**IAP2 Wild Rose 2022 AGM – Learning Sessions**

**Keynote Session**

Title

To 2022 and beyond - Understanding Community Engagement in the Context of Society.

Synopsis

Community engagement isn’t a standalone discipline operating in a silo of a single team or organisation. For our work to be effective, as community engagement practitioners, we need to understand the wider society around us, and how this affects the communities we work with.

This understanding of society has never been more relevant than now, in 2022. The last couple of years have been challenging for society around the entire world. From a global health pandemic leading to wide public division on lockdowns, vaccination, and mandates; the Trump years and #BlackLivesMatter movement; trust in government and media being at an all-time low; and in the present day an ever-evolving situation in the Ukraine.

So, where does society currently sit? How might the journey of global citizens over the last two years affect how and why people get involved in our localised projects? And how does this affect our community engagement practice?

Join Becky Hirst for a lively hour of exploration on understanding community engagement in the context of society. She’ll be sharing her insights into community life in the 21st century, as well as making practical and very relevant suggestions for moving the community engagement sector forward into the future.

A not to be missed session for anyone keen to progress and expand their contemporary community engagement practice!

Host

Becky Hirst is the author of *For the Love of Community Engagement*, a reflective memoir that calls for a rethink about how government connects with communities to inform their decision-making.

Through her work over the last 23 years, Becky has worked with hundreds of government clients, helping them to engage with the people they serve. She estimates that during this time she has engaged with over 50,000 people in conversations about things that matter!

In April 2021, Becky published For the Love of Community Engagement. On pre-orders alone, the book shot to #1 best seller on Amazon AU in the Civics & Citizenship category. In October 2021, Becky was awarded a Fellowship of the Royal Society for Arts (FRSA), in recognition of her exhaustive work on social inclusion and development in both the UK and Australia, her best-selling book on community and participation, and her empowering services toward engagement and bringing people together.

Someone recently referred to Becky’s community engagement work as fingerpainting. But there’s absolutely nothing childish, soft or fluffy about what she does. Becky possesses the HARD skills that many political and business leaders find challenging: compassion, authenticity, the ability to genuinely listen and putting the needs of people first.

Becky lives in McLaren Vale, about 45 minutes south of Adelaide in South Australia, with her partner Dan and two young daughters, Elsie and Florence. She originally hails from Gloucester in the south-west of England.

**Learning Session**

Title

Failure and what it means to be on the edge of our practice

Synopsis

Engaging the public, stakeholders, community members is risky business…when we invite people to join into decision-making processes, to share what is really important to them, about issues and situations that impact their lives - the path is not always certain. Meaningful public engagement is complex and yet when we come together an industry, we often only share what went REALLY well.

What about all the stuff that didn’t go well? The oops, the mistakes, the failed attempts, the “I wish we could do that again” situations that we would like to leave in the closet for no one, especially not fellow industry colleagues, to see.

It’s often said that in our greatest mistakes lies our deepest learnings. We don’t want to hide from them, and we don’t want you too either. We want to come together in failure and turn the classic IAP2 session on its head. Leaving our egos and shame at the door, we’d like to take a fun and open approach to talking about some of our “best” public engagement failures and how to recover.

Learning Objectives

* To share stories and experiences of what happens when public engagement all goes wrong
* Unpack failure and associated perceptions, perspectives (both spoken and unspoken) and how it impacts our future engagement efforts and initiatives
* Identify common triggers for engagement missteps and mistakes while also understanding our own contribution to the situation
* Collaboratively build a narrative around vulnerability, connection, recovery and the opportunity to build trust and relationships

Presenter

Kim Hyshka, CP3 is a leader in the field of public engagement and public participation for over a decade, amassing a list of clients that spans the corporate elite and the highest levels of government.

Experienced in both large and small-scale projects, she has facilitated conversations on topics such as land use, energy, healthcare, government strategy, large-scale budgets, and homelessness and social change. Many a hour, has been spent facilitating community forums, working through the trenches of high stakes, high emotion conversations and walking with Elders in the remote wilderness. When not working in the field, you’ll often find Kim training on behalf of IAP2 Canada and IAP2 USA audiences as well as numerous in-house clients.