

GUIDELINES

Building the container for authentic, transparent dialogue



In dialogic interpretation, your introduction should include: your role as facilitator, the intent of the dialogue, and **GUIDELINES**: 3-5 group expectations for how all participants will engage with each other.

Remember that guidelines should be responsive to challenges that arise in your program prototypes and are thus content-, intent- and culturally-specific. Ideally, they are developed by the group, but you may find inspiration here.

WHAT WE OWE THE PROCESS

- Dialogue does not seek agreement; it seeks understanding.
- Be present.
- Do not rush to solutions, judgments or conclusions as they stop us from considering the new, the creative and the unexpected.
- Work to assemble the full picture; what are we missing?
- We are all learning; there was a time when you were just learning, too.

WHAT WE OWE EACH OTHER

- Share the air.
- Hold uninterrupted space for each other.
- Question. Listen. Question - Restrain yourself from drawing conclusions prematurely.
- Do not contradict, especially if it's not important.
- Stories stay; lessons leave.
- You are not the only one that's right.
- Use I statements; avoid speaking on behalf of others or making broad generalizations about groups of people.

WHAT WE OWE OURSELVES

- Risk trusting other people with your feelings and experience.
- Share what feels comfortable, listen to what feels uncomfortable.
- You do not need a clear position; be confused, change your mind.
- Examine your personal responsibility.
- Regularly check in with yourself.
- Speak with care, not with caution. Caution prevents you from speaking your truth; care encourages accuracy and respectfulness.
- Focus on the effect things have on you, instead of establishing blame.