Map Your Network

Map your network using these steps.

1. Using chart paper or Postit Notes, have everyone in the group draw a node for themself and label. Then draw nodes for others you are working with closely on that project/issue.

2. Draw lines between you and the others using the key below. Then draw lines between any of the people in the project who know each other. This is the Core.

3. Draw nodes for other individuals and organizations that you are working with on the project, but less frequently, and draw lines to the individuals in your project network who have the relationship with that individual. This is your Periphery.

4. Add other individuals or groups they are connection to (who might add value to your project) and draw lines connecting them. This is your Potential Network.

5. Around the outside edge, put nodes for individuals or groups you are not working with on this project, but who could add value to the project if they were involved. These might be people with expertise, people from others communities who have been innovating in ways that would be of value to your initiative, or people who are often left out of projects. This is also your Potential Network.

6. Next, add lines to indicate relationships or strength of relationships:

   __________ Have worked together on a project (color 1)

   ------------ Know the person but haven't really worked with them

   Go to them for advice, information, resources, expertise (color 2)

7. Finally, add arrows to indicate direction of information flow or exchange.
   - Unidirectional flow
   - Multi-directional flow
   - Connected, but not exchanging information relevant to the network
Speed Networking

This is a great activity that you can use at the start of every meeting, using different questions. The important part is the debrief that helps people become more aware of their listening skills.

Directions: Have everyone stand up and find someone they don’t know, or don’t know well. Have them take turns listening to each other as they answer one of the sample questions below. You can adapt the questions to fit the topic of the meeting. Give them about 5 minutes for the entire exchange. After 2.5 minutes, remind them to switch roles as listener and person being listened to, if they haven’t already.

After the first round, have the group debrief the experience. Ask “Who had a really good listener?” Then ask one of those who raise their hands what that person did that made them aware they were listening well? Ask several others to point out other aspects of good listening (eye contact, leaning towards me, restating answers, asking questions, etc).

Then have people find another person they don’t know and repeat the activity with another question. After this ask people if they found themselves listening more effectively.

Sample questions:
1. What excites you about the idea of networks?
2. What would you like to learn about networks?
3. What is an example of a very effective network you have been a part of