Graphic Recording

Description:
Graphic recording (sometimes referred to as reflective graphics) involves capturing on large-sized paper—in words, images and color—people's ideas and expressions as they are being spoken in the moment. The graphic recorder stands to one side working with many markers and symbols to capture the essential "map" of the conversation, bringing the proceedings to life.

The process evolves like a live performance art, engaging the creativity of participants and enhancing focus and understanding, stimulating creativity and productivity. Graphic recording is an excellent tool for bridging the worlds of visual thinking and conversation, for it helps to illuminate how people connect, contribute, learn and make meaning together.

Potential Uses:
This approach is particularly useful for creating a visual record of meetings, workshops, and conference proceedings using symbols, words, and visual metaphors to enhance shared understanding. It can also be useful for anyone who has literacy difficulties, learning difficulties or people for whom English is a second language. It is always an interesting way of involving communities in discussion.

Resources Required:
This approach usually works best with a professional artist, but could also be used as a learning opportunity for community representatives. Ensuring that you have an individual or group in place who is able to effectively portray the discussions visually is the key resource required for using this method.

The symbols used are minimal, getting the point across without distracting. There are many symbols for people, and for ideas such as transformation, excitement, caring, growth, problem spots, measurement, communication and more.

Sample of graphic recording, by Steven Wright:

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