



Kiva Protocol

Background/Overview:

The Kiva Process is Native American in origin. It incorporates the following dimensions of Native culture: sacred ceremonial ground, rule of six, seven generations, capturing the collective knowledge of the group. The Kiva is an interactive dialogue that allows a large number of participants to have conversations about key issues and challenging questions.

In addition, the Kiva Process:

- Encourages participants to actively listen and to consider a large number of perspectives in the conversation
- Produces written comments
- Captures the group knowledge and perspectives on the issues discussed.

Process:

- Panelists will respond to questions two times - for 2-3 minutes in the first round and 2-3 minutes in the second round.
- After each round, community members write down a key word or phrase from the panelists' comments that captured their attention. This is done in silence.
- In small groups, each member introduces him/herself to the group and offers his or her key word or phrase in turn — just the word or phrase, no opinions.
- Next, small groups discuss what they heard and what their thoughts and feelings are about the questions.
- Small groups will capture on chart paper the learnings that have emerged from the discussion.
- Small groups can share highlights with whole group or chart paper can be posted followed by a gallery walk.
- Finally, a whole group conversation takes place to surface the collective wisdom of the whole group concerning the community issue/questions that were under consideration.

Norm for Table Talk: Each person gets to speak once before anybody speaks twice.