

Wiser Together: Partnering Together Across Generations



What is Wiser Together?

The purpose of the Wiser Together initiative is to foster powerful partnerships across generations that cultivate meaningful connections and wise action in service to resilient and life-affirming futures – for our organizations, our communities, and our planet.

The **Wiser Together Collaboratory** is a learning network and practice ground of key partners that nurture and support collaborative cross-generational initiatives.

Our Core Question

“How can we tap into the power of the collective wisdom and co-creativity that can emerge when we intentionally invite all generations into conversations and committed action for our shared future/s?”

Our Guiding Principles & Practices

- ❖ Invite and Honor Unique Contributions
- ❖ Foster Real Partnerships
- ❖ Design Innovative Experiments
- ❖ Create Safe & Inclusive Spaces
- ❖ Use Creative Ways of Learning and Working Together
- ❖ Cultivate Meaningful Friendships
- ❖ Learn Together, Harvest Insights and Share Discoveries
- ❖ Share the stories of our past. Develop the stories of our future.

The Challenge

There are more generations alive at this moment than in any other time in human history, and we need all of our unique contributions and perspectives to discover innovative paths forward. There are many complex, systemic challenges that require creative and interconnected solutions that can take us beyond “business as usual.”

A core competency is needed to address these challenges; the capacity to become “wiser together” — across sectors, across stakeholder groups and other traditional boundaries – including those between generations. Becoming “wiser together” is crucial in order to confront the challenges that otherwise divide us.

The Opportunity

There is a great burgeoning of approaches that offer proven doorways for engagement across sectors, drawing upon collective intelligence and delivering wise action. World Café, Open Space, Appreciative Inquiry, the Art of Hosting, Circle practice and a host of other methodologies for becoming wiser together are now being used across the globe to engage people in dialogue around complex issues. Unlikely allies are coming together to generate collaborative outcomes within government, business, education, health, and NGO’s.

Yet generations remain effectively isolated from one another — operating in generational “silos” that do little to take synergistic advantage of the broad range of assets being brought by both younger and more senior leaders. The time is right for civic innovation and collaborative processes for engaged action to be used to integrate the knowledge, perspectives and unique expertise of each generation in close partnership around issues of common concern.

History

Wiser Together began when the World Café co-hosted a pilot learning program on Multi-Generational Collaboration for the Common Good at the Alia Institute for Authentic Leadership in 2004. Wiser Together dialogues have now been hosted at key conferences and in other settings around the globe, generating excitement and a sense of possibility for evolving a new paradigm that fosters catalytic engagement and collaborative action across generations for social change. (See attached Traditional Paradigm/Emerging Paradigm summary) Wiser Together is now exploring active partnerships between the World Café and a number of other key collaborators to take this work to the next level.

NEXT STEPS

For more information, see our website www.wiser-together.com or contact Wiser Together Coordinator Amy Lenzo: amy@wiser-together.com