

Brief Encounters from the Taos Institute



Appreciative Inquiry Summits: All Voices, All Opinions, All Ideas

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A little more than two months ago, hundreds of us gathered face-to-face and virtually to celebrate 20 years of the Taos Institute, and to discover new ways of sharing our *good news*: that social constructionist principles and practices can transform realities and bring people together to serve the greater good.

The experience helps us recommit to our work with Appreciative Inquiry. It reminds us of the power that is unleashed when people engage in positive dialogue about what gives life, and about their hopes and dreams for the future.

Imagine, then, 50 to 5000 people of radically diverse backgrounds, gathering over a period of 1 to 4 days to share new conversations, make new meaning, and socially construct new realities. Appreciative Inquiry Summits are just this. Over the past 20 years, these gatherings have changed the face of organizations, communities and partnerships around the globe, giving form to our social constructionist values. In response, a growing number of people are exploring the art of summit design and facilitation – and more and more supportive resources are becoming available. Consider the following.

The 2003 book, [*The Appreciative Inquiry Summit*](#) (Ludema, Whitney, Mohr and Griffin) introduced practitioners to the summit's basic framework, offering case studies and outlining essential success factors.

The May 2012 edition of the [*Appreciative Inquiry Practitioner*](#) offered current cases, along with new theoretical perspectives on postmodern management of meaning and identity, and the role of design in AI Summit.

Collaborative technology from [OvationNet](#) and similar organizations now enable people to participate in summits remotely ... to contribute in ways that would have been inconceivable just a decade ago.

A new online workshop – [*The Appreciative Inquiry Summit: Igniting Inspiration, Accelerating Action*](#) – transmits the key steps and practices of summit design and facilitation, in an engaging, interactive and collaborative *virtual* learning environment. It gives participants the skills they need to make their own AI summits a reality.

There are challenges ahead. The world remains hungry for relational, collaborative and dialogical tools that have yet to be developed. But as we cultivate these new and needed practices, let's celebrate, affirm and *take advantage* of the powerful capacity we have today to create shared meaning, hope, and commitment to change through Appreciative Inquiry Summits.

Join us for : [*The Appreciative Inquiry Summit: Igniting Inspiration, Accelerating Action*](#) - <https://positivechange.org/shop/appreciative-inquiry-summit-online-august-27-october-8-2013/>