Beyond the Brainstorm
Slow down
to go fast:
Listen first.
Let go: Build on each other’s ideas.
One minute:
Moment of pause.
About Us:

• A 45 year old Children’s Museum located in Denver Colorado on a 9 acre campus

• Serve nearly 570,000 visitors per year with 115 employees

• Focus is children (newborn through 8), their grownups, teachers and students

• Annual budget is $8 million

• Approximately 65% earned revenue, 35% contributed

• 47,000 total sq. ft. on 9 acres

• Program and Exhibits: 19,000 sq. ft. indoor, 30,000 sq. ft. outdoor
EXHIBIT DESIGN QUESTIONS:

In the development of your exhibit proposal, please answer as many of these questions as possible:

• How do visitors approach and enter into the exhibit?
• How does the exhibit offer *layers of discovery*?
• What is the exhibit about, and how will visitors engage with it?
• How does the exhibit offer an invitation for participation?
• What is unusual or unique about the exhibit?
• How does the exhibit offer repeat visitation?
DESIGN PROCESS

Step 1: Choose Exhibit Topic, Attributes, Skill Opportunities, Desired Qualities, etc

Step 2: Flesh Out Action Opportunities

Step 3: Cool-Source for Inspiration and Direction

Have each team member select a few images from the cool-sourcing collection, as inspiration for the spatial, material and luminous qualities of your exhibit. Put your custom collection of images on a wall near your team’s work area, or spread them out on a table. Keep them visible so you can look back at them often. There is no science to image selection. Let your intuition guide you. What excites you?

Step 4: Brainstorm Options for the Exhibit Design (Ideate)

Step 5: Evaluate the Brainstormed Options and Select One

Step 6: Flesh Out the Exhibit Design with Some Sketches

Step 7: Build the Model
Cool Sourcing:

Characteristics:
- Summer Pop-Up Exhibit
- Experiment with loose parts
- Transforms throughout the day and can be deconstructed

Skills:
- Collaboration - work on goal together
- Critical Thinking - offers new ways of thinking
- Communication - listening, conveying ideas, asking questions
- Creativity - expression of ideas to create something new/original

Constraints:
- 1000 sq. or less
- Budget:
INVENTIVE CULTURE
FOCUS ON THE CULTURE
AND THE REST WILL FOLLOW

Aly Khalifa
@AlyGKhalifa
THE CREATION AND EXIT OF ONE OF THE NATION’S LARGEST AND MOST UNIQUE OPEN SOURCE CREATIVE FESTIVALS

ALY KHALIFA
SPARKcon convened 250 community leaders throughout the Triangle to help identify the characteristics of a thriving creative community. Broken into groups focused on Arts, Technology, Independent Business and Inclusivity. These results were compiled and published in the local press as the SPARKcon Comment and became a leading document for the city to embrace a new vision for change.
Spark Con 2006 Organization

Communication

workshops
becky, francesca

public info
beth, britt, pete

branding
beth, britt

what is it?
docs

registration
posters

artist poster
series

call for
diff sparks

website

maps

program

initial posters

registration
process

facilitators

mig notes

identity

registration
database

projections

guerrilla spark
larry

photography
cheryl

video
francesca

logistics
indoc

venues
by

fundraising
pam, leo, larry, mary

pr
aly, by, adam

contracts

interviews

sponsors
pkg

$ $$

inclusivity
tour

gifts
tour

image slam

gallery tour

call for
artists

call for
musicians

street
painting

showcase

technical
coach

film

fashion

art
sparks
lia

music
spark

carrie, chico

tech
spark
pheebe

film
spark
marsho, devin

fashion
show

film
night

2006 structure
The Starfish and the Spider: The Unstoppable Power of Leaderless Organizations

Ori Brafman and Rod A. Beckstrom

Brafman & Beckstrom: learning from AA, wikipedia, terrorists & others to make leaderless organizations with common purpose

Decentralized Control
Elizabeth C Stanton
Women's Suffrage VISIONARY

Susan B Anthony
Women's Suffrage CHAMPION

GRASS ROOTS LEADERSHIP
2008 structure
creative

explosion
creative explosion
LOOSE CULTURE
and
LEAD WITH CLEAR VISION
Each year 80,000 folks show up and show off the best in the Triangle’s creativity. Organized by the people for the people in a unique open source volunteer method that promotes creative leadership development.
INVENTIVE CULTURE
FOCUS ON THE CULTURE
AND THE REST WILL FOLLOW