

Ideas for Topics as Chapter Events

Here are some of the ideas and topics of successful events held by IAP2 chapters in the past:

- Round table format sharing lessons learned and best practices
- Workshop on how to get recognition within your organization for the importance of public participation
- Workshop on when and how to use citizen advisory groups
- Seminar or discussion of changes in legislation that impact public participation
- Invite a media expert to discuss effective media strategies
- Showcase new technologies or software, invite vendors to give a demonstration
- Invite an expert on environmental law and discuss its impact on public participation
- Workshop on how to surf the internet
- Periodic social events to encourage networking
- Debrief on the annual conference for those who could not attend
- Workshop on working with First Nations and other indigenous populations
- Ask local government officials to come in for a roundtable on how municipalities conduct public participation in your region
- "Nation Building" – focus on initiatives at the grassroots level and how to bring that voice to the national domain
- Roundtable discussion on the ethics of public participation, forwarding results to Headquarters
- Workshop on how to survive on a practitioner's salary
- Invite local university programs to discuss higher education opportunities in public participation and related fields
- Hold a roast/toast for one of your noted members
- Ask a local attorney to discuss recent court decisions affecting the profession
- Conduct outreach programs to community groups, service organizations and schools and explain what public participation is, how to use it, and the benefits
- Co-sponsor events with chapters of other associations such as Canadian Institute of Planners, American Planning Association, Society of Professionals in Dispute Resolution, etc. Contact HQ for a list of IAP2 affiliates.
- Seek out presentations from authors in your area with published materials on public participation or related topics
- Discussion Topics:

"Finding Common Ground?"
"Is Public Involvement Effective?"
"Management Strategies"
"Policy Development"
"What is Public Participation in Global Context?"
"Current Trends in the Field"
"Legal Issues"

More recent Chapter Events have been on topics such as:

Building a Career in Public Participation
Why Community Advisor Groups are bad?
Reaching Minority and Underserved Communities through Public Participation
Best Ethical Practises for Public Participation
Collaboration & Closure group decision-making in record time!
Interactive Look at Facilitation, Mediation & Public Participation
How to Facilitate Public Dialogue When Values Collide?