

### Introduction

The following Principles of Collaboration are borrowed from the Michigan State University Museum who developed the first 12 principles below for its Carriers of Culture project.

Credits: <http://markholmngren.com/2010/01/26/principles-of-collaboration/>

### 1. Reciprocity

At the heart of successful collaborations there needs to be direct benefit to participating stakeholders. Ideally, these reciprocal rewards, while not often the same, will enrich each partner in expected or unexpected ways.

### 2. Representation

The most successful collaborations bring all relevant stakeholders to the table to launch and implement the collaboration. This requires thinking broadly to identify potential participants....This includes consideration of ... gender, age, geographic distribution...traditions... and I would add culture, knowledge, experience, and connectivity to other networks and resources.

### 3. Reach

The best collaborations usually have an impact beyond the individual project—they build new collaborative opportunities.

### 4. Skill and Human Development

Whatever the product of the collaborative project, it should result in the empowerment of those involved, the transformation of their organizations, and building new individual and organizational capacity.

### 6. Belief in Collaboration

Those involved must believe that more can be achieved by working together than working alone, and bring this perspective to the dialogue.

### 7. Institutional Relationships Rather Than ...

Individual participants are often also institutional representatives; when this occurs there is a commitment to build institutional capacity by enriching the knowledge and skills of individuals within the organization.

Institutional Relationships Rather Than Individual Relationships:

### 8. Transparency

There is a real need for open and honest expression of aspirations, expectations, and a process to ensure ongoing review and evaluation. Real transparency takes time, energy and a desire to build a sense of trust and respect.

### 9. Continuity and Regularity

Regular communication is critical as is the establishment of and adherence to timelines.

### 10. Acknowledgement of Contributions

Acknowledgement of Contributions: A willingness to acknowledge contributions and share credit is a goal.

### 11. Continual Consultation

New relationships demand investments of time, energy and good will.

— Marsha MacDowell and C. Kurt Dewhurst, Michigan State University Museum, August 2004

### 12. Equitable Participation

Those at the collaborative table not only have an obligation to participate fully, they have a responsibility to ensure that opportunities for participation are extended to one another.

### 13. Trust

The foundation of collaboration must include trust in one another and a commitment to behaviours that deepen and widen the trust – behaviours like transparency, follow through, honesty, and proven ability to not only influence others but be influenced by our partners as well.

### 14. Dialog

Dialog is more than communication. It includes helping others get their ideas out before judging them in order to ensure the full expression of ideas. It calls for individuals to be facilitative of mutual exchange much more so than using communication as tool of persuasion.