

# Community Building Sessions



Learn about and experience community building conversations whilst connecting with fellow citizens..

## What is Community Building?

Igniting Citizenship ★ Building Trust ★ Seeing Possibility  
Engagement ★ Strengthening the Fabric of Society

*"Community building is a whole paradigm shift – not just window dressing."*

Mariette Snyman, Journalist

### Who should attend?

- Business leaders from Corporates and SMEs
- NGOs, NPOs, community leaders and activists
- Government officials and leaders
- School principals, teachers and religious leaders
- Students and academics.

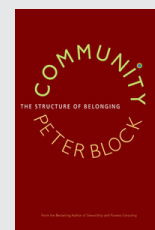
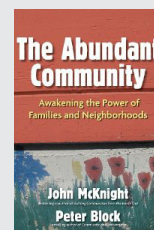
### At this Session you will learn to:

- Turn your company into a community
- Create a sense of community and belonging in an organisation
- Engage existing communities through conversation and powerful questions
- Become a community leader in order to engage the school community
- Build community in government
- Strengthen the fabric of society.

### What can you expect?

- To learn and experience a practical, profound and creative methodology
- To meet and connect with diverse individuals
- To participate in and learn from powerful community building conversations
- To hear from and engage with people and groups that are actively building community
- To be challenged and inspired to "walk together" and contribute as citizens.

### Peter Block



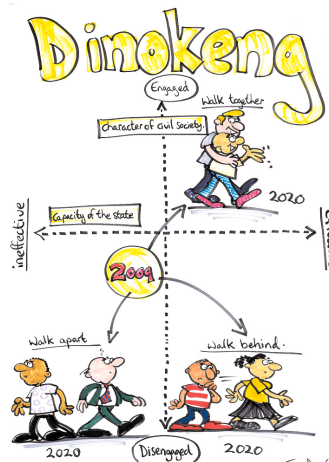
The Community Building Sessions are based on the methodology and work of Peter Block. His two latest books, "Community: The Structure of Belonging" and "Abundant Community" will be sold at each session.

*"Most sustainable improvements in community occur when citizens discover their own power to act... when they stop waiting for the professionals or elected leadership to do something, and decide they can reclaim what they have delegated to others."*

Peter Block "Community: The Structure of Belonging."

*"Companies must remake themselves into places of engagement, where people are committed to one another and their enterprise."*

Henry Mintzberg, "Rebuilding Companies as Communities", Harvard Business Review 2009



### INVESTMENT

Corporate and SME: R 1,600.00  
Early Bird\* Discount R 1,350.00  
NPO: R 950.00  
NPO Early Bird\* Discount R800.00

Sponsored tickets are available for community leaders and activists

\* For bookings made and paid for by 20 January 2012

### CAPE TOWN

Dates: Mon, 20 and Tues, 21 February 2012  
Venue TBC (between Northern & Southern suburbs)

Dates: Thurs, 1 and Fri, 2 March 2012  
Venue TBC (Stellenbosch, Somerset West area)

Dates: Thurs, 15 and Fri, 16 March 2012  
Venue TBC (DuNoone area)

### JOHANNESBURG

Dates: Thurs, 23 and Fri, 24 Feb 2012  
Venue: All Saints Anglican Church, Kengies, Fourways

Registration: 08:30 - 09:00  
Session: 09:00 - 17:00

### BLOEMFONTEIN

Dates: Thurs, 8 and Fri, 9 March 2012  
Venue: TBC

### DURBAN

Dates: Thurs, 24 and Fri, 25 May 2012  
Venue: Saints Hospitality Centre

## BOOK NOW, REGISTRATION ESSENTIAL!

Contact Johleen on 021 913 3507 or [johleen@symphonia.net](mailto:johleen@symphonia.net) to book. For more info contact James on 084 824 6832 or [schools@symphonia.net](mailto:schools@symphonia.net)



School at the Centre of Community



ACT4SA  
Active Citizens Together for South Africa

[www.symphonia.net](http://www.symphonia.net)

SYMPHONIA  
for South Africa



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## Comments from attendees of previous workshops:

“ Oliver Wendell Holmes once said that many people die with their music still in them. This workshop provided us with the opportunity to discover that each of us has unique music within us and when we share our ‘inner harmonies’, we create a remarkable and energising “Symphonia” - a new song for creative and inspired living. The workshop creates a special place for South Africans to come together – to reflect earnestly on the challenges we face, but to discover that within us lie all the gifts and resources required to create a country and a world we will be proud to leave to our children. The 6 Conversations in Community Building is ‘hope in action’ – real stuff for real people who make a difference.

Chris Ahrends, Social Entrepreneur

The two days of community building at idyllic Schoenstadt in Cape Town was an experience and celebration of the power of possibility. A magical, safe space was created where ordinary citizens - young and not so young and from multicultural backgrounds - were invited to open their hearts, minds and souls to one other, and in so doing became the catalyst for extraordinary happenings. I have incredible hope for our future as South Africans and people of the Earth.

Roger Arendse, Coach, Facilitator & Educator

It will be a total waste if someone misses the opportunity of being exposed to the effective methodology used within your workshop. “Changing the world one room at a time” is a true reflection of what this workshop achieves at the end of these two days! This is so needed in our country. Making a conscious decision to be a citizen as opposed to a consumer is a thought that you placed in each of our hearts – it speaks for itself.

If each participant could find it in their heart to talk about their experience to the loved ones surrounding them, it will already have an enormous effect in enhancing the positive change in our country - and wouldn't we all love to see this materialise.

After all - during these two days one realises that total strangers become real friends to you - people with the same wishes, dreams and aspirations for our children, for one another, for ourselves and for our country. The kind of experiences during the workshop makes it “real” for us and one understand from scratch why we live and would die for South Africa – it is OUR land and we love it so much!

René Wright, Sanlam

The Community Building workshop I attended last week was a really amazing event. About 90 people entered a room as strangers and within the first day they had already become friends, united by the same objective - to make South Africa the great country that we all know it can be.

The air was filled with possibilities for the future that were inspiring - a safe country for all, a place where the children can be free to develop their full potential, a place where all children will be loved.

There were many people who would never have crossed each other's paths outside that space and it was incredible how they came together sharing openly and honestly with each other. There was the opportunity to identify our shared humanity and desires for the future and also to celebrate our own uniqueness, with each person being able to identify their own gifts.

All of this is a place of music, song and poetry - it spoke to the heart of all the individuals and really refreshed our spirits. I know from the people that I shared time with in those two days that we all felt energised and excited about the future and ready to take on the work of citizens for our country.

Veronica Wantenaar, Learning Process Facilitator

I was absolutely blown away by the many people doing such good work in the community. I really felt so proud to be a South African. It is so sad that the media's focus is on all the doom and gloom. There is so much good to report and would it not be great if they can find a balance in the reporting they do.

I have made a few promises to myself to take what I've learnt into the various “rooms” I find myself in and also to give back more than I have been. I realised how wealthy I am with all my blessings which I sometimes take for granted.

Mercia Rinquist, Eerste Rivier Hospital

I don't know how to describe my experience in words.... It was 2 days of a ‘perfect world’ ....a safe space where each person shared and meditated upon the fact that together we are ONE... one in joy, peace and love... that it is possible to live a beautiful life on this earth if we realise that we all have the same needs, overcome same challenges and by sharing our “wealth” (knowledge, skills, money, experiences, etc) we can help each other to live a life of abundance and unity.

Diana Toros, Western Cape Education Department

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