“Knowledge speaks. Wisdom listens.”

This quote, attributed to the late Jimi Hendrix, set the tone for a very special meeting in June of five Aspirations to Actions teams and summed up the truth that emerged from hosting Community Conversations over the past year.

Having completed their Community Conversations, these teams were now ready to move forward in the Harwood Institute’s Cycle of Public Innovation and in their practices. As a result, public innovations from the Sarasota County Library System, SCOPES, United Sarasota, United Way of Manatee County, and Campaign for Grade-Level Reading teams, as well as colleagues from the Largo Library came together to share and learn.

Innovation Spaces was the main topic of the morning. Innovation Spaces give us the opportunity to learn with and from fellow innovators, to find ways to deepen and expand the impact we have. Innovation Spaces can accelerate and deepen the impact we have.

The gathering was the brainstorm of Ann Hardy of the Sarasota County Library System and “Guide on the Side” Pam Truitt. Guides Bill Little, along with The Harwood Institute, created a tool to help better understand Innovation Spaces. The lab format enabled participants to experience when and how to include Innovation Spaces into their practice, as well as share ideas for future workshops.

By learning together, these Aspirations to Actions teams identified what their next steps will be:

- Find ways to share, learn and cross-pollinate with ADA teams.
- Write a narrative and include 5 top themes: “Shop it around” - find ways to work with others inside and outside organizations.
- Reconnect with folks into participating in community conversations. Do themes and narratives resonate?
- Put action-oriented items in a “parking lot” but don’t let them get dusty!

In case you missed it…

“Mad Lib”

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What is your Mad Lib?

Can you fill in the blanks?

"People want community, but they’re convinced that it’s important. As people talk more about those concerns, they talk about ideas and strategies to overcome them. They believe the creation of a pressure point and if passion can be part of those actions that folks would be more likely to trust the effort and step forward.”

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