



# Western Museums Association

*Transforming the museum field through collaboration*

## **Program/Session Structures**

### **FishBowl**

- Primarily a conversation style that allows an entire group to participate in the discussion, and there is less of a distinction between speaker and audience.
- A small group of people (usually 5-8) seated in circle, having a conversation in full view of a larger group of listeners who are seated surrounding the primary circle of discussants. The moderator introduces the topic and the participants start discussing the topic. The audience outside the fishbowl listens in on the discussion.
  - Can have a keynote speaker then group discusses; have panelists sit in the fishbowl and present in this manner; panelist starts with a question, which the next panelist then answers (and so forth); one main viewpoint etc. for the topic of discussion; multiple viewpoints for topic of discussion
  - Open Fishbowl: One chair is left open in the inner circle and any audience member can sit and join the discussion until the time runs out.
  - Closed Fishbowl: All of the chairs in the inner circle are filled and the audience is listeners only. When time runs out, they leave the fishbowl and a new group from the audience enters the fishbowl.
  - Fishbowl Battle: There are only 2 chairs that anyone can fill and debate the pros and cons of a given question. There is always a pro followed by a con (or vice versa).
- For AMA and WMA purposes, could be good model for hot button topic discussions, exhibition critiques, or emerging professionals.

### **PechaKucha**

- <http://www.pechakucha.org/>
- PechaKucha 20x20 is a simple presentation format where you show 20 images, each for 20 seconds. The images advance automatically and you talk along to the images.
  - PechaKucha Nights are informal and fun gatherings where creative people get together and share their ideas, works, thoughts, holiday snaps -- just about anything, really -- in the PechaKucha 20x20 format.
- A typical PechaKucha Night includes 8 to 14 presentations.
- PechaKucha Seattle: <http://www.pechakucha.org/cities/seattle>
- The PechaKucha terms of use require presenters to "grant PechaKucha Night certain non-exclusive rights and license to reproduce their appearance."
- The style of PechaKucha is fairly informal and presenters seem to be sharing their creative works, travels research projects, collections, etc
- For the purposes of AMA / WMA, PechaKucha could be used for sharing exhibitions, collections systems, student/emerging professional projects, new technologies. They would be nice for a lunch gathering/event

### **Knowledge Café/World Café**

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Knowledge\\_Cafe](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Knowledge_Cafe)

<http://www.gurteen.com/gurteen/gurteen.nsf/id/kcafe>

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- Participants initial sit in a circle of chairs and a facilitator poses 1-2 open-ended questions. Then everyone breaks into smaller groups (about 5 people/group), and those small groups discuss the questions. Then people join back together to reflect and share on those smaller discussions
- David Gurteen created/popularized the Knowledge Cafe
- For WMA purposes, this could be an expansion of a popular roundtable discussion

## **Speed Geeking**

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Speed\\_Geeking](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Speed_Geeking)

<http://www.unconference.net/unconference-methods-speed-geeking/>

- Similar to the idea of speed dating
- Presenters are arranged in a circle with 6-7 audience members listening to each presenter. Presenters are then given a fixed amount of time to present and answer questions, and when the time is up, the audience moves on to the next presenter

## **Spectrogram**

<http://www.unconference.net/unconference-methods-spectrogram/>

<http://wiki.sos.wa.gov/PeerLearning/Default.aspx?Page=Human-Spectrogram&NS=&AspxAutoDetectCookieSupport=1>

- This is a way for people to uncover and share their opinions in a larger group, which then promotes dialogue and critical thinking
- A facilitator asks a somewhat controversial question to a group, and then people within the group separate themselves (along a physical line/piece of tape/etc.) into agreeing, disagreeing, and neutral. The facilitator then goes around interviewing people about their thoughts and reasoning.

## **Ignite**

- <http://igniteshow.com/>
- Very similar to PechaKucha
- Ignite is a global event, organized by volunteers, where participants are given five minutes to speak about their ideas and personal or professional passions, accompanied by 20 slides. Each slide is displayed for 15 seconds, and slides are automatically advanced.
- Originated in Seattle

## **TeachMeet**

- <http://www.teachmeet.org.uk/>
- An organized and informal meeting where teachers share their practices, innovations, insights, etc. in teaching with technology
- Origins in Scotland
- Formats include micro-presentations lasting approx.. 7 minutes; nano-presentations about 2 minutes each with 2-5 consecutive presentations; random selections

## **Unconferences**

Typically at an unconference, the agenda is created by the attendees at the beginning of the meeting. Anyone who wants to initiate a discussion on a topic can claim a time and a space. Unconferences typically feature open discussions rather than having a single speaker at the front of the room giving a talk, although any format is permitted. This form of conference is particularly useful when the attendees generally have a high level of expertise or knowledge in the field the conference convenes to discuss. <http://www.unconference.net/>

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## **Open Space Technology**

- <http://www.openspaceworld.org/>
- For origins: <http://www.openspaceworldscape.org/> - "Open Space Technology: A User's Guide", by Harrison Owen
- A participant-driven meeting organized around a specific task, but has no initial formal agenda beyond that purpose of theme. This makes them scaleable and adaptable.
  - Sponsor gives the topic and explains the process, then individuals post topics they want to discuss on a bulletin board. It is the individual that is then responsible for the breakout session.
- The approach is characterized by a few basic mechanisms:
  1. A broad, open invitation that articulates the purpose of the meeting;
  2. Participant chairs arranged in a circle;
  3. A "bulletin board" of issues and opportunities posted by participants;
  4. A "marketplace" with many breakout spaces that participants move freely between, learning and contributing as they "shop" for information and ideas;
  5. A "breathing" or "pulsation" pattern of flow, between plenary and small-group breakout sessions.
- For AMA / WMA purposes, this could be good for professional affinity group discussions within main conference. People could post topics they want to discuss within their 'specialty' and then that meeting could then take place a different day. It is also somewhat similar to roundtable discussions.