

### Facilitating a Pro Action Café: Tips and Tricks

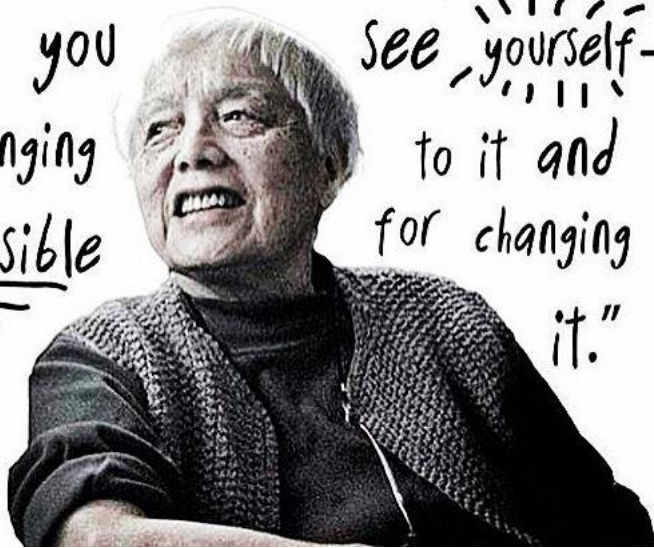
**Purpose:** The purpose of a Pro Action Café is to engage community members as active participations in designing solution strategies. A Pro Action Café is an asset based community development practice: using our existing collective resources to solve our problems.

**Description:** A Pro Action Café is a community exercise that facilitates multiple solution ideas to several community concerns at one time. A Pro Action Café is used as tool to discuss multiple concerns and create action steps all in one session.

**Typical Uses:** A Pro Action Café can be used in any community setting to discuss concerns, solve problems, propose ideas, or facilitate conversations.

**Process:** A Pro Action Café typically lasts about 2.5 to 3 hours and is most effective for 20-60 people. Participants are invited to propose topics, questions, or concerns at the beginning of the session. The process for proposed topics is first come first serve. The number of topics is determined by how many participants in the room. The best size for tables is 5-6, including the Table Host. The process includes reflections, a strategy session, and debrief.

"You cannot change any society  
unless you take responsibility for it,  
unless you as belonging responsible  
see yourself-  
to it and  
for changing  
it."



(Grace Lee Boggs)

# Public Allies Metro Detroit

*Cultivating and Retaining Homegrown Leaders*

## Proposed schedule for Pro Action Café:

Welcome and Registration: 15 minutes

- Discuss purpose of Pro Action Cafe

- Call for proposals happens during this time

Table Hosts selected and participant's transition to groups: 5 minutes

Round 1: 20 minutes

- Table Host shares concern/challenge

- What is the quest behind the question? Why is this important to the Table Host?

- What information is missing to discuss solutions?

Transition: 3 minutes

- Table Hosts **remain** at table. Participants move to next table, in same group.

Round 2: 20 minutes

- Table Host recaps Round 1

- Clarify if additional information is needed to discuss solutions

- Propose solutions through shared experiences

Transition: 3 minutes

- Table Hosts **remain** at table. Participants move to next table, in same group.

Round 3: 20 minutes

- Table Host recaps Rounds 1 and 2

- Propose solutions through shared experiences

- Come up with 1-2 viable action steps

Action Step Report: 20-30 minutes (depending on size of group)

- Table Hosts share with group brief challenge and immediate action steps

Debrief: 20-30 minutes

- Participants debrief as a large group and discuss next steps or goals

*\*The Pro Action Café model and content has been adapted from the original model first conceived by Rainer von Leoprechting and Ria Baeck in Brussels, Belgium.*