
Finding New Inspiration: Bold Possibilities for the Months Ahead



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As September arrives, we step into that unique moment in the year when the energy of summer shifts toward the focus of autumn. For facilitators, it's a time to reflect, re-energize, and reimagine what's possible—not only for the groups we serve, but for ourselves as practitioners.

The fourth quarter is on the horizon, bringing both urgency and opportunity. Organizations push to meet their goals and begin planning for the year to come. We can help these conversations become more than status updates—turning them into moments of inspiration, alignment, and bold vision.

But here's the question: *How do we show up with fresh energy ourselves when the year has already been full?*

Rediscovering Your “Why”

Inspiration starts with connection—to purpose, to people, and to possibility. The best facilitators carry curiosity and conviction into every room they enter. Yet, over time, even the most dedicated among us can drift into autopilot.

September is the perfect time to pause and ask:

- Why did I choose to become a facilitator?
- How has my “why” evolved this year?
- What recent stories remind me why this work matters?

When you’re rooted in purpose, you’ll find it easier to bring that spark into every session.

Drawing Inspiration from Unlikely Places

Great facilitators are learners at heart. Seek perspectives far from your daily environment:

- Borrow from the arts: Watch a theater rehearsal to see how directors create safe space for experimentation.
- Study athletics: Observe how coaches balance discipline with encouragement before, during, and especially in the final moments of a game.
- Explore other industries: Read about breakthroughs in technology, medicine, or design and apply that thinking to facilitation.

Every field has its own way of fostering collaboration and innovation.

The Courage to Be Bold

Inspiration is only half the equation. The other half is courage—the willingness to try something new, step into uncertainty, and guide a group toward a bigger future.

The months ahead are ideal for bold facilitation:

- Invite clients to imagine their legacy five years from now.
- Use methods that challenge assumptions and explore unconventional options.
- Shift the energy with new setups, creative prompts, or visual storytelling.

Bold facilitation is about creating conditions for people to stretch beyond what they thought possible—knowing you’ll help them land safely.

Finishing Strong, Starting Stronger

As the year winds down, clients will focus on reports and budgets. We can help them see this as a launch pad, not just a finish line.

Encourage groups to:

- Celebrate achievements—even partial wins.

- Reflect on lessons learned and turn them into actionable improvements.
- Identify one bold step before year-end to set the tone for 2026.

Your Own Q4 Challenge

Pick one area of your facilitation practice to refresh before December 31. Maybe it's trying a new tool, improving conflict handling, or creating a signature opening or closing activity. Commit to testing it in one real session this quarter, then reflect on what you learned.

Looking Ahead with Optimism

The work we do is both practical and profound. We help groups make decisions and plan for the future, but we also help people see themselves as capable of more than they imagined.

As the leaves turn, let's recommit to being not only skilled facilitators, but inspired ones—showing up with curiosity, courage, and belief in the bold possibilities ahead. Here's to a strong finish and an even stronger beginning.

Warmly,

Diana Mastel Gurwicz

Chair of the Board

INIFAC – Institute for International Facilitation



The final months of the year are upon us. For many, this time is a marathon toward the finish line, a last-minute scramble to wrap up projects and meet goals.

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