

The Art of Hosting

and convening conversations

March 13-15, 2008—Cedar Shore Resort, Oacoma, South Dakota

The Art of Hosting and Convening Conversations is a training for all those who aspire to learn how to work with groups in more interactive, engaging and effective ways.

We invite *consultants* **leaders** *Social innovators*
students *teachers* **policy makers**
entrepreneurs

This training will give participants the opportunity to:

- Explore **hosting conversations** as a core practice and skill set for **leading change**
- Develop competence in multiple **interactive processes** that produce **learning, creativity, and shared commitment** to action (processes include Open Space Technology, Appreciative Inquiry, Circle, World Café, + others)
- Learn to **design** and **lead** conversations that result in clearer thinking, intelligent solutions, and group coherence
- Explore how to **apply** these tools to a project in progress, and determine how to develop your skills and practices beyond this workshop
- **Experience** the art of hosting as a fundamental organizing pattern that invites **profound shifts** in how we might live and work together

How can we move through the complexity in our lives and communities to create space for something new to emerge?

How can we work across generations and typical divides to find solutions for the common good?

What is the change I am inviting in myself and my leadership?

*experience
collective connection*

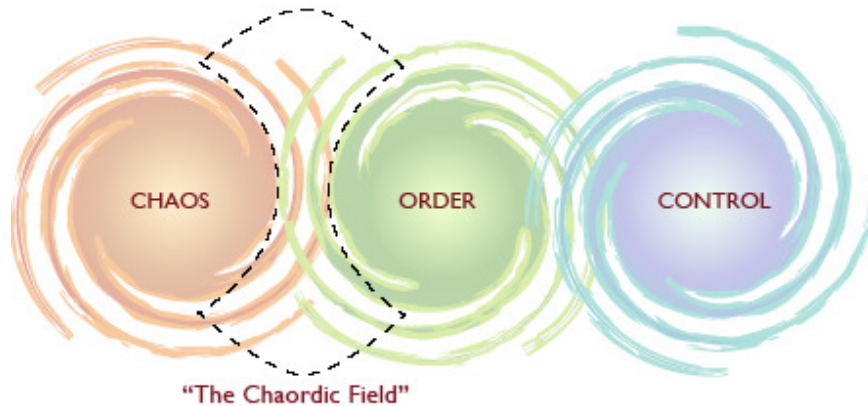


The Content



The Art of Hosting is more than just a training:

- It is a response to a world that is becoming increasingly complex and fragmented, where true solutions and innovations lie not in one leader or one viewpoint, but in the bigger picture of the collective intelligence.
- It is a response to a time when institutions and democracy itself are failing to address the increasing chaos in our world. It is an experimentation ground for those seeking to find new, effective and healthy patterns for organizing, innovating and interacting for tomorrow's systems.
- It is a practice ground for all who aspire to bring out the best in others. It is based on the assumption and experience that human beings have an enormous untapped wealth and resilience.
- It provides the basic theory and practices of the specific competences required to live and work in the tension between chaos and order-The Chaordic Field where learning and innovation take place and where wise and sustainable change can be discovered.



The training process:

The specific competencies required by living and working in the Chaordic field are depicted below. This four-fold practice is the foundation of the Art of Hosting.



Interactive!

Our learning will grow out of everyone's contributions and presence—we will support each other as co-learners.

We will learn by observation, experience and practice, using interactive processes to build a safe and inspiring learning environment

Need to know more? Check out www.artofhosting.org for more information on the training process.

Meet the hosting team



Tim Merry
Host and Consultant

I believe we can create new ways of working, being and living if we just go for it. From our courage and passion now the organizational and community operating systems of the future will be born.

In a time of increasing speed, diversity and information saturation, the clarity we seek is already within ourselves, our communities, organizations and networks. I am inspired by what happens when we create the conditions for people to engage meaningfully with each other, reach collective clarity and take action that is sustaining.

It is time for us to gather together and co-create our solutions. We need the processes and organizational patterns that allow humans to gather in their authenticity and act with accuracy for the common good. Let us call now the conversations that matter, gather in our collective wisdom and act for the future that is calling us on.

Currently Tim is co-leading a community leadership and social entrepreneurship training centre in Canada called the Shire, www.oftheshire.org. Tim was also a founder and partner of Engage! Interact in the Netherlands, www.engage.nu/engage.

Local Hosts

Jerry Nagel

Northern Great Plains Inc.
 Fargo, ND

Diana Vander Woude

Sanford Center for Learning & Innovation
 Sioux Falls, SD

Joe Bartmann

Rural Learning Center
 Howard, SD

Sera Thompson
Host and Consultant



In the past 6 years Sera has lived and worked in Canada, the United States and Southern Africa. Sera has organized and facilitated conversations, conferences and strategic change processes that invite profound shifts in thinking and acting for non-profits, corporates, academics and government from teens to elders with dozens of nationalities. She is an active practitioner in a global learning community of people committed to finding and creating new patterns for the way organizations and communities access diversity, respond to change and manifest their full potential. www.pioneersofchange.net

Co-hosted by: Rural Learning Center & Northern Great Plains, Inc.

Logistics

The Art of Hosting and Convening Conversations

March 13, 10 am— March 15, 4 pm
Cedar Shore Resort, Oacoma, South Dakota

The training will take place at Cedar Shore Resort

Cedar Shore Resort is located along Interstate 90 and the Missouri River in Oacoma, South Dakota. Visit their website to learn more @ www.cedarshore.com

The training will run Thursday, March 13th through Saturday, March 15th

We will gather at 10 a.m. on Thursday and end no later than 4:00 p.m. on Saturday. During the evening, participants will have an opportunity to enhance learning through informal conversation and activities.



Participation is limited! 30 participant maximum—submit your registration soon to secure a spot!

Tuition (includes meals during the training)

\$850—for profit

\$650—non-profit organizations and students

Accommodations

\$73 plus taxes for each night of lodging at Cedar Shores Resort (based on single-room occupancy)

Please reserve your room at Cedar Shores by calling (888) 697-6363—indicate your reservation is for the Art of Hosting training to receive the conference rate

To register, please complete the registration form and send it via mail, email or fax to:

Address: Northern Great Plains, Inc.
Suite 201
4838 Rocking Horse Circle
Fargo, ND 58104

Email: maggie@ngplains.org

Fax: (701) 364-1350

Phone: (701) 364-1349

Registration and payment will be accepted until March 6, 2008— pre-payment is necessary to reserve your place in the session. Please send payment (checks only, please) to the address above with participant name(s) indicated.

If you would like additional information, please contact Maggie at maggie@ngplains.org