

Planning Institute of BC Annual Conference, 2010

Session CS25 – Planning Technique and Processes: Every Community is Unique – Designing a Meaningful Process for Community Sustainability Planning.

Fraser Basin Council – Smart Planning for Communities program

Presenters: Susanne Theurer (Smart Planning for Communities), Liliana Dragowska (Williams Lake), Dan Brown (Westbank First Nation). Moderator: Joan Chess (Smart Planning for Communities). Facilitator: Angela Evans (Smart Planning for Communities)

Notes from the interactive component of the session...

What is the most exciting engagement technique you have heard of?

1. **Visual Preference Survey** (with a link to community objectives)
 - Description – Carefully selected and/or modified photo images are shown to participants who are asked to score their preferences based on a guiding question. Has been extensively used in the USA and well used in BC.
2. **Charettes**
 - Description – From the architecture field this is a time-limited, team-based design session usually following on significant data & preference gathering. Very graphic, helps focus people, used a question to guide the design process, used artist to capture images.
3. **Children Drawing Favourite Places**
 - Description – Asked 5 to 7 year olds to draw favourite places. Engaged parents through this process.
4. **Large Maps**
 - Description – People love to find the places they know (esp. own home) on a map. Using stickers to identify areas or features of value to the individual is an engaging activity.
5. **Digital Storytelling**
 - Description – Based on video sections they have contributed, participants at a draft screening event yell “stop” during the viewing, to correct the impression or facts and help edit the final product. Helpful to have a professional editor in charge of this.
6. **Community Theatre**
 - Description – Participants tell their own story (could be of the future or an issue that needs addressing?) using theatre. Will need some formal guidance from folks with some experience.
 - Contacts – Urban Inc. <http://urbanink.ca/>
Headlines Theatre <http://www.headlinestheatre.com/>

7. Pecha Kucha

- Description – A way of structuring presentations to move briskly. Based on a 20 seconds per slide, for 20 slides rule. Established by designers in 2003 it's become popular in that field. How could it be used to engage the public or key stakeholder groups?
- Contacts – <http://www.pecha-kucha.org/>

8. Photo Contests

- Description – Used local camera group as starting point for contest. Gave prizes. Used resulting images in brochures and the final plan document. This engaged a group, and their families who might never have been involved otherwise.

9. Photo Projects

- Description – Children and youth in a community were given disposable cameras and asked to take photos of things they loved & things that worried them/problems. The photos were used, with the aid of graphic facilitation, large paper and string, to animate a conversation about the future.

10. Video Documentaries

- Description – Interviews with key stakeholders were put online and used to start conversations about issues. Those who created the videos were then interested in engaging in the plan process.

11. Youth Film School

- Description – Local film school youth documented the history of community engagement by interviewing seniors. (Salt Spring Island?)

12. Original Art

- Description – local artists were asked to create images of certain elements in the community. These were used for posters on different topics; then auctioned to raise money for the local land conservation group.

13. Interviewing Each Other

- Description – Number-off participants attending one event and assign each number a pre-determined question (e.g. 1 to 4). Participants are paired off and ask each other the questions they were assigned. Works well for quiet people, helps reduce animosity or mistrust.

14. Appreciative Inquiry & Kitchen Table Online

- Description – A method of inquiry that pays special attention to "the best of the past and present" -- in order to "ignite the collective imagination of what might be." Asks participants to focus on what is good, what works well, where strengths are - as opposed to what is wrong, what doesn't work and what is weak.
- Contacts – <http://appreciativeinquiry.case.edu/intro/whatisai.cfm>

15. Scenarios Exercise

- Description – Looking at potential changes that may occur in the future, (i.e. climate change, population loss, resource depletion, change in ecosystem) individuals explore the personal changes and community strategies required. What are the possibilities? What are the risks?

16. Simbio City – Could it be used? <http://www.symbiocity.org/>