

Creativity Pathway-Using a New Context

Cheryl Kartes - Mon, Apr 9, 2012 3:22 PM

Creativity Team-

We can organize our conversations using the "Discussion Topics" within our new "A-Creativity & ToP" Action Team within the ToP Network Groupsite. I'm getting a new one started here, but Spence and I have talked about transferring some of our earlier conversations to new "discussions" to keep them organized and accessible.

What I noted in the article below are three relationships to our ToP Methods:

- 1) Paying attention to the quality of the questions we ask.
- 2) Being clear about our intentions, our purpose.
- 3) Setting the context for the group's work.

Within these 3 are core pathways to releasing creativity within a group.

My .02 worth...what do you think?

CK

The Street Art Way To Solve a Problem

Mon, Apr 9, 2012 – Success Strategies



Have you heard of Street Art?

It is that kind of visual art developed in public spaces.

This form of art became very popular because **artists have challenged art by situating it in non-art context.**

You can use this concept of putting art in non-art context to solve any problem you have.

Here is the idea:

The best way to solve a problem is to put it in a different context.

When you do that, you'll immediately change how you feel about the problem, and you'll be in control of the situation.

But, how can you put a problem in a different context?

"Difficulties are opportunities to better things; they are stepping-stones to greater experience.... When one door closes, another always opens; as a natural law it has to, to balance." - Brian Adams

Life has to balance.

When it presents you with a problem, you should know that on the other side there is an opportunity.

That's the belief that helped me recover from [the biggest failure in my speaking career so far](#).

I put the failure in a different context and had a firm belief that **failure always precedes success!**

Remember, **life has to balance.**

So, the most important question is not:

"How can I solve this problem?"

Or

“What is the solution to this problem?”

The ideal question should be:

“What opportunity does this problem present?”



When you ask this question, you won't only solve the problem, you'll also turn it into a golden opportunity.

You'll turn it into a stepping-stone to greater experience.

Questioning is a great way to put things in different contexts.

When you ask the right question, you will find the best answer to your life's most pressing problems.

Peter Drucker, the business guru, said, "The most serious mistakes are not being made as a result of wrong answers. The truly dangerous thing is asking the wrong questions."

After you shift your focus to find the opportunity, not just the solution, there will be one remaining question...

How can you identify the opportunity that this problem presents?

The secret of recognizing hidden opportunities is to **be clear about your purpose.**

If you don't know where you're heading, you'll never be able to identify the opportunities that can get you there.

Do you remember this quote from Alice in Wonderland:

Alice: I was just wondering if you could help me find my way. **Cheshire Cat:** Well that depends on where you want to get to. **Alice:** Oh, it really doesn't matter. **Cheshire Cat:** Then it really doesn't matter which way you go.

That's why you must be purposeful.

You can NOT afford to live your life aimlessly without direction.

"Stop looking for solutions to problems and start looking for the right path." - Andy Stanley

When you know [your right path](#), you will:

1. Have power and control over any situation.
2. Effectively apply the street art way to put the problem in a totally different context.
3. Be empowered to not only solve your problem, but also take advantage of it.



To sum up...Here is the street art way to solve a problem

1. Put the problem in a different context. How?

2. Ask this critical question: “What opportunity does this problem present?”. Remember, life has to balance.

3. To be able to identify the right opportunity, you must [be clear about your purpose](#). Otherwise, you won't be able to recognize the opportunities in disguise.

[Here are a few add-on tips to help you further:](#)

1. **Travel:** Experiencing an entirely new way of living will surely help you look at your problem from an entirely new perspective.

2. **Meditate:** Slow down and let your mind settle, so that the answer becomes clear.

3. **Get Inspired:** Feed your mind with positive thoughts and stories of people who succeeded to overcome some of life's most difficult challenges.

4. **Learn More About Yourself:** ... and be determined to [find your purpose in life](#).

Now, I want you to think of a problem you currently have. Try to apply the street art way to solve your problem and turn it into a stepping-stone to greater experience. Then, leave a comment to share with us your experience. --
Mohamed Tohami

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Cheryl Kartes - Fri, Aug 17, 2012 10:34 PM

[Some thoughts about the creative process — some simple summaries--CK](#)

[A Session Proposal for the upcoming SXSW event by two of my IFVP colleagues, Heather Willems and Nora Herting](#)

Title: Your CEO needs an MFA

Description

In the best MFA programs, artists face tough feedback about their work and learn to give it, too. Decisions are challenged. Risk-taking is encouraged. The result? Fearlessness, resilience and a willingness to look at what's working and what isn't — all qualities of a great leader.

Heather Willems and Nora Herting, artists-turned-entrepreneurs, owners of New York City's only graphic recording firm, ImageThink, share how leaders can use principles of studio practice to increase their creativity, self-discipline and ability to take risks.

As graphic facilitators, Willems and Herting work with Fortune 100 companies, translating the big ideas into easily understood graphics and encouraging collaboration in groups. For the last three years, they have captured SXSW keynotes in words and images. Their position at the intersection of art and business has shown them how principles usually reserved for MFA programs can help leaders lead better, and inspire people to do great w

Questions Answered

- 1. How do studio practices equip entrepreneurs to be thought leaders and developers?** - Creative thinking, problem solving and challenging conventional or established thought patterns. - We are gathering information from all of our senses, auditory, visual, kinetic, environmental, relational, we simultaneously process that information, filter it and execute.
- 2. How can leaders use storytelling, play and experimentation to help people make great work?** - Creating a safe space for failure, rewarding quantity over quality, long blocks of uninterrupted time, encouraging individual explorations that are then shared with the group, explaining their work.
- 3. What can the structure of MFA programs tell us about the best ways to challenge habitual thought processes and encourage risk taking?** - We develop a resiliency by opening ourselves up to criticism in group critiques. Seeing criticism as an opportunity for self-development, or in the business world, growth opportunity. Being open to criticism we are able to hear our team members' perspectives, learn from their thoughts and experiences.
- 4. Why is the studio the best R&D lab with regard to iteration and fail testing?** - Play is a practice of curiosity discovery testing and iteration. It helps you train for the unexpected, and challenges your instincts. Relieves stress creates community.

How can leaders ensure honest communication and more useful feedback in group settings, especially when stakes are high? - Set up a safe space, reinforce common goals, silently receiving feedback, having someone else take notes for you to remove emotional filters, everyone required to speak, individual exploration then compared and there's no single right answer.