

Fostering Professional Learning

Storywalkers convenes a variety of ongoing conversations that promote professional learning and reflection.

Among existing teams, boards of directors or organizational leaders, Storywalkers helps institutions become learning organizations, in which team members cultivate curiosity, support risk-taking and seek to address contradictions within the organization.



For conferences, retreats or groups of professionals interested in a professional learning series, Storywalkers offers customized professional development workshops. These workshops are highly participatory, utilizing facilitated conversations and shared exploration to foster individual learning and build collaborative capacity.

Topics and Themes



Building Clear and Effective Collaboration

Organizations are increasingly called upon to describe their collaborative partnerships. At its best, collaboration is not simply sharing services, but rather groups of organizations working together to continuously improve their ability to meet a common purpose. This workshop will support collaborative members in developing clear agreements and in establishing structures to foster a more evolved and aligned approach to common work.



Developing a Learning Organization

Given the fast pace and continuous demands of non-profit work, organizations may support the concept of reflection and learning, but rarely develop the structure, culture and agreements to foster and harvest the insights offered from experience. With shared reflection, a team can work together to establish the internal structures, intentions and facilitation to enable the members to continuously learn from the work taking place. Ultimately a team fosters an organizational culture in which learning is continuously applied to the work at hand, creating an increasingly responsive institution.



Finding the Storyteller's Voice

Each of us knows when we hear a story told well, or when we witness others being moved by a powerful story. While a good story should not be formulaic, it is possible to focus on several clear elements that can be combined for effective non-profit storytelling. In this workshop, we integrate the voices of the scientist, the marketing executive and the artist to identify key elements of an organization's story, in order to present them to a diverse audience.



Identifying, Sharing and Learning from Best Practices in the Field

Within every field of service [i.e. education; charter schools; domestic violence services; foster youth services] each organization develops numerous tools, strategies and techniques that lead to high levels of effectiveness. Often, individuals within the same organization are not fully familiar with the innovative techniques utilized by colleagues. Even more commonly, multiple organizations seeking to conduct similar work do not have the benefit of utilizing the learnings from partner organizations. This workshop allows individuals and organizations to identify and distill specific practices that lead to highly effective outcomes.



Innovative Planning, Strategy & Resource Development

The ongoing existence of non-profit organizations – built upon imagination, determination, volunteer service and generosity – demonstrates that there are many ways of getting things done. As each organization becomes accustomed to their own successful means of operating, opportunities to identify or discover alternative strategies or resources can get missed. This workshop allows us to slow down, identify and shape new and unexpected avenues to success.



Navigating Challenge, Change and Uncertainty

Each of us face elements of our work that can be frightening, problematic or preferably avoided. Working together, we can lay out a path with clear strategies, milestones and opportunities or reflection to allow us to move safely into promising – even if uncertain – new territory.



Story as a Tool for Discernment, Discovery, Integration and Innovation

When we approach a non-profit organization or a public sector program as an unfolding story, we gain access to the most dynamic elements of the institution. We provide a participatory learning process to engage people in using simple tools to clarify, convey and build upon elements of each organization's story.



Working from a Place of Inspiration and Essential Meaning

Veteran non-profit professionals often enter the field from a place of inspiration, but increasingly express their commitment to the work by simply getting the job done. This workshop delves down into the spirit of the work we all engage in, seeking to revisit the source of what gives the work its meaning.

Storywalkers Consulting Group

www.storywalkers.com

(530) 758-1368

msimon@storywalkers.com