Preparing for a workshop?



A checklist for the organising team

Selecting an appropriate venue is a crucial aspect of workshop coordination. Ensuring that the venue setup and associated logistics support and enhance the delivery of your workshop is essential the next step. It is important to keep in mind that the participant experience is paramount. To help you think through and plan key aspects of workshop logistics, please use the following checklist.

Venue	Who?	By when?	Progress/notes
Confirm venue Confirm in person vs. hybrid participation			
Conduct a site visit and confirm: Parking/directions for public transport Disability access and accessibility requirements Catering set up Table configuration (cabaret, u-shaped, rounds) Signage requirements (directional, lectern sign, banners) Confirm contact details for venue manager and AV representative and deliveries			
Confirm reception/registration table requirements Who will greet participants on arrival? What will participants receive at reception desk (lanyard/ name tag, agenda, materials)?			
Confirm break logistics Timing and location of morning tea/lunch/breakout sessions, etc. Workshop friendly playlist/background music to play during breaks Movement of participants between rooms/sessions			
Confirm catering and dietary requirements with venue Consider most appropriate catering for the workshop (working lunch, bowl food, finger food) Confirm dietaries with venue			
Other considerations • Consider a luggage store (if participants travelling from interstate) and/or coat check facility			

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Room setup	Who?	By when?	Progress/notes
Confirm required room set up with venue including: Table configuration Location of lectern, small table for notes, water, etc. Panelist table or speaker table Microphone requirements (i.e. lapel mic for facilitator; hand held mics for curators; roving mics available for general audience questions and interactions)			
 Other materials and requirements Sharpie textas, pens, notepads, whiteboard markers, whiteboard eraser, post it notes, blue tac/pins for attaching posters, scissors, stapler Large format data capture templates Confirm if posters can be attached to venue walls (if not, additional whiteboards/pin boards/easels to be provided) 			
Participants	Who?	By when?	Progress/notes
Confirm dietary and accessibility requirements		 	
Create name tags or tent cards			
Printed (and digital) seating allocations			
Arrange table numbers and water for each table			
Allocate breakout groups (including for online participants)			
Consider roles during workshop/breakout groups (discussion leader, table leaders, scribe, etc.)			
Speakers (client and non-clients)	Who?	By when?	Progress/notes
Write the introduction for the day (e.g. introduction for the CEO, Chair, etc.)		 	
Create written instructions for panelists/debaters/speakers (with a focus on context, their role, intended outcomes)			
Obtain a copy of speakers' slides/materials and format if required			
Coordinate bios (and photos) of participants, speakers and panelists for facilitator			
Provide each speaker with a briefing/briefing notes		 	1
Arrange gifts to non-paid speakers		 	

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Who?	By when?	Progress/notes

Possible engagement techniques	Who?	By when?	Progress/notes
Guest speakers		 	
Panels/debates/vox pops (interviews)			
Graphic facilitator			
Real-time polling service			
Technology for capturing questions digitally			



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