

ARCHITECTURE OF ACTION: CONFERENCES

What to do before, during and after a conference to turn learning into action



BEFORE THE CONFERENCE

REFLECTION

- Get a notebook.
- What is on your mind right now?
- What observable change in yourself, your organization, or your community would you like to see within 3 months?

TEAM

- Who plays an important role moving this change forward?
- Who would benefit from an investment in their learning?

Invite your conference team.

TIME

- Register
- Look at the schedule. Plan what you will attend based on desired change..
- Schedule post conference follow up.

DURING THE CONFERENCE

- What ideas resonate with what is most on your mind now?
- What are other people doing that would be cool to try?

Spread out across sessions.

Create a meeting time and place. Share one thing that you have learned so far.

Find one person you didn't know before and reflect on something you have learned.

Find a quiet place for at least 10 minutes and write down what you are thinking about.

Stay all day. Leaving early interrupts your ability to fully benefit from learning and reflection.

AFTER THE CONFERENCE

Read through your notes.

- What 1-2 things will you move forward?
- Who did you hear from or connect with that you want to stay in contact with?
- How are you doing in achieving that observable change?

• What have you put in place so that the team can hold you accountable, and you them?

• How can you be a part of a learning community beyond the conference?

Join your local nonprofit network.

Spend an hour during the week of the conference reflecting on what you would like to move forward.

Lead a conversation with your staff, board, or community on what you learned and what you are going to do.

