

Gallery Walk Exercise

The purpose of this exercise is to help team members recognize that everyone has skills, talents, and areas of expertise to contribute to the CAT and its mission. Volunteers' ordinary skills and life experiences can be translated into tasks that are valuable and critical to staging a community mobilizing campaign or awareness event.

Materials Needed: Six to ten sheets of flip chart paper, taped to the walls with masking tape, and a multi-colored set of magic markers (enough for each group member to have a different color).

Preparation: Prior to the start of the exercise, the facilitator writes the name of one particular skill at the top of each of eight to ten sheets of flip chart paper and tapes the sheets to the walls of the meeting room, in the style of an art gallery showing. Among the skills that might be used for headings on flip chart sheets are:

- Has led a meeting of three or more people.*
- Has made phone calls to invite people to a party or gathering.*
- Can take good notes in meetings.*
- Has cooked for more than 10 people.*
- Has taught someone how to complete a task.*
- Has created posters or flyers for an event.*
- Has asked other people to support a cause s/he cares about.*
- Has hosted a party or event for a group of people.*
- Can write with clear handwriting.*
- Can translate from English into another language.*

Instructions

The facilitator hands out magic markers to each of the group members and asks them to write their names on each of the sheets that list a task they have done in the past (or a skill they possess). After each person has finished putting their names on the sheets, the facilitator asks individual group members to describe the particular circumstances in which they had to use one or more of the skills for which they signed their name. This gives group members a chance to elaborate on their personal experience and let team members know about the skills they bring to the team. Next, the facilitator asks group members to brainstorm how each of the skills listed on flip charts might be useful in staging a community event or campaign. By the end of the brainstorm session, group members will have a clearer sense of the many different roles and skills that are needed to implement a community event.