

# Headfirst Professional Development

By Sarah Rae • Jan 20, 2022  
Smart Brevity™ count: 3 mins... 757 words

**Virtual, In-person, and Hybrid...oh my!** There are so many ways to gather...but are they always great? We are **optimistic** that equipped with the tools, mindsets, and a deep sense of purpose, our gatherings can be transformative.

Join us next Wednesday (**10/13, 8:45 MT, 10:45 ET**) as we explore what makes 🌐meeting magic🌐 and why this matters.

## Beyond Agendas and Action Items ✅



Creating community and belonging is a crucial power skill.

**You caught me** — like many of us, I appreciate an agenda in advance of a meeting to feel prepared to engage. I like walking away with clear assignment of action items and notes for accountability. I take comfort in attainable expectations, predictability, and routine. These are dogeared pages out of the productivity playbook.

**Yes, but:** we are humans, not machines. Our real superpower lies in the ability to create connection. Community breeds optimism, purpose, and the security to take risks. Belonging encourages us to be our personal best because of mutual dependence and emotional safety.

**Big picture:** Building off last session's concept of Design Thinking, together we'll envision gatherings that put humans at the center of the objectives and experience.

## You Choose the Frame 🖼️



View Optimism on our Super Six Map, [here!](#)

**Our thought bubble:** We describe Optimism as the belief that the future is likely to yield positive outcomes. We 'choose the frames' of appreciation, learning & growth opportunities, motivation, and presence. We acknowledge that we can service ourselves through our thoughts, while valuing the range of emotional granularity felt on any given day.

**Why it matters:** Gatherings are a fact of life...*until they're not*. The pandemic proved acutely that our moments together are precious and powerful. And while this time 'together but apart' has been challenging, it provided space to evaluate what gatherings mean and their evolving potential.

## An Art and a Science 🎨



**Go deeper:** Master facilitator and conflict negotiator, Priya Parker, writes in *The Art of Gathering*, “When we gather, we often make the mistake of conflating category with purpose...Many of the ritualized gatherings in our more intimate spheres — weddings, bar mitzvahs, graduation ceremonies — have been repeated over time such that we become emotionally attached to the form long after it accurately reflects the values or belief systems of the people participating in it.”

The concept of beginning with a **bold, sharp purpose** is one of several tenants that will guide our discussions, including:

- **Exclude Well & Purposefully,**
- **Create a Temporary Alternative World,**
- **Cause Good Controversy, &**
- **Be the ‘Non-Chill’ Host.**

**Worth a Watch:** Preview Parker’s wisdom on meetings that matter at her [2019 TED Talk](#).

## Resilient Creativity💡



**Join us in recognizing** the impressive innovation and resiliency of two of our newest additions to the Headfirst and KI families, [Team Member 1] and [Team Member 2]. Here’s what your colleagues had to say...

### Team Member 1

- *[Team Member] hit the ground running when she joined the KI team, providing support to the team immediately. She jumped right in by asking questions, and was eager to help and learn. [Team Member] has implemented innovative ways for us to stay in sync with each other and continues to think creatively for ways to improve our workflow.*
- *She’s a pumping up the tires, checking the oil, making sure the brakes are in order and buckling in all KI passengers for a great ride. We honor her process skills, her personnel capacity and her enthusiasm for the destinations, concerts and KI clients! What a perfect addition Jenn is to lead the next round of KI adventures!*

### Team Member 2

- *[Team Member] is always driving our team to think creatively and outside the box. He brings a new perspective to every project he comes across, encouraging our team that we can tackle it with gusto and innovation! [Team Member] always thinks ahead and encourages us to question how can we improve this for next summer, and beyond?*
- *His resiliency that was on display from basically his first day in dealing with challenges both big and small, expected and unexpected, and across both Pro and Summer was inspiring.*
- *Beyond his extraordinary kindness, we appreciate [Team Member]’s leadership style of balancing support while productively challenging each of us to grow. We are grateful for his resilient compassion and optimism!*

A gathering begins at the onset of its invitation - how you excite, intrigue, and welcome your community. To prime our explorations, **please send a photo of you at a memorable gathering to [Team Member] or [Team Member] by Monday, 10/11**. Come ready to share why it was such a standout event and its lasting impression. We’re eager to honor our gathering experiences and aspirations.

### Feedback

Anonymously tell us what you thought of this newsletter. Your responses will help us create better content for you!

Was this edition useful?



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