

Connecting Change Practitioners gathering

An event held for individuals, networks and organizations seeking to nurture collaboration, build bridges and transform systems in these times of polarization and fragmentation to explore...

"How do we as individuals, organizations and networks, play our part in building a peaceful and sustainable world?"

Co-hosted by the Partnership Brokers Association and the Art of Hosting



An incredible group of 35 people gathered at Lumen on 18th May 2018 - people working...

- **at the forefront of innovative community and social change initiatives to create vibrant diverse cohesive healthy communities through**
 - architecture, services, finance, healthcare, energy, education, technology, art and language, housing, food,
 - from organizations such as Nesta, Impact Hub, Participatory Cities Foundation, LSE, St. Martins school of Art, Trinity College Dublin, The Brixton Pound, On Purpose, Tapestry Innovation, The Clitterhouse Farm Project, The Collective, Connect Scotland, Pembroke House, Collaborate for Social Change, Community Co Lab, Resonanz Austria, ...
- **at the forefront of personal and organizational leadership, bringing greater humanity, wellbeing and collaboration to the workplace through**
 - co-working, partnership, personal transformation, whole being leadership, training/coaching
 - independent change makers, coaches, executive coaches, trainers such as Head and Heart Leadership, Lead Positive Change, The Learning Moment, Nicholas Beecroft, Cerescom, Living Collaborations, ...

We came to

- Put our individual efforts in the context of others working for similar goals
- Explore, be curious and learn about what/who else is out there
- Connect - join the dots - nurture a network - be part of a community
- Connect to what matters, do more of what the world needs
- Collaborate and be more impactful together

We used Open Space Technology to open up important conversations raised by the group:

What do I want to explore now to build a more peaceful and sustainable world?

- How can we ensure our connections are not just transactional?
- How do we best highlight shared human similarities and challenges?
- How can we have big conversations (like this one) with diverse communities?
- When I see bias, inequality and discrimination, how can I respond meaningfully and hopefully?
- How can we welcome newcomers?
- How can I put my values into ideas and action?
- How can I harness the power of this group to enhance the wellbeing of my community?
- How might the quality of our spaces reflect the quality of our communities?
- What could a light infrastructure support look like that unleashes self-organization?

Emerging themes

- **Humanity** - bringing more depth and quality to our life and interactions - values, connection,
- **Diversity** - nurturing interconnected communities where all can feel welcome and heard
- **Community potential** - creating spaces and structures that unleash the power of diverse communities
- **Individual practice** - looking at our own blind spots, how we contribute to the problem and live by our own values
- **Community driven change** - changing the balance of power and what we expect of leaders
- **Hope** - stay personally positive and be inspired by the wealth of people and initiatives happening

What next?

We witnessed a strong desire for greater connectivity, dialogue and collaborative working to further the themes that move us. We will be back in touch about

- more regular dialogue on Zoom
- potential for collaborative working

If you want to know more, or join these conversations, please contact Joanna at joannapyres@gmail.com.

