

Community of Practice



Definition

A Community of Practice is..

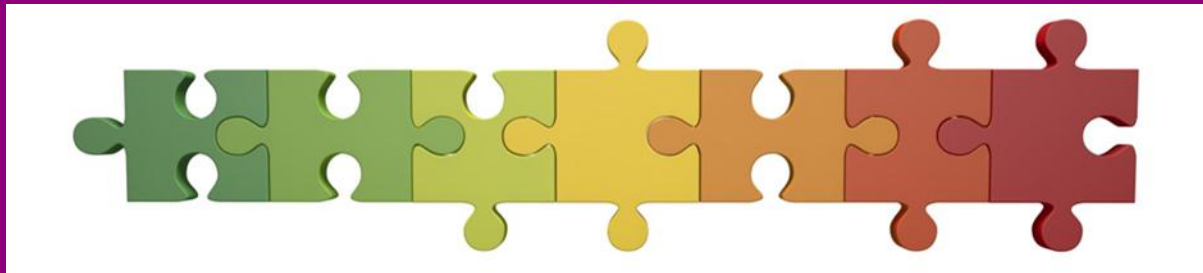


- a group of people who share a craft and/or a profession...
it can evolve naturally because of the members' common interest ...
or it can be created specifically with the goal of gaining knowledge related to their field. ..through the process of sharing information and experiences ...members learn from each other, and have an opportunity to develop themselves personally and professionally

(Lave & Wenger 1991)

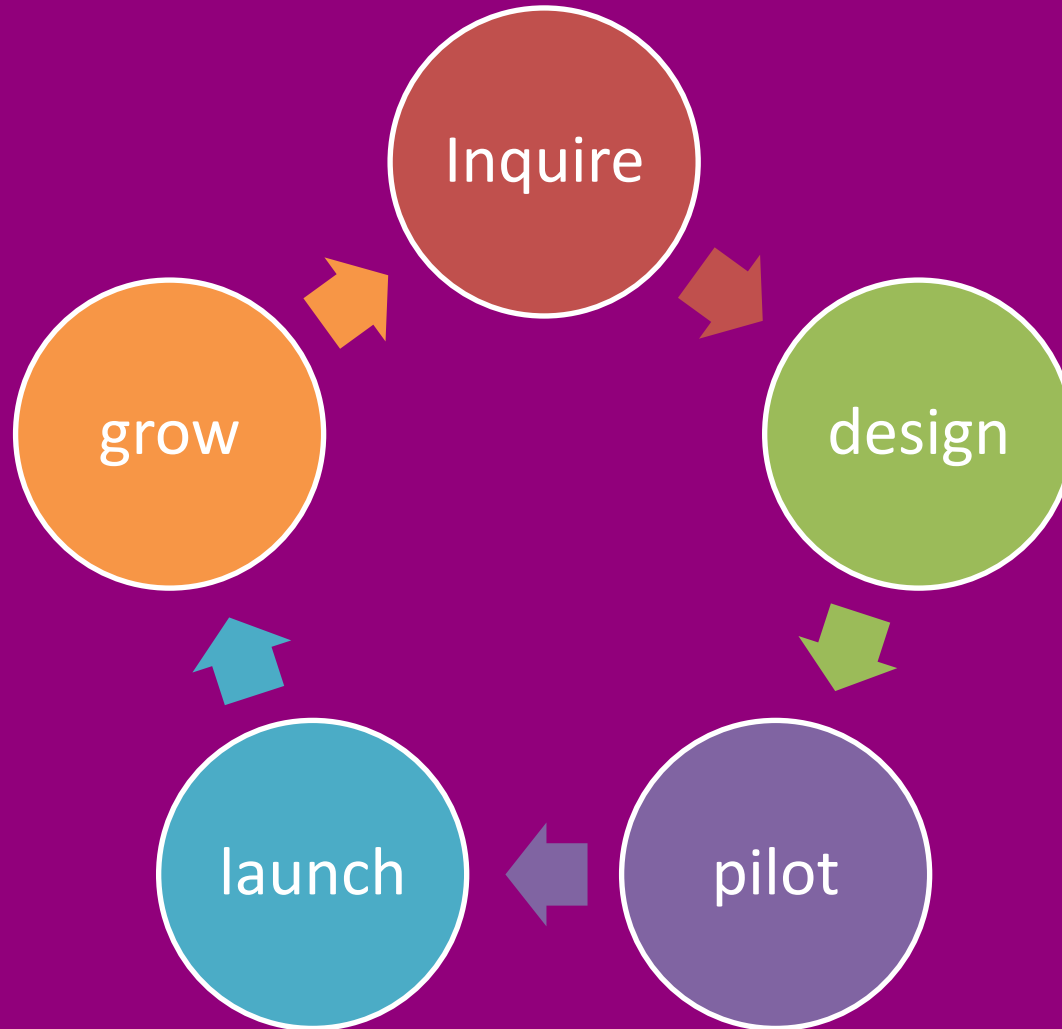
Potential of a C of P

- ◆ Connects people working in the same field
- ◆ Provides a context to share best practice
- ◆ Explores new possibilities and solves problems
- ◆ Helps organize people around purposeful actions
- ◆ Creates new knowledge

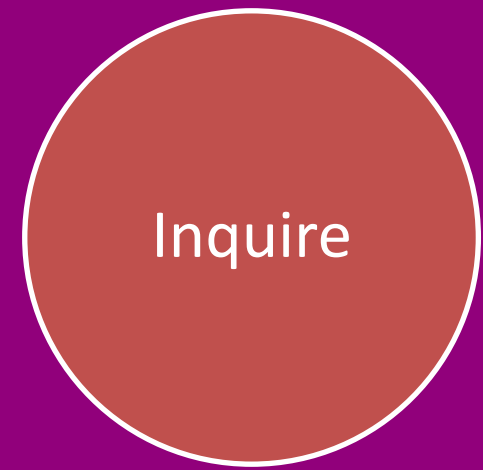


Developing our community of practice

Process & Questions to consider



Inquire: Key questions



- Who is this community for ?
- Who are the important stakeholders?
- What is the primary purpose of the community?
- What are the key issues?
- What is the knowledge the community wants to develop?
- What are the benefits to the stakeholders?

Design: Key questions



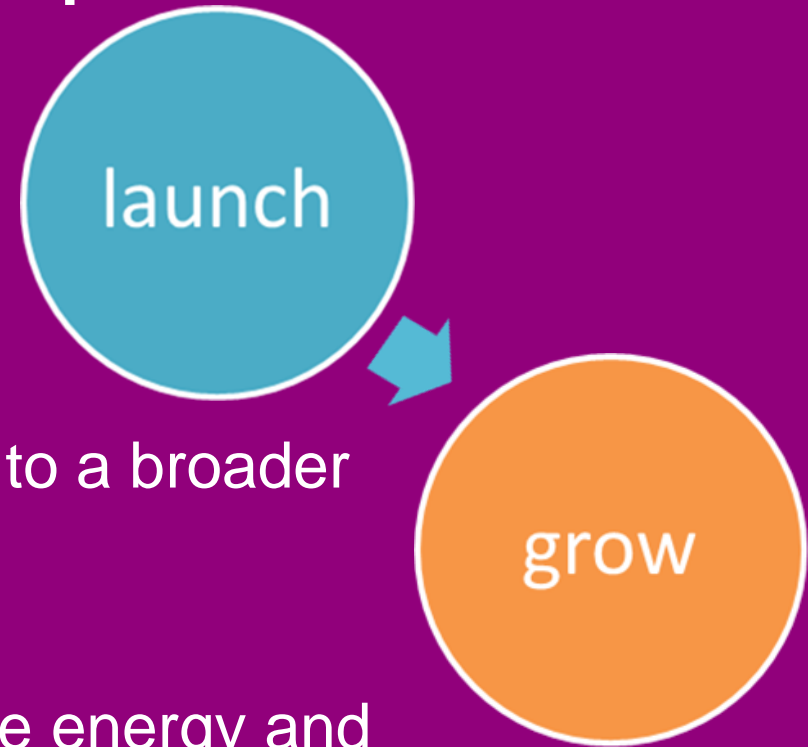
- What kinds of activities will be undertaken?
- How will members communicate and collaborate?
- What are the external resources that will support the community?
- What are the timelines and schedules for communication and activity?
- What are the roles of different community members?

Pilot: Key questions



- What should be trialled?
- How will content be made available?
- What technologies will be used to support activities?
- How will success be measured and communicated to broader stakeholder groups?

Launch & Grow: Key questions



- How will the benefits be rolled out to a broader audience?
- How will new people connect?
- What type of activities will generate energy and engagement?
- What resources are needed to create an increasing cycle of participation and contribution?
- How will success be measured?