

Workshop Report “Community Building – a key leadership task” brought to you by Symphonia for South Africa, with Peter Block

VENUE: Saints Hospitality Conference Centre, Sydenham, Durban

DATE: Wednesday, the 10th and Thursday, the 11th of March 2010

FACILITATORS NAME: Peter Block

ORGANIZATIONS: Symphonia for South Africa and DDP

Background Information

This workshop is an active response to the Dinokeng Scenarios, published in May 2009. The Scenarios urge all South Africans to walk together on the issues that face this country in order to put South Africa on the road to success.

In the past, communities were strengthened enough to tackle the social ills. Today, there has been a decline in community involvement and citizens have become more and more disengaged.

Peter visited South Africa in October 2009 in order to help us build a model for change through his simple yet profound methodology. A methodology that states that the country can be changed, one community at a time.

He returned in March 2010, to continue this process and to reach out to more community leaders and revisit attendees from 2009.

Peter is an author, consultant and citizen of Cincinnati, Ohio. His work is empowerment, stewardship, chosen accountability, and the reconciliation of community. He is the recipient of the Organisation Development Network’s 2008 Lifetime Achievement Award and in 2004 he received their first place Members’ Choice Award, which recognized *Flawless Consulting* as the most influential book for OD Practitioners over the past 40 years.

The workshops are about the nature of real transformation and what of leadership is required to achieve it. Transformation is a shift in the nature of things. It promises a culture of chosen accountability, authentic commitment, and stronger social fabric; all elements of a strong community.

Primary Objectives

Over objective - To strengthen the fabric of South Africa through community mobilization and citizen engagement.

Workshop objective

An opportunity to learn about building community whilst at the same time experiencing community building

Challenges/ Successes

The success has been wonderful. We have seen people from government, NGOs and business come together to share in the passion and great love that they all have for this country. Throughout the workshop there was a real sense of community. The challenge is that we need to work harder to get Government and more corporate representatives engaged. As well as have large corporate organizations involved in the process to send their CSI representatives and people on their CSI initiatives from the community to attend the workshops – there is a great sense of need from these community members, but no sponsorship allocated for them to attend the necessary workshops for guidance and to connect with fellow-citizens.

Concluding remarks

DDP and Symphonia, along with Peter are striving to give a million South Africans the beautiful gift of connection and community, striving to make an immense positive difference in the land that we so love.

Doing it, one room at a time.