

# Breakout Open Session

For the first time, we will be using an Open Space format during breakout sessions to enable Workshop participants to discuss topics they deem important.

## **WHAT IS OPEN SPACE?**

It is a self-organizing practice of collective activity which releases the inherent creativity and leadership in people. By inviting people to take responsibility for what they care about, Open Space establishes a marketplace of inquiry, reflection and learning, bringing out the best in both individuals and the whole.<sup>1</sup>

## **HOW DOES IT WORK?**

There is 1 law and 4 principles to Open Space:

Law of Two Feet means you take responsibility for what you care about – use your two feet to move to whatever place you can best contribute and/or learn. The Law of Two Feet gives participants freedom to move *at any time* to a discussion they care about.

### Principles

*Whoever comes are the right people*

Whoever is attracted to the same conversation are the people who can contribute most to that conversation—because they care. So they are exactly the ones who are capable of initiating action.

*Whatever happens is the only thing that could have*

We are all limited by our own pasts and expectations. This principle acknowledges we'll all do our best to focus on NOW-- the present time and place-- and not get bogged down in what could've or should've happened.

*When it starts is the right time*

The creative spirit has its own time, and our task is to make our best contribution and enter the flow of creativity when it starts.

*When it's over, it's over*

Creativity has its own rhythm. So do groups. Just a reminder to pay attention to the flow of creativity -- not the clock. When you think it is over, ask: *Is it over?* And if it is, go on to the next thing you have passion for. If it's not, make plans for continuing the conversation.

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<sup>1</sup> [www.openspaceworld.org](http://www.openspaceworld.org)