ToP Network Annual Gathering 2023

Event Schedule

Thu, Mar 02, 2023

6:30 AM

Gather in the "Lobby"

② 6:30 AM - 7:00 AM, Mar 2

Join us in the Zoom Lobby to start Day 1 of the Gathering. This is an informal time to come together and begin connecting with Gathering participants. Here's your opportunity to meet each other, engage in introductory conversations, and get questions answered.

Your Hosts: Suzanne Esber, Vicki Allen

7:00 AM

Opening Plenary

2 7:00 AM - 9:00 AM, Mar 2

Welcome to the Opening Plenary which is the first of a series of four all group sessions. The focus of the plenary series is the theme: The Transformative Fire of Facilitation; Building Belonging and Sparking Innovation. The question that we will explore for this Opening Plenary is "Understanding the transformative fire of facilitation, how do we build belonging within the ToP Network and within our own facilitation practice?

♥ Speakers



Robert Quintana Hopkins

Senior Partner and ToP® Mentor Trainer Center for Strategic Facilitation



Ian Johnson

Owner & Lead Consultant ProgressiAn Consulting & Facilitation



Librada Estrada

Coach and Facilitator Librada Estrada Consulting, LLC

9:00 AM

30 minute Break & Networking

② 9:00 AM - 9:30 AM, Mar 2

Creating community and b...

Come to the Zoom Lobby for networking, break-out conversations, and getting questions answered. Or take your own break away from the screen and stretch, eat, drink, and tend to other responsibilities. Or setup a meet up through Whova and get together with other colleagues.

Host: Shahrzad Saderi

9:30 AM

Facilitating with Stories - Bring your Fire Stories to the Group (Part 1)

② 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM, Mar 2

Creating community and belonging Learning what's evolving in facilitation

Refining approaches and techniques to facilitation

Strategically facilitating participants to share stories brings humanness, authenticity and connection; creates a sense of belonging and inclusion; and builds trust. In both businesses and non-profits this enables improved collaboration and reduces attrition. However, without careful facilitation it can fall flat as participants struggle to find what to share or the sharing remains superficial or lacks purpose.

In this first session join us to experience storytelling as a participant - share, listen and reflect. And then after the break join us for part 2 as we faciltate a meta-reflection of the experience.

♥ Speakers



Alison Gitelson Facilitator | Growth Enabler | Founder CanBeeDone



Michelle Zhang

Principle Facilitator, Managing Director Shenzhen IncluSmart Consulting LLC.

Bringing Inclusive Classroom Teaching Tools to Our Facilitation Practice: **Tensions and Opportunities**

② 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM, Mar 2

Creating community and belonging Learning what's evolving in facilitation

Refining approaches and techniques to facilitation

This workshop explores how inclusive pedagogy practices from higher education can (and can't!) inform the creation of more inclusive spaces and processes for clients/facilitated groups.

♥ Speakers



Ruthie Yow

Service Learning and Partnerships Specialist Serve-Learn-Sustain, Georgia Tech



Terri Phillips

Principal Consu SJD Consulting, LLC

The Social Process Triangle

② 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM, Mar 2

Discovering where we are in 2023 Emerging platforms, hybrid and virtual

Refining approaches and techniques to facilitation

This workshop explores the ICA Social Process Triangles model as a tool to identify whole system dynamics, trends, and "pressure points" for social change. Key elements include:

- An Introduction to the Social Process Triangles
- The origins of the model
- The three major dynamics
- · Interaction with the model
- Applications for using the model

The workshop process will include explanation of the model and participant interaction and discussion. No previous knowledge of ToP methods is required. We'll see a Henry Mintzberg video taken from his book, "Rebalancing Society".

📢 Speakers



Maureen Jenkins

Principal **Imaginal Training**



Ann Epps Senior Consultant, ToP Mentor Trainer ToP USA Network

Centering Empathy in your Facilitation and Beyond

② 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM, Mar 2

Creating community and belonging

Refining approaches and techniques to facilitation

Empathy truly supports creating sustainable positive healthy relationships which also supports inclusivity. In this workshop we will establish a baseline of common vocabulary and create a space for hearty conversation about why it matters in your faciliation and how it might show up for us as facilitators. No Prior knowledge of ToP methods necessary.

♥ Speakers



Misha Safran

CEEQ, Center for Empathy and Emotional Intelligence, LLC - award winning DEI trainer



Priya Jindal Founder Nextpat, Ltd

11:00 AM

30 minute Break & Networking

② 11:00 AM - 11:30 AM, Mar 2

Creating community and b...

Come to the Zoom Lobby for networking, break-out conversations, and getting questions answered. Or take your own break away from the screen and stretch, eat, drink, and tend to other responsibilities. Or setup a meet up through Whova and get together with other colleagues.

11:30 AM

Facilitating with Stories - Bring your Fire Stories to the Group (Part 2)

② 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM, Mar 2

Creating community and belonging Learning what's evolving in facilitation

Refining approaches and techniques to facilitation

This session requires attendance at the earlier 'part 1' session - see above.

Strategically facilitating participants to share stories brings humanness, authenticity and connection; creates a sense of belonging and inclusion; and builds trust.

In the earlier 'part 1' session you will experience this as a participant.

In this 'part 2' session we'll facilitate a meta-reflection of part 1 - generate the key learnings; explore the workshop design and its facilitation - what worked and what could be improved. And consider how you might use storytelling in your own work.

📢 Speakers



Alison Gitelson Facilitator | Growth Enabler | Founder



Michelle Zhang Principle Facilitator, Managing Director Shenzhen IncluSmart Consulting LLC.

Confirming DEI Fundamentals: Building Belonging Based on Narrative Research

② 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM, Mar 2

CanBeeDone

Creating community and belonging Refining approaches and techniques to facilitation

People's lived experience is the most foundational element of DEI work. We are excited to share our research findings from interviews across a broad spectrum of people both with and without a DEI program. Join us to share insights and explore how this rich wisdom can enhance your DEI work.

📢 Speaker



Sunny Walker

Virtual Facilitation Collaborative; SunWalker Enterprises

Transitions - Tools for Mastering Change

② 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM, Mar 2

Creating community and belonging

Discovering where we are in 2023 Learning what's evolving in facilitation

Transitions - in work, love, health, or identity - are increasing. Facilitators help individuals and groups make meaning of change. Yet how might we make sense of transitions? This session will share recent frameworks on transition and give participants the opportunity to reflect on transitions they have experienced, patterns that emerge and tools for supporting groups in transition.

♥ Speaker



Renee Rubin Ross Principal The Ross Collective

Transformational Leadership program

② 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM, Mar 2

Discovering where we are in 2023 Learning what's evolving in facilitation

Executives need to know methods that makes participation important, but don't need to know HOW to use them. The Transformational Leadership program sets up leaders to know what is possible. It was ranked #2 of 17 leadership programs by the Ontario Government. Created with input from seven ICAs and the IAF.

♥ Speakers



Bill Staples Senior Associate and Founding Partner ICA Associates Inc



Alexey Svetlichny

1:00 PM

30 minute Break & Networking

② 1:00 PM - 1:30 PM, Mar 2

Creating community and b...

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Host: Becky Groff

1:30 PM

Embracing the Squiggle: Facilitating Organizational Change with ToP methods

① 1:30 PM - 3:00 PM, Mar 2

Addressing objections and challenges Refining approaches and techniques to facilitation

Organizational change is hard. But when applied to stages of sensing, de-risking and scaling, ToP methods can be the key to shift internal narratives and take an idea to fruition. This session will build on the work of Leith Sharp of Harvard Executive Education for Sustainability Leadership, and engage participants in flexibly mapping ToP methods to innovative organizational change approaches.

▼ Speaker



Sarah Church County of Alameda

Trauma-Informed and Healing Centered Facilitation Practices

① 1:30 PM - 3:00 PM, Mar 2

Creating community and belonging Learning what's evolving in facilitation

Refining approaches and techniques to facilitation

In this interactive workshop, we will identify how trauma shows up in all of us as individuals, groups and systems; what we, as facilitators, can do to create supportive and engaging environments that promote safety and inclusion; and healing centered practices that support how we see and respond to 'disruptions' and facilitation 'challenges.'

▼ Speakers



Aimee Viniard-Weideman

CEO + Facilitator, Coach and Trainer **Daybreak Transition Partners**



Colleen Svoboda

Facilitator, Coach, Trainer Daybreak Transition Partners

Deep Dive into ORID

② 1:30 PM - 3:00 PM, Mar 2

Learning what's evolving in facilitation Refining approaches and techniques to facilitation

As a "meta method," ORID has a rich history beyond what you learn in TFM. Deepen your skill in this session by exploring other profoundly meaningful and robust applications of the ORID structure.

📢 Speaker



Sunny Walker

Virtual Facilitation Collaborative; SunWalker Enterprises

Introducing the Activist Facilitator Framework

② 1:30 PM - 3:00 PM, Mar 2

Learning what's evolving in facilitation Refining approaches and techniques to facilitation

18 ToP Facilitators and Trainers participated in Robert Quintana Hopkins' dissertation research entitled "Caring as Radical Organization Development: Using Critical Collaborative Autoethnography to Understand the Genealogy of the ToP Network." One outcomes from the research was the Activist Facilitator, a new framework for facilitators who work from a critical paradigm. Attend this interactive workshop to learn about the Activist Facilitator Framework and engage in conversation about how this model can transform your individual approach to facilitation and our field.

♥ Speaker



Robert Quintana Hopkins

Senior Partner and ToP® Mentor Trainer Center for Strategic Facilitation

3:00 PM

30 minute Break & Networking

② 3:00 PM - 3:30 PM, Mar 2

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3:30 PM

The Power of Narrative in Facilitation Practice

② 3:30 PM - 5:00 PM, Mar 2

Addressing objections and challenges | Creating community and belonging | Learning what's evolving in facilitation

Refining approaches and techniques to facilitation

We will be exploring the use of narrative in ToP Practice -- within various types of groups - often referred to as imaginal education, or image shift, this framing is one of the most powerful approaches we have for the transitions our clients are facing!

▼ Speaker



Seva Gandhi

Founder Collaborative Connections

Facilitating Collective Action for Equity and Social Change

② 3:30 PM - 5:00 PM, Mar 2

Addressing objections and challenges | Creating community and belonging | Discovering where we are in 2023

This session will explore conditions needed for building and facilitating a collaborative workgroup for equitable change. How can facilitators attend to the unique challenges of moving an equity-centered committee or task force from debate, competition, and division to dialogue, collaboration, and relationship? Knowledge of ToP methods useful but not essential. This session is intended to help facilitators develop knowledge and awareness of the unique challenges associated with launching and leading equity and social justice-centered workgroups, taskforces, and committees in organizations.

Speakers



Alan Goff Principal Sambai Concentric Facilitation



Kathleen Rice Consultant K L Rice Consulting

Norms - Agreements - Intentions...How are you creating braver spaces?

② 3:30 PM - 5:00 PM, Mar 2

Creating community and belonging Learning what's evolving in facilitation

Refining approaches and techniques to facilitation

Join this discussion to both learn and share what facilitators are doing these days to create an environment in which participants feel empowered and trustful enough to do their bravest work. No prior knowledge of ToP methods is required, but the session will be very hands-on, so come prepared to bring your wisdom and experience forward.

Speaker



Eva Meyers Co-Founder Spark Decks

Triggers, Trauma & Transformation: Navigating White Supremacy Culture in **Facilitation**

② 3:30 PM - 5:00 PM, Mar 2

Creating community and belonging

Learning what's evolving in facilitation

Refining approaches and techniques to facilitation

In this session we will expore the characteristics of white supremacy culture; discuss how these can show up in a facilitated session; and demonstrate specific patterned behaviors we often see. We will then help participants differentiate between the facilitator's role in design and patterned participant behavior; decide what strategies/methods we could use to mitigate socialized/often centered behavior; and design questions we could ask on intake to proactively create a safer container/session.

▼ Speakers



Aaron Wolowiec Founder & President Event Garde LLC



Director of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belongnig Event Garde LLC



Eileen Pippins Eileen Pippins Consulting



Dilhara Muthukuda

② 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM, Mar 2

End your first day with intention, connections, fun, and new tools for your facilitation practice. We will introduce you to two Thaigi Jolts to intentionally energize participants in a meaningful and purposeful way, whether in a meeting, team-building session, or workshop. They also enable your participants to creatively discover critical insights. Jolt with us, meet with your ToP colleagues, and end your day with a chatterfall.

♥ Speakers



Tanja Sarett

Facilitator, Fundraising Consultant, Executive Leadership Coach Synergies Created | Synergies in Philanthropy Consulting LLC



Laura Holbrook

Principal Lazar Holbrook and Associates

Fri, Mar 03, 2023

6:30 AM

Gather in the "Lobby"

② 6:30 AM - 7:00 AM, Mar 3

Join us in the Zoom Lobby to start Day 2 of the Gathering. This is an informal time to come together and begin connecting with Gathering participants. Here's your opportunity to meet each other, engage in introductory conversations, and get questions answered.

Your Hosts: Terri Phillips, Vicki Allen

7:00 AM

Plenary 2

2 7:00 AM - 9:00 AM, Mar 3

Addressing objections and challenges | Creating community and belonging

Welcome to Plenary 2 which is the second of a series of four all group sessions. The focus of the plenary series is the theme: The Transformative Fire of Facilitation; Building Belonging and Sparking Innovation. The focus questions for this Plenary is "What are the supports and blocks to building belonging within the ToP Network?"

📢 Speaker



Michael Beebe

Consultant/Trainer Leadership for Change Consulting

9:00 AM

30 minute Break & Networking

② 9:00 AM - 9:30 AM, Mar 3

Creating community and b...

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9:30 AM

As facilitators, what types of Fire do we think we are? What Fire do we want to be? ② 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM, Mar 3

Creating community and belonging Discovering where we are in 2023

Everyone is unique, so is Fire. As facilitators, what types of Fire do we think we are? What Fire do we want to be? After the flame fades away, what will we leave to the world? Please join us to explore more about our Fire Tribe

📢 Speaker



Michelle Zhang

Principle Facilitator, Managing Director Shenzhen IncluSmart Consulting LLC.

Firing Community development through ToP Facilitation Training

② 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM, Mar 3

Creating community and belonging

Discovering where we are in 2023

Refining approaches and techniques to facilitation

Learn about the work of ToP Practitioners in Ghana and Zimbabwe - and how the methods are used in local social change efforts. Learn how Africa ICAs are using facilitation to mobilise communities to act on climate change affecting them.

♥ Speakers



Ken Kinney

Executive Director The Development Institute/ ICAI Associates



Gerald Gomani

Director **ICA**

Creating a Culture of Learning through Facilitation

② 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM, Mar 3

Creating community and belonging Refining approaches and techniques to facilitation

This session will explore factors that contribute to a culture of learning, and how they align with competencies of facilitation. We will investigate how these factors contribute to a facilitation environment that maximizes learning. ToP facilitation creates a culture where learning is prioritized and valued. Wherever learning is encouraged, innovation and evolution follow.

Speaker



Tanya Bustamante, DrPH, MPH

Aging Services Division Manager City of Berkeley Health, Housing & Community Services Department

Constructivist Listening Session: Share and hear emerging perspectives; experience the power of being listened to

② 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM, Mar 3

Addressing objections and challenges | Creating community and belonging

Learning what's evolving in facilitation

Refining approaches and techniques to facilitation

Two Constructivist Listening sessions will be held during the Gathering. These are opportunities for sharing our reflections, thoughts, feelings, passions, and interests, and for being heard. The Constructivist Listening practice can interrupt power dynamics as each participant receives equal time to be listened to. Listeners are invited to listen openly without comment, critique or judgment, allowing the speaker to explore their ideas and feelings that are not yet fully formed, allowing us to discover our own deeper meaning, through the power of being listened to. Participants are invited to share emerging thoughts and feelings the Gathering is stimulating, big and small facilitation challenges you are experiencing, or other in progress thoughts and feelings.

📢 Speaker



11:00 AM

30 minute Break & Networking

② 11:00 AM - 11:30 AM, Mar 3

Creating community and b...

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Host: Shahrzad Saderi

11:30 AM

ToP Network Action Teams Plenary 3

② 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM, Mar 3

Creating community and belonging

Discovering where we are in 2023

Refining approaches and techniques to facilitation

Welcome to Action Teams Plenary 3 which is the third of a series of four all group sessions. The focus of the plenary series is the theme: The Transformative Fire of Facilitation; Building Belonging and Sparking Innovation.

At this session, you will be introduced to the ToP Network Action Teams of facilitators and trainers and learn how the ToP facilitation and training work is carried out. The focus question for this session is "What are the implications of what was learned in "Building Belonging" to incorporate in action team planning?"

▼ Speakers



Holly Hayes ISI Consulting



Shelby Pierce Pierce Porter Facilitation



Ian Johnson Owner & Lead Consultant ProgressiAn Consulting & Facilitation

1:00 PM

30 minute Break & Networking

② 1:00 PM - 1:30 PM, Mar 3

Creating community and b...

Come to the Zoom Lobby for networking, break-out conversations, and getting questions answered. Or take your own break away from the screen and stretch, eat, drink, and tend to other responsibilities. Or setup a meet up through Whova and get together with other colleagues.

1:30 PM

Could White Patterns be Unconsciously Co-opting your Facilitation?

① 1:30 PM - 3:00 PM, Mar 3

Creating community and belonging Refining approaches and techniques to facilitation

Have you found yourself repeatedly clinging to the agenda, over preparing, prioritizing outcomes over relationships, or wanting to go it alone as a facilitator? It's possible these and other patterns of Whiteness have been a driver. While the origins and effects are different, these patterns impact everyone. We will introduce key concepts and core practices for recognizing and shifting White patterns in ourselves, all in a context of our goodness as humans.

♥ Speakers



Kathleen Rice Consultant K L Rice Consulting



Mollie Crittenden Life Coach, Facilitator Mollie Crittenden Coaching and Consulting

Creative Applications of ToP

① 1:30 PM - 3:00 PM, Mar 3

Refining approaches and techniques to facilitation

What do you do when your client throws you a curve and the ToP method you planned does not fit the need? In this session, we will review several stories of such cases and then participants will brainstorm creative approaches on current dilemmas.

♥ Speakers



Heidi Kolbe Kolbe Company, Sacramento Professional Facilitators



Catherine Dunwoody Dunwoody Consulting



Bonnie Nortz Strategic Simulations Program Manager FDIC Strategic Simulations Program

Explore "Design for Belonging"

① 1:30 PM - 3:00 PM, Mar 3

Creating community and belonging Refining approaches and techniques to facilitation

Join this session to learn the 9 key concepts of belonging and how the ToP Network Catalyst Team integrated the concepts into a practical approach for designing the 2023 Gathering. In addition, engage in a practical discussion to bring at least three actions of belonging to your work and community.

▼ Speaker



Catherine Tornbom Interfuse Associates

Building Facilitation Capabilities Within an Organization - A Panel Discussion ① 1:30 PM - 3:00 PM, Mar 3

Creating community and belonging Discovering where we are in 2023 Learning what's evolving in facilitation

Learn from a panel of internal ToP facilitators within 3 organizations who have built and continue to nurture a community of practice within their organization. Hear about their journeys--the keys to their success, their challenges and learnings. Plus there will be plenty time for Q&A with the panelists.

Speakers



June KlaphakeKlaphake Consulting LLC



Emily LarsonCommunity Outreach & Engagement Coordinator
City of Bloomington, MN



Jamie Eustace
Library Director
City of Baytown



Lesley KohlesAssistant Library Director
Sterling Municipal Library



Shawn SorrellDEI Department manager
Hennepin County Minnesota

3:00 PM

30 minute Break & Networking

② 3:00 PM - 3:30 PM, Mar 3

Creating community and b...

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3:30 PM

Beyond Classroom Learning: How ICA Canada uses Other Learning Methods to Increase Impact

② 3:30 PM - 5:00 PM, Mar 3

Learning what's evolving in facilitation Refining approaches and techniques to facilitation

Can people learn facilitation only in group settings? Can people learn in different ways? See how ICAA in Canada uses books, videos, self-directed online, and gamification to increase numbers and the impact in learning. The world's need is great. Limiting ourselves to classroom learning leaves out millions.

♥ Speakers



Bill StaplesSenior Associate and Founding Partner ICA Associates Inc



Huiying(Yoyo) You Senior associate ICA Associates Inc.

Integrating Self and Community Care in Facilitated Spaces

② 3:30 PM - 5:00 PM, Mar 3

Creating community and belonging Learning what's evolving in facilitation

Refining approaches and techniques to facilitation

In this session, participants will have the opportunity to learn and share ways they are bringing well-being into their facilitations and workplaces, including looking at facilitating with a trauma-informed lens.

▼ Speaker



Eva Meyers Co-Founder Spark Decks

Constructivist Listening Session: Share and hear emerging perspectives; experience the power of being listened to

② 3:30 PM - 5:00 PM, Mar 3

Learning what's evolving in facilitation

Refining approaches and techniques to facilitation

Two Constructivist Listening sessions will be held during the Gathering. These are opportunities for sharing our reflections, thoughts, feelings, passions, and interests, and for being heard. The Constructivist Listening practice can interrupt power dynamics as each participant receives equal time to be listened to. Listeners are invited to listen openly without comment, critique or judgment, allowing the speaker to explore their ideas and feelings that are not yet fully formed, allowing us to discover our own deeper meaning, through the power of being listened to. Participants are invited to share emerging thoughts and feelings the Gathering is stimulating, big and small facilitation challenges you are experiencing, or other in progress thoughts and feelings.

♥ Speaker



Roy Kauer III Retired

5:00 PM

Social Activity - "Forest Bathing"

② 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM, Mar 3

Join Suzanne for a virtual nature walk through Glacier National Park Montana for "forest bathing". As you can, we'll even step outside to gaze at your own natural landscape or even your indoor plants!

What is "forest bathing" you ask? The term shinrin-yoku emerged in Japan and meant "taking in the forest atmosphere" for the purpose of offering an eco-antidote to tech-boom burnout and to inspire residents to reconnect with and protect the country's forests. Researchers learned what we innately know - time spent immersed in nature is good for us! Forest bathing is not just for the wilderness lover; the practice can be as simple as walking in any natural environment and consciously connecting with what's around you. For a more structured experience, you can join trained guides for a meditative 2 to 3 hour ecotherapy excursion. Sounds like an ORID in the making!

📢 Speaker



Suzanne Esber

Sat, Mar 04, 2023

8:00 AM

Plenary 4 - Hybrid with Regional in-person hubs

② 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM, Mar 4

Creating community and belonging | Emerging platforms, hybrid and virtual

Refining approaches and techniques to facilitation

Welcome to Plenary 4 which is the last of a series of four all group sessions. The focus of the plenary series is the theme: The Transformative Fire of Facilitation; Building Belonging and Sparking Innovation.

The focus question for this plenary is "Sparking Innovation"- "What new, creative bold action can we take within the Network and within our own facilitation practices to build belonging?"

This Plenary session will be both virtual and in person. We are organizing regional hubs where a group of ToP colleagues can meet in person and participate in this session. If you are interested in being a host for your area, contact Marcia Hodges hodges.marcia@gmail.com to learn about the setup needs. This is an opportunity to experience a "hybrid" facilitation with everyone from around the world participating online or in-person.

Hub locations that have emerged include: Minneapolis, MN USA Nairobi, Kenya San Francisco Bay Area, CA USA Seattle, WA USA Sioux City IA USA (Great Plains)

Check back for more information soon!

▼ Speakers



Sandhya Atkinson Founder / Principal Sagebrush Limited



Alisa Oyler

Facilitator, Trainer and Capacity Building Program Designer Partners in Participation



Brigid Riley

Founder & Principal Consultant B. E. Riley Consulting

12:00 PM

Closing Ceremony

② 12:00 PM - 12:30 PM, Mar 4

Creating community and belonging Discovering where we are in 2023

We will celebrate and reflect together our experience and the gifts of the 2023 Gathering! This will be a virtual session or you can attend at a regional hub.

The Plenary 4 will flow right into the Closing Ceremony.

📢 Speakers



Marcia Hodges Facilitator Marcia Hodges Consulting



Audrey Burghardt

Founder Freespace Innovation, LLC