

Saturday Evening “Flash Talks”

Fall retreats 2013

“Flash Talks” are fast-paced presentations aimed to help you be concise and engaging and pitch an idea to your colleagues. Please bring no more than 4 slides and you will have 4 minutes to pitch your idea, seek input into a problem you are trying to solve or test a message you want to deliver. The talk can be for a project you are working on for which you would like input, an idea that you are still formulating, or an idea to network other Fellows on a project. Please be specific about the input you want from the group to get the most out of the experience. Lissa will facilitate the presentations and discussions.

Following the four minutes and 4 slides to make your pitch there will be 5-10 minutes of rapid fire feedback. This is fun and very open, so be creative, be open and have fun. This is similar to “pecha kucha” which started in Japan as a means for creative people to share their projects and ideas and has accelerated in various venues and gatherings. This is a new approach for us to help you share information and seek collaboration among your colleagues.

We will attempt to videotape the talk which can be used for further outreach if you wish, or to use for your own feedback to yourself. Here are some suggestions for you –

- **Narrowly** define the topic or idea – send Lissa and Erin a one sentence title of your pitch (if you have not yet done so).
- **Be specific about the kind of feedback you want** the group to offer you – help you identify gaps to a project idea, partners to include in a project, etc.
- **Pick slides that tell a story**, preferably not with too many words, or words with too small font size.
- **Watch a few TED talks** to learn about the arc of an effective talk, although TED talks are much longer.

After the retreats we will –

- Share the video recording with you
- Invite you to post a blog about your idea (perhaps along with the video)