

MARTA SIBERIO

CONSULTING

Spring 2010

Issue 1

TOOLS for SUCCESSFUL MEETINGS

Valuable participatory meeting practices



Since completing a training on two participatory meeting practices last fall, I have utilized **World Café** and **Open Space Technology** in retreats that I facilitated for the New York Women's Foundation, United Neighborhood Houses, and the New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene's HIV Prevention Planning Group. At café-style tables, participants in World Café get to know each other, engaging in deep dialogue and quickly identifying common themes. Open Space Technology allows participants to set their own agenda of critical issues to

work on. These processes can be easily used by leaders eager to include their staff and stakeholders in the challenging questions facing their organizations.

Pictured above: Ana Oliveira, President & CEO of The New York Women's Foundation and Marta Siberio

When is facilitation useful?

When teams, organizations or collaborations get stuck, with partners holding fast to their positions and the need to be "right," facilitation can help. A facilitator can invite people to see the limits of their own perspectives, to explore their assumptions, and to name the undiscussables. When the elephants do emerge it is important to pause, acknowledge the tension that emerges, name what is happening, and allow people to share their stories, so that the entire group can continue to move forward together. **The Thin Book of Naming Elephants** is a great and easy-to-use resource for having these conversations in organizations.



Marta Siberio

Leadership Development Opportunities

Meg Wheatley, author of the widely influential, *Leadership and the New Science* leads a workshop on women's leadership.

March 25, 2010

[Click for more information](#)

Thaler Pekar and international story teller **Svend-Erik Engh** are offering two public programs to help leaders harness the power of story as a persuasive communication tool.

April 14, 2010

[Click for more information](#)

MY CURRENT PROJECTS

Thoughtful planning for growth

Macaulay Honors College provides outstanding educational opportunities, advising and financial support to CUNY's most talented students. With growing demand for its program, Macaulay leadership has asked me to facilitate a four-month strategic planning effort to assess options for scalability. A small, diverse and skilled group of advisors and senior staff will evaluate the experience of similar institutions, assess Macaulay and CUNY data, and connect to the purpose and responsibilities of the institution to recommend a thoughtful plan for growth.

Pruning systems

The Administration for Children's Services wants more children who enter foster care to remain in their school of origin. I am helping them map the current system and design a pilot to test several innovations. This work is informed by an understanding of the interconnectedness of systems and the need to look out for unintended consequences. Useful resources on systems are available at [The Systems Thinker](#) and [The Waters Foundation](#).



Join me at the annual **NYWF breakfast** honoring women leaders: Mary J. Blige, Eileen Fisher, Margarita Rosa, Esq., and 2010 Grantee Partners

May 13, 2010

[Click for more information](#)

Marta Siberio
[Marta Siberio Consulting](#)