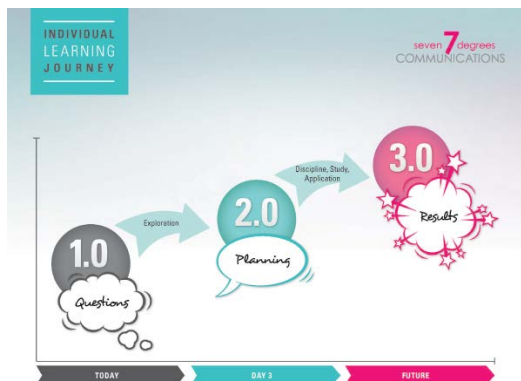


LEADING A GENTLE “LEARNING JOURNEY” INTO THE FUTURE OF MEETINGS



Learning Journey that was used as the foundation for the program.

Kathy Box turned to Seven Degrees Communications to implement a “Learning Journey” complete with individual journals to document the peer-to-peer learning experience and encapsulate a three-step plan to move from questions (1.0) to planning (2.0) to results (3.0), gradually and progressively over three days and beyond.

The Seven Degrees team saw an opportunity to create an event that was a living, breathing case study by taking the group’s topics

and placing them in a brain-friendly format that honored adult learning principles. Not only did the participants receive valuable content during each session, they experienced the learning techniques and methodologies first hand without having to completely deviate from the formats they were accustomed to.

The Seven Degrees team facilitated a series of exercises that explored specific concepts of adult learning theory including the following:

QStorming—a process of self-exploration through questions required participants to ask as many questions as possible on a specific topic within a limited period of time.

Fishbowl Technique—a discussion format that invites participants to take turns contributing ideas (by occupying the empty chair reserved for the speaker) with an equal opportunity to contribute in a “safe place for conversation.”

Speaker Share—a format for allowing attendees to place a multitude of ideas into an organized format through a ranking process.



7DC incorporated some additional sharing opportunities in the meeting design. Highlights included the “Money Tree,” a wall space covered with dollar bills. Planners were invited to take a dollar and leave an idea. A ring exchange illustrated the need for participants to commit to following up with their peer partners months after the meeting concluded. A series of online Google Documents filled with ideas and questions from the sessions encouraged participants to continue the idea sharing and conversation, well after the onsite meeting ended.

RESULTS

The three-day meeting concluded with several dozen new ideas generated. Despite some initial trepidation from meeting participants, the feedback from Kathy Box and the meeting participants was extremely positive. The Google spreadsheets exist months later as living documents and a resource for attendees. “The mere fact that we tried something different made the meeting a success. Nothing was left off the table that we would have wanted to discuss, and all of the objectives were accomplished. We heard more from the younger, newer folks in the group. [The format] gave them permission to speak up. When the meeting comes back to Texas, I will certainly do this again,” says Box.

NEXT STEPS

Three months after the meeting, Seven Degrees mailed postcards to the participants of the State Bankers Association gathering reminding them of their commitment to learn and share. Since the Learning Journey was introduced, Seven Degrees has continued to hone the program applying new research and technology to the concept. Their system of blending new learning formats with traditional meeting architectures has proven to be extremely effective, especially for the planners and attendees who prefer a gentler journey into the future of meetings.

LOOKING FOR HELP WITH YOUR LEARNING JOURNEY?
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