2013 Forum for Leadership Development:
The Art of Hosting and Harvesting Conversations that Matter

Wednesday, June 12, 9 am – 5 pm
Thursday, June 13, 9 am – 5 pm
Friday, June 14, 8 am – 3 pm
Cargill Building, St. Paul Campus, University of Minnesota
Total cost of participation: $500/person

You are invited to apply to join fellow faculty and staff from across the University of Minnesota in engaging with “The Art of Hosting,” a mix of practices that will help you more effectively:

- Build strategic relationships by communicating across differences
- Host dialogue, debate and deliberation with groups of all sizes
- Design inclusive structures and decision-making processes

This training provides a space to generate new energy, fresh ideas, and beneficial cross-disciplinary relationships. Faculty and staff across the University of Minnesota are being called on right now to advance even more collaborative and sustainable solutions to the most pressing challenges for Minnesota, the nation and the world. You will walk away with tools and techniques that will not only help sustain you personally, but also strengthen your practice of leadership around seemingly intractable challenges.

Following the training you will be invited to continue to actively collaborate with a community of over 130 faculty and staff across the University enhancing the way they invite, design, open and hold inspired and meaningful conversations in both their personal and professional lives.

How to Apply:
Unfortunately, space is limited and demand might be higher than we can accommodate. A short application is due by the end of day on Friday, March 1st.

This application can be found at: http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/JTQX2F6

A diverse group from the UMN Art of Hosting Community of Practice will review applications and participants will be notified by Friday, March 29th. We will be seeking to ensure participation is diverse in terms of a number of factors including campus affiliation, discipline, job code, gender, etc.

For more info on the http://www.leadership.umn.edu/education/leadership_forum.html

Best University conference I’ve attended in regard to meaning/purpose and building relationships with other University faculty and staff.
-2011 Training Participant
Art of Hosting FAQs

How did Art of Hosting originate?
Each of these methodologies is powerful in its own right and has been in use for more than 20 years, with international practitioner communities and solid case study examples. Many of these practices came out of the need for systemic change. Used together, they are a flexible way to help people lead and help groups move into connection and deep conversation and action. Art of Hosting trainings have been offered all over the world and across Minnesota since 2011, including 3 trainings specifically for University of Minnesota faculty and staff.

What do we mean by ‘hosting’?
You’ll notice a different language around the Art of Hosting and there’s a reason for that – we want to stimulate our thinking about this way of working in a new way.

Plenty of people hold meetings, many people lead meetings, and some people facilitate meetings. But there aren’t many meeting spaces where people step in, step up and take action together. This demands a different way of working and a different type of container to work in. The word “hosting” indicates a different kind of approach.

Being a good host means making sure people are looked after well so that they can do their best work together and step onto common ground. We’ve all been to meetings that have been well managed, but not well hosted and often the result is “same old, same old.”

Just as “hosting” has a particular connotation, so does “art,” indicating that this way of working is not a recipe or a set of tools, but an art form in practice.

What’s unique about the Art of Hosting training?
Two things. First, the training is offered by a Hosting Team using action learning. Participants will be asked to step forward to lead and the Hosting Team will serve as coaches, supporting participants to “learn on the job” and gain hands on, practical skills. We learn together as a community and immediately apply what we learn.

Secondly, there is a focus both on hosting the meeting and on harvesting the meeting. Hosting is about how you create group meetings and conferences that help people to work well together, innovate from within and make a commitment for action. Harvesting is about making sure that what gets covered when people gather actually goes somewhere.

Participants will come away with practical experiences in group processes. Following the training, all participants are invited to join the community of practices among colleagues at the University of Minnesota, a community of practice developing state-wide, and an international community of practitioners.

Who will be the hosting team for the Summer 2013 training?
This summer’s training will be hosted by the following exceptional interdisciplinary team:
Tuesday Ryan-Hart, an Art of Hosting steward who has helped transform Ohio State University through the practice of Art of Hosting techniques
Jodi Sandfort, Humphrey School of Public Affairs
Leah Lundquist, Center for Integrative Leadership
Jen Mein, Office of Human Resources
Kevin Gerdes, Humphrey School of Public Affairs
Dave Dorman, Office of Human Resources
Myron Lowe, Office of Information Technology
Pamela Enz, College of Design

Join in conversation with the UMN Art of Hosting Community of Practice at: http://z.umn.edu/artofhosting
For more information on Art of Hosting in general, visit: http://www.artofhosting.org