

## Open Space Technology

The goal of Open Space Technology is to create time and space for people to engage deeply and creatively around issues of concern to them. It's an opportunity to invite people into conversation about things that didn't make it on the agenda, or to explore things that did from perspectives most meaningful to participants.

It is a simple and powerful way to catalyze working conversations in times of change.

The process is driven by the passion and the interests of the individuals in the group.

A marketplace is created where individuals may announce that a conversation will be hosted on a particular subject at a particular place and time.

Open Space operates with four principles and one law:

The principles:

- Whoever comes is the right people.
- Whatever happens is the only thing that could have.
- When it starts is the right time.
- When it's over, it's over.

The law is the one of mobility: if you find yourself in a small group conversation where you are not contributing or learning, move somewhere that you can.

*To prepare for Open Space*

- *Remember that it's not a free for all, but a facilitated process.*
- *It's a way to make space for things that are important to you and about which you have enough passion simply to facilitate a conversation.*
- *Conversation facilitators need to make sure someone takes notes – if they're done on a laptop we can send notes to everyone either before we leave or shortly after we get home.*
- *Sometimes people need to negotiate when they're having their conversations because someone might want to attend two conversations that are happening at the same time.*
- *It's ok to move from one group to another if the first group isn't working for you, or if you're really eager to poke into more than one conversation.*
- *If there aren't any "takers" for your conversation, it might be important to have it with yourself anyway – maybe it's the only time you'll have to really think about the topic.*

For more information you can go to [http://www.openspaceworld.com/brief\\_history.htm](http://www.openspaceworld.com/brief_history.htm) or look for the book, Open Space Technology, by Harrison Owen (the inventor of the method).