

Open Space Training and Practice Workshop

Open Space Technology (OST) has been called meeting methodology, organization transformation, intentional self-organization and surfing the chaos. Since it's discovery 20 years ago, it has enabled all kinds of people, in every kind of organization and community, to create inspired meetings and events - and post phenomenal business results. It has also become clear that opening space, as an intentional leadership practice, can create inspired organizations, where ordinary people work together to create extraordinary results with regularity.

In Open Space meetings, events and organizations, groups of 5 to 1000 create and manage their own agenda of parallel working sessions around a central theme of real importance, such as "the future of our business" or "how can we better support children and families?" This happens in 1-day workshops, 3-day conferences, or regular staff meetings, and the common result is a powerful, effective connecting and strengthening of what's already happening in the organization: planning & action, learning & doing, passion & responsibility, participation & performance.

The OST Training and Practice Workshop is a two-day summit providing an opportunity for deep learning ABOUT open space, IN open space and AS the facilitator/sponsor of open space. It's a seamless blend of training and consulting, learning and doing, theory and practice. It's also an opportunity to create and establish a local practice group to support the practice and growth of Open Space.

Who should come? Leaders, managers and facilitators working with very complex issues, requiring the cooperation of diverse stakeholders, where conflict is quite possible if not already present, and where there is an urgent need for right action.

What Will Happen? You will learn about and begin to apply Open Space as a practice in invitation. This will take place mostly in Open Space, so the days will be full, the spirit high, the learning fast and the applications immediate. Each day will start and end with a practice-specific briefing and dialogue that will serve to bound and contextualize our time and experience in Open Space.

Day 1: The SPIRIT of Open Space. With "Inviting Organization" as our theme, we'll spend the day exploring the deeper meaning of what it means to live and work in Open Space.

Day 2: The PRACTICE of Open Space Technology. With "Organizing Invitation" as our theme, our focus will be the creation of invitations, invitation lists, program designs and follow-up plans for as many meetings, projects and situations as you care to work on.

Outcome: Participants leave with a deeper understanding of OST practice, specific plans to apply it in as many situations as they choose to work on, AND a number of local colleagues who can offer ongoing guidance, support and encouragement.

How to Prepare? Start by reading OST: A User's Guide, by Harrison Owen, and reviewing at least one other of the following titles/website. Most importantly, give thought to a list of meetings, events, projects and other situations that come to mind as places where Open Space might help people and organizations you know.

Other books written by Harrison Owen, Open Space Technology originator, published by Berrett-Koehler and available through most bookstores and online booksellers include:

Expanding Our Now

The Power of Spirit

The Spirit of Leadership

More valuable information can be found also in the Open Space section of Michael Herman's website: www.michaelherman.com.

Why Open Space? More than ever before, we are truly living in Open Space... where old ways just aren't working anymore; new ways aren't yet clear. Some things certainly will not be the same, yet the possibility that some things might be better, deeper, easier is real.

Please join us!

When: March 13 & 14, 2003, 8:30 AM to 5:30 PM each day

Where: Terminal 3, Sky Harbor Airport, Suite 3300

Cost: \$375 (Includes lunches, breaks, handbook and parking)
less \$50 for nonprofits
less \$50 when 3 register together
less \$50 for registration by February 25, 2003
(Scholarships may be available)

Contact: BJ Peters, 602.279.4805 or <mailto:bjp1@cox.net>

Co- Facilitators: Michael Herman & BJ Peters, internationally recognized leaders in the practice of Open Space Technology.

Registration: Mail all contact information and check, payable to Michael Herman Associates, to:

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