

Charrette Protocol

A “charrette” is a set of agreed-upon guidelines for talking with colleagues about an issue. The conversation tends to be more trusting and more substantive because everyone knows the guidelines in advance. Charrette’s are often used to improve the work while the work is in progress and are not to be used as an evaluative tool.

Charrette Protocol
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. A group or an individual from the group requests a charrette when they want others to help them resolve an issue. Often they are at a “sticking point” and the conversation will help them move forward.2. Another small group is invited to look at the work and a facilitator is used to moderate the discussion.3. The requesting group or individual presents its work and states what they need or want from the discussion. The conversation is focused by this presentation.4. The invited group discussed the issue and the requesting group listens and takes notes. The emphasis is on improving the work, which now belongs to the entire group. “We’re in this together” characterizes the discussion.5. Once the requesting group gets what it needs, it stops the process, summarizes what was learned, thanks participants and returns to their work.6.

Adapted From: A charrette protocol written by Kathy Juarez and available on the *Turning Points* website (www.turningpts.org/pdf/CharretteProtocol.pdf)

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