

THE ART, CRAFT AND SCIENCE OF COLLABORATIVE LEADERSHIP: A MASTER CLASS FOR REGIONAL LEADERS

Businesses, community organisations and governments all see collaboration as the Holy Grail to address complex, intractable social, economic and environmental challenges. Through collaboration these groups seek to leverage their collective resources to generate collaborative advantage.

Despite its promise, collaboration is hard to establish and even harder to sustain. Research indicates that in some industries more than 70% of business collaborations fail. Two main factors have been isolated as contributing to the failure: incorrect decisions on when to collaborate and a lack of understanding of the intricacies of collaborative leadership.

Leadership is a cornerstone for establishing supportive collaborative relationships, however building relationships is only part of the task – these relationships must be leveraged. In short collaborative leadership is more than charismatic or even distributed leadership – it demands the skills of a process catalyst.

This session has been designed to help regional leaders to first really understand collaboration, differentiate it from other ways of working together, develop the collaborative leadership skills needed to build and leverage relationships to achieve break through social change.

It will be a highly practical, ‘hands on’ session, with cutting edge research interspersed with interactive exercises focused on a regionally specific issue. Participants will be provided with a set of advanced readings to rapidly bring them up to speed and ramp up the experiences.

At the end of the session you will

- Have more clarity about collaboration, what it means for you and when to collaborate
- Know about the different types of leadership involved in collaborations and when to apply
- Have a clear, collective vision of what a continuing SEQ RDA collaborative effort might look like
- Build a sense of collective purpose and collaborative (something)

Who would benefit from participation in this Master Class?

- People involved in cross-sector projects
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- - This gathering is a project finale – *we want to wrap up the project by laying down a collaborative framework for the future*
- - We want the Executive Officers to relax, have a bit of fun and share the challenges and triumphs of life in the regional development game – so we want *to nurture a sense of comraderie*
- - Future visioning – *what do they collectively want from a continuing SEQ RDA collaboration – eg how important is it / how formal should it be/ what is their leadership role/ etc* - responses could be very diverse, especially in light of possible change of govt and uncertainty surrounding RDA futures.

- - As a start, could we ask them to develop a SEQ Regional Development Vision and Mission statement perhaps?
- - Things that may arise; Do they want to join forces to lobby for SEQ and/or RDAs generally – is there a need for an independent SEQ Regional Development Commission/ Authority / Corporation in the medium term etc...??
- - Knowing their diaries for the next month I believe it will be better if we can provide some brief background reading material and followup through this workshop with some more meaty collaborations.
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- As an observation, it is my view that the 'sum of the parts is greater than the whole'. Over time some of them may find they have more allegiance to the seq concept and collaboration than to their individual regions. I can already see this happening already with a couple. It happens in clusters hey)
- We can't start before 10 and most want to leave by 3.30/4. We need to include a Committee meeting to consider the draft final report for the project which should probably go first for approx 1 1/2hrs. Therefore 12.30-3.30pm is roughly the time we will have available. How does this sound?