



# **Art of Hosting & Convening Conversations**

**Thursday, June 3rd - Saturday, June 5th, 2004**  
**Utrecht, The Netherlands**

***The Art of Hosting and Convening Conversations** is a training for all who aspire to learn and find new ways for working with others to create innovative and comprehensive solutions.*

## ***This training will explore and support...***

- Hosting as an art, and as a core leadership practice.
- Conditions needed to create space for meaningful conversation.
- Specific interactive processes through which learning and creation can emerge – Open Space Technology, Circle, Council, Appreciative Inquiry and World Café.
- Conditions and timing for using particular methods and tools.
- Practice hosting in key areas relevant in each of our lives and work.

## ***This training is not for spectators...***

- Our learning will grow out of participants' contributions and presence. We will support each other as co-learners.
- We will learn by observation, experience and practice – everyone will have an opportunity to step into the fire of hosting.
- We will each name projects/processes that we are committed to in the near future, and for which we each intend to apply our new skills.

***Together we will create a learning environment*** – a safe space to play and practice. By designing projects/processes that will happen in the near future, we will explore how to continue our practice beyond this training, to make a difference in our respective areas of work, family, and community. We will form a network of learners and practitioners, helping each other on the journey.

## ***Costs***

**Price per participant for the training, materials, board and lodging:**  
**1.150 euro.**

**For groups of 3 (three) or more a group price can be negotiated**

**If the price of the training is not affordable for you, let us know as we hold the following principle: "To be part of the training, everyone should contribute as much as they can and a little bit more".**

## ***Registration Deadline***

**9 May, 2004**

## ***For Information or to Register***

**Tim Merry – [tim@engage.nu](mailto:tim@engage.nu)**

**Please send registration forms to - [arjen@engage.nu](mailto:arjen@engage.nu)**

## ***A few words from the hosting team of this training...***

**Tim Merry**  
**Canada**

**Host and Convener of meaningful and  
sustainable community  
Co-founder of Engage! InterAct  
([www.engage.nu/interact](http://www.engage.nu/interact))  
Founder and Council member the Shire**

*We have each spent years organising, designing, and hosting inspired spaces – dialogues, strategic change processes, learning conferences, circle councils, networked organisations – each in support of life-affirming leadership, interactive learning, organisational and social change and self-organisation. Together, we feel inspired to bring this body of experience to others.*

What if hosting is the way to lead change now? The old ways of working do not serve us anymore. Many leaders have suffered life-stopping stress or apathy at a sense of powerlessness. It is time for us to gather together and co-create our solutions. We need the processes and containers to do this with integrity. How can we create the spaces where human beings gather together to co-design a future which nurtures human spirit and the planet we live on?

**Arjen Bos**  
**The Netherlands**  
**Change facilitator**  
**Co-founder of Engage! InterAct**  
**([www.engage.nu/interact](http://www.engage.nu/interact))**

**Toke Paludan Moller**  
**Denmark**  
**Flow Maker**  
**Co-creator of Interchange**  
**([www.interchange.dk](http://www.interchange.dk))**  
**Days Like This**

If hosting conversations is the leadership competence of the new era, how do we include our past? How do we balance between top-down and bottom-up paradigms? And how do we co-create an environment where both perspectives are treated respectfully and wherein they can flourish? How can we make it an inclusive and participative effort that honours all individual beings and their contributions? For me, hosting conversations is a result- and process-oriented approach at the same time, the art is to believe it and to practice and live it with sincerity, honesty and integrity.

What if the solutions for our future were hidden in our collective intelligence and wisdom? What if hosting conversations were the kind of leadership that allowed learning to take place? What would our societies be like if we based them on our collective awareness and the courage to exercise our understanding? These are my core questions and I trust we can give birth to a new way of working, leading, and being if we just go for it. Courage is to do what you're afraid of and know in your heart what needs to be done now.

- Please come if...***
- You have decided that hosting conversations and processes can add to the work you are already doing
  - You are willing to practice your hosting by designing your specific project /process that will take place in the near future
  - You are prepared to challenge assumptions on how learning and creation happen
  - You are willing to take responsibility for your own learning – bring your burning questions and explore your learning edges through the Art of Hosting.

***We look forward to seeing you soon!***  
***Arjen, Toke and Tim***