



17^e CONFÉRENCE
OIDP | MONTRÉAL
2017
PARTICIPATION SANS EXCLUSION

ACTES DE LA CONFÉRENCE

APPARTENANCE ET PARTICIPATION CRÉATIVE

Intervenants

Caron Atlas, Art and Democracy Center, USA

Aaron Jones, Community Voices Heard, USA.

Caron and Aaron presented both the "Idea Jam". Jams are collaborative brainstorming events that can be open to the public or facilitated for closed groups of selected stakeholders. It can take place anywhere. The Vancouver Design Nerds, a non-profit society that specializes in running Jams, is located in Vancouver, BC.

Jam is a combination of ideas "pitching", democracy for concept selection, and breakout groups make up the typical process elements of a jam. Breakout groups work independently to generate solutions to pitch back to the wider group. Sometimes this process is repeated, with a mixing of groups and additional dotmocracy rounds in between. Ideally, food and beverages are provided, along with substantial breaks to allow for socializing and conversations among participants. The balance of informal and formal activity and the element of fun within a jam is what differentiates it from a more traditional engagement process.

A common critique is that ideas generated during jams sometimes do not go anywhere. If the stakeholders or participants are not motivated to follow up, no one is responsible for ideas being taken forward and they may be lost. Organizations such as the Vancouver Design Nerds try to capture all ideas generated during jams in a follow-up report that is provided to stakeholders. These reports could be made available to the public, if that was of interest.

Jam is adaptable in other contexts. In fact, the format of a jam is flexible to the problem that is being addressed. The context would dictate the required adaptations, such as cultural, language or accessibility considerations.