

# The Art of Gathering

*Making the most of our gatherings*



“When we don’t examine the deeper assumptions behind why we gather, we end up skipping too quickly to replicating old, staid formats of gathering. And we forgo the possibility of creating something memorable, even transformative.”

## Ideal Group Size

The size of the group profoundly influences the dynamics and atmosphere of the gathering. Small groups foster intimacy, trust, and deep conversation, allowing participants to connect more personally. In contrast, larger groups evoke excitement, diversity, and a sense of community, offering opportunities for networking and collaboration. Understanding the desired outcomes and dynamics of the gathering can help organizers determine the ideal group size to optimize participant engagement and interaction.

## Purpose-Driven

Establishing a clear purpose for a gathering is essential as it provides the event's direction, meaning, and coherence. Without a defined purpose, gatherings risk becoming aimless and uninspiring, failing to capture the attention and engagement of participants. A purpose-driven approach ensures that every aspect of the gathering, from the guest list to the venue choice, is aligned with the overarching objective, resulting in a more impactful and memorable experience for everyone involved.

## Exclusion with Purpose

While inclusivity is often celebrated, there are occasions where exclusion is necessary to maintain the integrity and focus of the gathering. Thoughtful exclusion involves carefully considering which individuals align with the purpose and objectives of the event, ensuring that their presence enhances rather than detracts from the experience. By excluding individuals who may dilute the gathering's impact or disrupt its dynamics, organizers create a more cohesive and conducive environment for meaningful interaction and engagement.

## Choosing the Right Venue

Selecting a venue that aligns with the purpose and objectives of the gathering is crucial for creating the desired atmosphere and facilitating the intended interactions. It also helps establish a sense of safety, intimacy, and focus, enabling guests to relax and fully immerse in the gathering experience. By choosing a venue that resonates with the purpose, organizers can enhance the overall experience and encourage desired behaviours from participants, contributing to the event's success and effectiveness.

## Ending Well

Thoughtful endings provide closure and leave a lasting impression on participants, ensuring that the gathering is remembered for the right reasons. By emphasizing the purpose of the gathering and expressing gratitude towards guests, hosts can create a sense of fulfillment and satisfaction. Providing closure allows participants to reflect on their experiences and leave with a sense of closure and connection. Ending well reinforces the value of the gathering and strengthens the relationships among participants.

