

## #BeyondPanels

### A comparative toolkit for event design

#### What's in this table?

This is a non-exhaustive comparative list of event designs. It highlights some differences in how events work - scale, style, agency, complexity. You could use it to find a new format that can work for you, or to prompt consideration of how each heading applies to an upcoming event you're involved with.

Under the table is a quick explanation of what I mean by each column heading and rating style. Warning: Incredibly subjective!

Format	Keywords	Capacity	Layout	Experts	Activity	Agency	Planning	Expert Prep	Facilitation	Example topic
<a href="#">Provocations</a>	Controversy, ethics, issues	30-100+	Café/flexible	2-4	**	**	**	**	**	Drugs
<a href="#">Twisted Quiz</a>	Competitive, subversive	30-120	Café	2-4	**	**	***	**	***	Energy
<a href="#">Speed Geeking</a>	Fun, personal, diverse	40-80	Café	6-10	**	**	***	*	**	Apocalypse
<a href="#">World Café</a>	Conversation, depth	12-80+	Café	*	**	**	**	*	**	Privacy
<a href="#">Open Space</a>	Reflective, democratic	20-big	Breakout	1	***	***	**	**	**	Immigration
<a href="#">Fun Palaces</a>	Active, see, try	Any++	Imaginative	*	***	***	***	*	*	Art
<a href="#">Panel</a>	Views, comments	50+	Auditorium	3-4	*	*	**	*	***	Physics
<a href="#">Presentation</a>	Story, thorough, visual	20+	Auditorium	1	*	*	*	***	*	Adventure
<a href="#">Presenterless</a>	Ownership, interactive	5-100	Café	*	***	**	***	*	*	Innovation
<a href="#">Pecha Kucha</a>	Succinct, Varied	50+	Auditorium	3-7	*	*	**	**	*	Sustainability

**Format:** Non-exhaustive! Twist, add, invent, shape, merge, modify, combine and tailor them to suit your attendees, topic, venue and style

**Keywords:** What flavour or feel can this format help to create?

**Capacity:** How many people could this be suitable for? The numbers are guesses/guides – don't limit yourself!

**Layout:** What venue style suits the event? Café events generally involve attendees talking face-to-face in small groups.

**Experts:** How many – if any - 'formal' (invited/listed) experts might be involved? Remember attendees often have diverse, relevant expertise.

**Activity:** Will the audience be active? One star means they'll sit and listen; two they talk/respond, three they'll move and do stuff.

**Agency:** Can attendees control what happens? One star means no. Three means they can divert the entire theme if they collectively wish. Two generally means they can shape discussions or be creative within set boundaries.

**Planning:** How much effort is it to plan? This includes arranging experts and activities (not the baseline all events require – securing a venue, catering, technicians etc.)

**Expert prep:** How much preparation and time will formally involved experts need to invest in advance?

**Facilitation:** How tricky is it to sure stuff happens as planned on time on the night? This includes MC'ing, ushering, timing, cajoling, facilitating.

**Example topic:** What's a topic that could work well with this format? Consider the technical, ethical and likely personal expertise of the attendees and the topic. An Open Space on physics funding might fly at an academic conference but will die with lay attendees. On immigration, though, almost any mix of attendees could find subjects to nominate and discuss.