TAKEAWAYS FROM THE MEETINGS SHOW

# Beyond the Room: The Four Phases of Community

Today's attendees expect brands to design & foster connections that last long after your event is over.

Learn the four steps for meaningful, connective experiences that spark lasting brand communities.

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# Key Takeaways:

- Connection & community aren't buzzwords.
  They're critical to our wellbeing & our ability to thrive.
- At the heart of the human condition is a desire & drive to connect—to each other, ideas & inspiration.
- The past few years have left us with a collective experience deficit. How can we pay it back? By intentionally establishing community.
- Events are powerful opportunities to develop connections that last far beyond when an event, meeting or experience ends—when people go back to their day-to-day routines.
- People attend events, but they join communities.

So...how can you create community beyond the room?

# PHASE 1

# Community Mapping: In the Room

Experience design sets the stage for chance encounters & social interactions, nurturing community building.

### Ideas:

- Tailor seating options & layouts to attendee needs & preferences.
- Intentionally schedule breaks for audiences to connect & think
  about key programming.
- Design secluded areas for people to gather away from the crowds.
- Set up encounter opportunities when attendees eat lunch, charge their laptops, or check out sponsors.
- Help virtual & in-person attendees to meaningfully connect at & after the event.

# **Key Takeaways:**

## PHASE 2

Community Building: In the Room & Beyond Networking As a community designer, intentionally design interactions & experiences that move past "hellos" & handshakes.

### Ideas:

- Create attendee empathy profiles & design based on pre-survey psychographic insights.
- Offer personalized connection moments through matchmaking.
- Create opt-in groups that can help people find belonging through interest, role or business challenge.
- Invite active participation through small-group discussions, planning sessions, field trips, brainstorming or hands-on whiteboarding.
- Book selective sponsors that resonate with your event's personality & audience's needs.

# PHASE 3

To ensure your community thrives & has maximum "stickiness" for its members, remember these requirements:

- Community Activation: Beyond the Room
- Joint Enterprise: Members have a mission & work to accomplish that mission or common concern on an ongoing basis.
- Mutual Engagement: Members work together to change, innovate, iterate or collaborate.
- **Shared Repertoire:** Members have common methods, tools, techniques, language, experiences, stories and/or behaviors.

# PHASE 4

Community

**Dividends:** 

**New Rooms** 

Creating

& Beyond

Establishing communities gives value to its members & the brands that build them.

### Community members receive:

- Skill development
- Additional knowledge
- Collaboration practice & skills
- Increased wellbeing
- · Deeper relationships with other members and your brand

### Brands also receive:

- Increased marketshare
- Continued brand engagement
- Competitive advantage
- Ongoing customer insights
- ROI

# Spine Spine

You're ready to put on an out-of-this-world event & wow attendees with a powerful, memorable experience. But why stop there? Your event & experience investment can continue to generate brand value-and increase customer loyalty-when you **think beyond the room.** 

That's why we create experiences using our **CCXD**<sup>™</sup> (Community-Centered Experience Design) & measure dividends of the experience & connections sparked through **T**•**RO**<sup>™</sup> (Total Return On).

Ready to supercharge your experience?

