

Keys to successful collaborations

It starts with you. You'll need to bring curiosity, imagination and your A-game in listening, open-mindedness and self-awareness.

Your organisation will be required to change too. Don't expect others to do all the changing.



Get clear on the change you want to create, and find those who share your vision. Work towards mutuality in all things.

Put in the work to set things up right from the start. Find the tools, processes, and infrastructure to get things done and keep them humming along. Create clear lines of decision making and communication.

1. PERSONAL MASTERY



'It starts with you'

This step is all about your own readiness to be a good collaborator. It's about knowing, practising and mastering the mindsets and skills that enable effective collaboration.

Skills such as:

- Listening and empathy.
- Curiosity and imagination.
- Open-mindedness.
- Self-awareness.



Tips: Learn about the four levels of listening and practise observing your own listening patterns, and what happens when you change the way you listen.

2. SHARED INTENTION



- What change are you seeking?
- Who shares that vision with you?
- What might be possible if you collaborate?

Co-creating the purpose and objectives of your partnership, alliance or network - strengthens relationships, commitment, and impact.

This step is all about exploring your shared and distinct interests, creating space for innovation and inspiration towards the unique work you can do together.



Tips: Being open about your hopes and needs encourages openness in others. When you're ready, make clear, conscious and collective decisions as an organisation. Create a culture of innovation and experimentation.

3. COLLABORATIVE SYSTEMS



For most organisations, collaboration is not business as usual. To do it well, you need to take time to setup shared systems, processes, tools and practices.

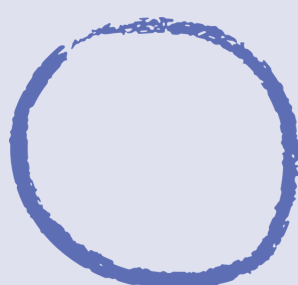
The good news is: there are more tools to help you than ever before. Don't assume others do things the same way you do.

- How will you communicate? About what? When? To whom?
- How will you exchange resources and information?
- How will decisions get made and recorded?



Tips: Video is the next best thing to face-to-face because it fosters deeper connection. Choose platform for teams space, project management and document sharing that work for everyone.

4. ORGANISATIONAL ADAPTABILITY



You are almost ready to collaborate - now it's time to take it to the next level: your organisation. Are you feeling courageous?

The way things work 'in house' can make all the difference in whether an emerging collaboration is ready to pursue something brave and new.

- How will your leadership, strategy, culture and systems support (or block) this collaboration?
- What resources will you have at your disposal?
- Do you have the power to make decisions?

Don't expect others to do all the changing.



Tips: Money is not always the most important contribution. What about people, space, connections, knowledge, technologies? Build in opportunities for engagement and exchange, events, retreats.