Virtual Session Design Canvas Considerations



The Big Picture

What are your goals? What are you trying to accomplish?

Is this part of a broader aim or a program, project or effort? What is that? Is it a milestone? If so, how will it move this forward? What do you want to learn?

How will this session build and strengthen connections in your community or network?

How will you evaluate the effectiveness of the session?

Participants

Who are your participants?

What do you need to learn about your participants ahead of the session?

What do you want to learn from your participants during the session? How can they help you move your work forward?

Do the participants know each other? How well? Have they collaborated or worked together previously? How is that relationship?

What are the essential topics they will need to have covered in the session?

Logistics

How much time do you have to run the session?

What virtual tools will you need to run the session?

What instruction will you need to provide?

What are responsible data, privacy and security considerations needed for this meeting? How will you communicate those to the participants in advance?

What will need translating and how will you do it?

Do you need a back-channel for your team to communicate with each other during the session?

What resources will you need? How much budget?

Prep

What roles will you need to run the session? How many people? Doing what?

How will you document and take notes during the session?

What guidelines will you need to provide in order to ensure inclusivity and trust during the session?

What will you need to test ahead of time?

What instruction will need to be provided? How will we make sure what we are asking of participants is clear and understandable?

When do you need to send different materials to participants (invitation, agenda, reading prep, instructions, logistics, reminders, etc.)?

Post-Session

How and when will you follow up with participants?

How will participants continue to interact with each other after the session?

How might participants/community/net work make use of the outputs of the session?

What will happen with the collaborative doc?

How will you get feedback on the session from participants?

Virtual Session Design Canvas Session Plan

Time	What	Description
:00	Introduction	How will people know who is present? How can participants participate? What will happen in the session?
:	Activity	What activity can you start with to get participants grounded in their own contexts and challenges? How will you break them into small groups for the activity? What should be captured in the small groups? How will you do that? (Google Doc, post-it notes, etc)
:	Discussion	Which questions could you ask when you bring them back into large group discussion to help them reflect on the activity?
:	Input	What expertise can be provided for the participants on the topic for Input? • Are there key voices/writings/content/stories that could be shared? • How can you reflect on the knowledge surfaced in the previous discussion?
:	Deepening	What is a small group activity where participants can deepen their knowledge with the expertise they have just received?
:	Synthesis	 How can they synthesize the session in a large group discussion? Is there a list of best practices you might ask them to generate? How can they apply this workshop to their current and future projects? How much time will you have for follow-up questions and clarification on next steps? What are next steps/follow up activities with the participants?