# Open Space Tips & Resources

### The Approach:
Open Space (OS), a unique, non-proprietary conference methodology allows for participants to create on-demand, participant-led solutions in a collaborative setting. The method is built on the philosophy that people can self-manage. Open Space is an appropriate solution when the following five conditions exist:

1. There is an issue to address
2. The issue is complex
3. The participants are a diverse group of people (and many points of view exist)
4. The people involved are passionate about the issue
5. There is some urgency to address the issue.

### Predictable Results:
1. Every issue of concern will be raised (assuming participants take responsibility to do so)
2. All issues will have received full discussion (to the extent desired)
3. A full report of issues/discussion will be created for all participants' benefit

### Disclaimers:
Client must be open to:

A. The real issues getting surfaced
B. Solutions from any participant
C. Trusting their participants to manage themselves, their participation and their own learning

### How It Works:
Open Space events, while seemingly unstructured, require preparation, coordination and alignment. Pre-planning will include discussion of scope, communication, technology, reporting structure, room logistics, etc. Day-of facilitation will include context-setting, OS creation & supporting OS discussions/breakout sessions as needed.

### Resources:
- Books: Owen, Harrison (2008) Open Space Technology: A User's Guide, 3$^{rd}$ Edition. Berrett-Koehler Publishers, Inc. San Francisco. LINK
- Explainer Videos:
  - SHORTEST ONE (2 min, Open Space in action: shares the vibe but not the what)
  - SHORTER ONE (3 min, animated explainer video),
  - LONGER ONE (6 min, filmed at an actual OS)