

Adaptive Communication: Thinking on Your Feet

Become a More Agile Business Leader through Improvisation

The word “Improv” is often associated with comedy shows or jazz music. But the tools of improvisation don’t just exist for stage performers: they are equally essential in managerial contexts. The dynamic business environment requires leaders to observe what is happening in the moment, adapt on a dime, and create with whatever is at hand—precisely the same skills used by professional performers.

In this one-day workshop, you will learn the tools of effective improvisation, and integrate them into your managerial skill set. Develop a confident, “ready for anything” mindset that helps you find the right action in the moment. Adapt rapidly to changing circumstances. Create innovative ideas on the fly. Communicate compelling narratives, and collaborate constructively with others.

Much of the program will be spent in interactive exercises designed to ignite your ideas and develop your improvisational skills.

Takeaways

- Get out of our own head, and be present in the moment
- Engage and change to keep up with dynamic situations
- Open up new pathways for creativity and innovation
- Get the most from your environment through active listening
- Adopt an improviser’s mindset in order to think and act on your feet
- Collaborate with others for truly shared projects
- Communicate effectively through storytelling
- Develop your powers of presentation and persuasion
- Connect with people in meaningful ways

Audience

This program is for anyone interested in learning new paths to creativity, effective team building and communicating constructively in the moment.

Program Content

Pathways to Creativity

- Being present and in the moment
- Connecting with your spontaneity
- Using constraint as a springboard to creativity and problem solving
- Reframing the unexpected to make effective use of difficult surprises

Building Team Collaboration

- Fostering respect and developing a group mindset
- Adapting to change while leading and following
- Learning to build together
- Listening for silences and finding the right moment to jump in
- Techniques for collaborative problem solving
- Making use of “bad ideas”

Presence and Power Dynamics

- Engaging, warming up and owning the room
- Power dynamics of physical presence
- Analyzing power dynamics in communications
- Observing and challenging power dynamics

Storytelling as Compelling Communication

- Narrative structures and their functions
- Becoming inspired to tell a great story
- How to use storytelling to keep audiences engaged and motivated
- Effective storytelling with a live audience

Special Features

You will hone your improvisational and storytelling skills through interactive exercises and applications geared to a variety of situational contexts. The supportive setting will help you step out of your comfort zone, as you promote your personal and professional growth.

Program Leader

Andrew Chen is an Adjunct Professor at the Sauder School of Business who specializes in improvisation for leaders and business communications. He is a Canadian Comedy Award Nominated performer and has worked in improvisation since 2003. He has been affiliated with various improv organizations such as the Canadian Improv Games, UBC Improv and Instant Theatre, and has offered improv programs in a professional development context.

To Register

Executive Education

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