

Collective Story Harvest – Storyteller Support Information

What do we want from the storytellers, and how to prepare?

- We will have a number stories of a variety of scales and scopes to be told under the topic of _____ . We invite you to tell your story for around 20 minutes.
- What do we mean by story? We want you to talk about something that has happened to you, about your experiences, about a specific time and event in the past or that is currently unfolding.
- Think back to the great stories you've heard – they have a beginning, middle and an end and usually have a challenge at the core of them with the key element of overcoming or grappling with the challenge. The key criteria is that the story must have a breakthrough point or learning within it, although it does not need to be a success story. It also means that your story doesn't have to be totally completed, rather, what is most important, is that we can learn from your story.
- To prepare as a storyteller, set some time aside to do a little bit of writing. This is your real story you are telling – not one with made-up characters. You are not performing or making something up. *If there are more than one of you involved in telling this story please work together prior to the session to decide how you will tell your story as a pair.* Think of your story topic and make some notes along these lines (think of this as the 'spine' of your story):
 - Here's who I am...
 - Here is the challenge that we faced and is the challenge that I personally faced...
 - Here's who is/was involved...
 - Here's what happened/when/where... then because of *that* what happened... and because of *that* what happened...
 - Here's where we are now...
- You are welcome to bring your story notes to support you as you tell your story, but don't read your notes. This isn't a formal or rehearsed presentation (no PowerPoint!) – you are sitting around the campfire with your peers telling them your story. This preparation work simply helps you craft your thoughts into a story that we can listen and learn from.

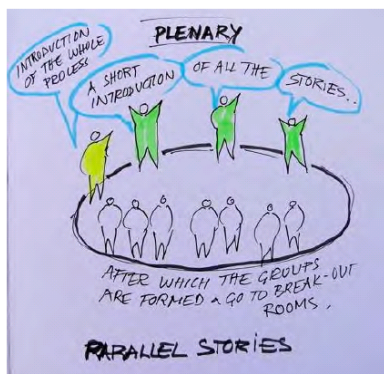


High-level overview of the storytelling process:

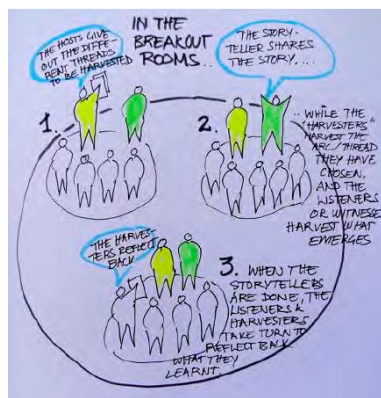
- **Framing and introduction of the process:** The whole group is together and the host introduces the process. Participants will choose which story they want to join and listen.
- **Small group storytelling:** After the introduction the participants move to small circles of chairs where about ten or so participants will join a storyteller. A host invites the group to go around the circle to briefly introduce themselves, and then will invite volunteers to listen for specific themes in your story. You don't need to worry about the themes –they simply enhance the listening and learning from your story. Next, you'll introduce yourself and tell your story for around 20 minutes.
- **Small group harvesting:** After you are finished telling your story, the host will invite the listeners to share back what they heard related to their question. Lastly the storyteller will be invited to share what gifts or key insights they are taking away from sharing the story. This sharing-back portion will take about 30 minutes. *Other groups who have used this process have shared that storytellers spoke of the insight and learning they received from their group. The listeners spoke of the insights gained for their own work and life. There was a deeper level of learning that happened where participants were able to apply the learning directly into their work.*
- **Convergence and harvesting:** The whole group comes back together and moves into new conversations to discover what we've learned across all the stories and harvest the wisdom.

Illustrating the process:

The beginning...



Storytellers break out into their smaller groups...



Coming back together as a large group...

