

BURTON I. WOOLF

QUALIFICATIONS AS A MEETINGS FACILITATOR

CREATIVE GROUP PROCESS, COLLABORATIVE PROBLEM SOLVING,
CONSENSUS-BUILDING: AND STRATEGIC PLANNING

Introduction

If you are looking for a master facilitator -- someone who really knows how to help you and your university, community, public agency, professional association, company, or region develop a vision and strategy... then Burt Woolf is the person to call.



Overview

Burt is chief principal of the **Center for Quality of Life**, in Amherst, Massachusetts, which he founded as part of his facilitation practice (QL Consulting) to nurture those who work to improve quality of life in a public or educational context. Since 1974, he has facilitated, coached and advised people, teams, organizations and communities to achieve their full potential through participatory collaboration. Burt developed Accelerated Consensus™, a stakeholder-based approach to decision-making that has been used in many communities and organizations throughout the United States, to help develop visionary and strategic community improvement initiatives relating to master planning, sustaining the natural and built environment, health and wellness, education, economic revitalization, social and human services, destination development, outdoor recreation, culture, heritage and historic preservation. A complete list of projects is found in his formal curriculum vitae.

Recent Professional History

As a consultant, entrepreneur, and chief executive of national and statewide associations, agencies, and organizations, Burt has led a wide variety of nonprofit, governmental, and corporate enterprises, as well as two major professional associations. From 2001-2003 he was Executive Director of the **Creative Education Foundation**, an international nonprofit organization which is best known for its Creative Problem Solving Institute (the world's longest running annual educational program on creative process) and the Journal of Creative Behavior (the premier refereed academic journal on this topic).

As president of **QL Consulting** since 1992, Burt has facilitated dozens of citizen participation processes for environmental conservation, sustainable development, context sensitive infrastructure planning, and quality-of-life improvement (project list attached). For example, on behalf of the Town of Bethlehem, New York (just outside of Albany) Burt

recently facilitated a community planning session for a proposed sustainable hamlet development. For the State of New York Secretary of State and New York Planning Federation, Burt facilitated a statewide "Smart Growth Communities Revitalization Think Tank". He has facilitated dozens of neighborhood based input sessions, scoping sessions, and topical community development workshops in communities and regions such as the Hudson River Valley; the Lake Champlain Region; Akron, Ohio; Clinton County, NY; and Chattanooga, Tennessee.

As Senior Consultant to **Economics Research Associates** (1988-1992), Burt was the senior facilitator for a wide variety of community and economic planning studies throughout the United States. For example, he was lead facilitator for the State of Connecticut Heritage Park Master Plan, and the Horizons Waterfront Master Plan (Erie County, NY). He also facilitated vision planning efforts in Chesterfield County, Virginia (Richmond), Benton Harbor/St. Joseph, Michigan, Bucks County Pennsylvania, and New York State's Southern Tier Region (Binghamton).

In every assignment he has undertaken, Burt has helped communities evoke diverse voices of community stakeholders so that their interests, concerns and ideas can be integrated into the technical aspects of public planning processes.

Early Career Experience

Earlier in his Career, as CEO of **Burt Woolf Management, Inc.**, (1983-1988), he designed and marketed the TEAM SYSTEM® Development Package, a fundraising software program that was installed in over 140 nonprofit organizations and public agencies in the U.S. and Canada. As Executive Director of the **Massachusetts Cultural Alliance** (1978-1983), Burt led a 250-member association, providing management services, professional development programs, publications, and public advocacy campaigns. At the **National Endowment for the Arts**, he was Project Director of the CITY SPIRIT Program (1974-1978), which provided funding and consulting assistance for community-based cultural planning in over 200 communities nationwide. Burt began his career as a museum administrator.

Publications and Presentations

Burt has conducted professional training programs, facilitated workshops and retreats, and delivered keynote speeches in facilitation, quality-of-life planning, public management, and information technology. His articles have appeared in ***The Taft NonProfit Executive*** and ***Fundraising Management*** magazine. Burt is a regular participant and presenter at the **Creative Problem Solving Institute** and at national meetings of the **American Society of Association Executives**. Burt is a featured workshop leader for the **Center for Quality of Life**. He has been a lecturer at **Harvard University, UCLA, Sangamon State University** and **Lesley College**.

Selected Recent Programs Led by Burt (on creativity and group process)

- *Transformative Learning and the Box of Possibilities!*; (educational Session); University of Massachusetts School of Education, Centennial Marathon; Amherst, MA; 2008.
- *Better Organizational Diagnosis Through Creative Problem Solving* (Academic Poster Session); 52nd Annual Creative Problem Solving Institute; Loyola University, Chicago; 2006.
- *Accelerated Consensus: Creative Process for Community Transformation* (Educational Session); 52nd Annual Creative Problem Solving Institute; Loyola University, Chicago; 2006
- *Mirror, Mirror on the Wall: Reflecting on Your Creative Potential* (Educational Session); 52nd Annual Creative Problem Solving Institute; Loyola University, Chicago; 2006
- *Taking It to the Edge: Creativity Inside the Box* (Keynote Presentation) New England Creativity Meeting; Lexington, Massachusetts; 2006.
- *Accelerated Consensus: A Participatory Decision-Making Process*; Presentation at the Center for International Education; University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Mass; 2004.
- *Humpty-Dumpty Meets Osborn-Parnes: Shattering Your Judgmental Injunctions* (educational session); 50th annual Creative Problem Solving Institute; Buffalo, NY; 2004.
- *Smart Growth Community Revitalization Working Group Think Tank* (process designer and chief facilitator); New York State Quality Communities Initiative (Department of State and NY Planning Federation); Albany, NY; 2004.
- *Liminal Moments: Creativity Across the Threshold* (educational session); 49th annual Creative Problem Solving Institute; Buffalo, NY; 2003.
- *Creative Process From the Outside-In* (educational session); Creativity Leaders Retreat; New Lebanon, NY; 2002.
- *Deliberate Creativity: Make Inspired Decisions on Demand* (educational presentation); American Society of Association Executives. Denver, CO; 2002

Education, Training. Professional Affiliations

Burt is currently a full-time doctoral candidate at the **University of Massachusetts Amherst School of Education** where he has conducted research on consensus building as a form of collective transformative learning. He holds a BA *Cum Laude*, in Political Science from **Amherst College**, and an MS in Management from the **University of California at Los Angeles**.