group to small groups))

We briefly discussed the need for a set of universal core values, and asked that each participant give it some thought and send us their ideas.

AGNT briefly convened and agreed to offer the GenNow guests an invitation to become an advisory council to the organization. For the rest of the morning, we turned to the GenNow participants to see what their thoughts and ideas were regarding that position. What kind of advisory council would this group be for AGNT?

Some thoughts:

-(Zaid) Putting structure to it right now might be too much...can we let it happen organically?

-What areas of concern are not represented in the group right now? Who else should be part of this group?

-(Danielle) The Leadership Council could connect based on interest on a one-on-one level. You could feature each of the GenNow leaders in a monthly newsletter so that others can reach out to us.

-(Christina) Meeting in person is very important. I need the physical or phone presence.

-(Rich) We can build as we go, use technology to support us, and focus on local collaboration. Also, match up each GenNow with an AGNT leader for a personal, horizontal, mentoring relationship.

-(Nipun) We need new models on how to engage and participate. If there is a set of needs or something concrete to organize around, people can group together based on interest.

-(Barbara) We do have projects, such as S.P.A.N., and it would be a two-way street for working on each other's projects.

-(Tom) There also may be something that we can all participate in together, in a big way. AGNT can present at some of your gatherings, and visa versa.

-AGNT may invite this group to be part of our April 2010 advisory council meeting.

-Idea of a "speaker's bureau" to help with fundraising.

We took some time for the GenNow leaders to share what connections and collaborations they had already begun planning together.