



Make Your Meetings Matter

Priya Parker

“Gathering is a form of leadership,” said Priya Parker at Leadercast Women 2019. “It’s about recognizing a need, deciding who needs to be there and then who doesn’t need to be there.” Priya advised the audience to strive for exerting what she called generous authority, which is a happy medium between under-hosting and becoming a dictator.

3 Keys for Ensuring a Meaningful Meeting

- 1. Set the tone with introductions.** Once a gathering begins, Priya suggested introducing everyone. You can alter the power dynamics in a room based on how you begin, so connect attendees and then protect the weakest people in the room by not allowing others to talk disproportionately.
- 2. Remember that it’s about the people.** “When we think about gatherings, we are taught to get things right—like placing the knife in the proper place. But really, meetings are about people,” Priya said. The person perhaps most misunderstood is the host, Priya said. Too often, we think that the host should hide and become invisible, aiming to please his or her guests. But gatherings are more effective when the opposite approach is taken.
- 3. Stay focused.** It can be easy to get distracted with the back and forth sometimes experienced at meetings. So keep in mind that the most transformative gatherings tend to have a healthy amount of risk. “You have to poke and prod and not be afraid of a little heat, but you want to stay focused on solutions,” Priya advised.