



THE ART OF CONVENING™ *transforming your meetings, gatherings, and conversations*

Convening vs. Facilitation

We're often asked the difference between convening and facilitation. These comments from AoC graduates draw the distinction beautifully.

Pam Hull

System Director-Team and Strategy Development, HealthEast

I came into this program because I wanted to learn how to deeply listen. What I have discovered is several things:

I have developed deeper roots within myself in understanding my responsibility in co-creation of the long term effects for people as we journey the path together. Within those roots and co-creation there is a discovery that people find "their heart's earnest strivings." I have discovered through this process how to help people find this within strategic planning.

One of my most recent experiences was with a group of physicians for four days. Doctors are driven, like closure, nothing touchy feely. We were doing things like that— I just didn't tell them. We were doing Stringing the Beads, I just didn't call it that. At the end of the four-day retreat, they took on strategies we never thought they would agree to, rise to.

They came up to me at the end and said, "This was the best retreat ever, I was able to express my very heart's desire. What did you do different from last year?" I said, we've just learned how to convene since then. Wasn't that fun?

It was a great joy. It's all about listening and co-creation.

Cindy Jackson

Executive Director of Corporate Training and Development, Aveda

I am in a position where I'm always convening, teaching, working with, facilitating groups. I had heard about the AOC and thought it would be something creative for me personally. It's been more than I ever anticipated.

First, the three goals of the course have coincided for me: the internal, the social, the group.

It's been a huge journey for me internally— it made thoughts I was having take form and gave me a way to express them and use them in a much more powerful way. Through the readings, and discussions on the calls, because you don't have access to that visual sense, your listening has to come up a level. You hear things, nuances, that you might not have heard earlier.

It's been an amazing experience for me for thinking in new ways, and formulating ideas that had been swimming around. It's raised the level of my work with others,

and my awareness of my responsibility and intention of what I'm trying to create with other people.

I've heard a lot of people say "I'd really like to make a difference." What I've learned in The Art of Convening has given me the confidence that I can make a difference one person at a time, one group at a time, one department at a time.