

Breaking Down Walls; Creating a United Front Through Self Reflection

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Gemma Puddy has a skillset that combines communications, graphic design and landscape architecture. She thrives on relationships, creativity and purpose, and sees P2 as a challenging and rewarding avenue to accomplish all three. She is a PM at The Langdon Group and recently transferred from SLC to Coeur d'Alene to expand the company's reach.

Session Description:

Have you ever caught yourself making decisions or treating people a certain way based on assumptions? Have you ever truly reflected on your own self-truths to understand the energy that you bring to a room? Join us for inner reflection and genuine conversation as we learn to break down walls and create a united front, no matter what your perspectives/self-truth are.

Outline of your session:

- Introduction - 10 mins
 - How do we label? Show brief video.
 - Ourselves; Neighbors; Strangers
- Exercise (alone, then discussed with a partner) - 20 mins
 - Exercise in identifying self-truths
 - Why do we label?
 - Unknown; Fear; Misunderstanding; Categorizing is a natural organizing tactic;
- Maybe smaller round groups discussion, then report back to the whole group – 35 or 50 mins (50 mins)
 - Where have you seen it in public participation?
 - How does it break down public participation processes?
 - How do we overcome labelling?
 - Identify commonalities/interests

How will you engage participants in your session?

I think reflecting within will cause some discomfort while also inspiring/encouraging ownership of our power as P2 professionals to break down walls and create united fronts in this changing world.

“Be the change you want to see in the world.” - Mahatma Gandhi

They will be engaged by digging deep and connecting with fellow P2 practitioners on how we all tend to label, make assumptions, categorize, ultimately to be inspired to embrace that power and be that change.

How do you think your session will foster network and relationship building?

My hope is that this session will make people dig to identify their own self-truths with other members. It will require candor and vulnerability as we move toward discussing how this impacts the way we work and interact with the public. Candor and vulnerability among P2 practitioners seems like the best way to start meaningful relationships.

Session learning objective (s):

I hope to provide a session for inner reflection. One where P2 practitioners reflect on how they label themselves or, as I like to call it, “identify their self truths” in an effort to understand and grasp the perspective that they bring to every situation.

Ultimately this self-reflection will lead to a group discussion on how we label/stereotype groups of people; on how walls are built around categorizing people/humans into something other than being living, breathing beings on the journey through life. This session will be a reflection on how powerful labels and stereotypes are. They can build armies, pitting neighbor against neighbor; they can isolate and/or demean entire races; they can cause serious illness of self-destruction.