

Brown Bag: Participatory Strategic Planning

I've just started working with an arts learning and leadership network. We're leading them through a highly participatory visioning and strategic planning process. This project is particularly unique because we have very ambitious goals for the process, but we're planning on being extremely light touch as facilitators and consultants.

In particular, the process will center around self-organized, meaningful conversations. We expect most of the meetings to be self-organized by stakeholders, and we won't be at most of them. In other words, we'll be creating space, offering coaching, and trusting the group to manage itself.

The questions we're grappling with are:

- What does this process look like?
- How do you aggregate self-organized, decentralized conversations into a coherent, meaningful storyline?
- As a consultant, how do you let go enough to let the process happen, while also intervening enough so that you contribute to its success in meaningful ways?

For tomorrow's Groupaya brown bag (12-1:30pm, Thursday, January 12, 2012 at [Fiore Caffè](#) in San Francisco), I'll introduce the project and our current thinking. Then I'd love to do a peer consultation and hear all of your thoughts on the above questions.

As always, everyone is welcome, but please RSVP below in the comments so we know to expect you. Hope to see you there!