



Trillium

Leadership Consulting

*“A spirit and a setting
where we invite the ‘stranger’
and learn in public.”*

Gracious Space is a simple yet powerful approach to change, transition and challenging conversations that can move organizations and communities forward, together, with deeper understanding and solid problem solving.

Developed by Seattle’s Center for Ethical Leadership in the 1990’s, Gracious Space is grounded in evidence-based approaches and over 20 years of transformational application in hundreds of organizations and communities around the world.

Stressing the value of different ideas, generative listening, and openness to risk and creativity, Gracious Space enables groups to learn and act together toward their highest potential. Workshops and keynote talks are tailored to the audience and enable participants to understand the core elements of Gracious Space and how to apply it to the challenges of the workplace.

Spirit:

Gracious Space brings forth many attributes such as safety, compassion, curiosity and humor which we each embody. When we bring these attributes with us into relationships, we are “being” gracious space, activating the spirit part of the concept. This spirit of Gracious Space helps us to be the change we want to see in the world.

Setting:

Gracious Space has a physical dimension that can support or impede our ability to work well with others. Our work and living spaces can build up or break down. By paying attention to simple hospitality, comfort and items that reflect energy, the diversity or history of the place, you can create your own setting of Gracious Space.

Invite the Stranger:

This refers to the willingness and ability to be welcoming to people, ideas and perspectives, even when these might be different, inconvenient or uncomfortable. We need the “stranger” when we are considering complex and new ideas, lest we take actions that are too narrow-minded or short-term. And it’s helpful to remember that we are each the stranger to someone else!

Learn in Public:

In Gracious Space people listen more and judge less. They remain open to possibility and patterns. In this space they can work better across boundaries, share diverse perspectives, work through conflict, discover transformative solutions and carry out innovations for change.

A Few of the Organizations Using Gracious Space:

- Alexander Dawson School, Las Vegas NV
- City of Billings, Montana
- Bellevue College
- Hearthstone Retirement Community, Seattle
- Horizon House, Seattle
- Humanities Montana
- Leadership Eastside, Leadership Montana, Leadership Wyoming
- Neighborhood House, Seattle
- Northwest Association of Independent Schools
- Our Lady of Grace Catholic School, Castro Valley CA
- Plymouth Congregational Church, Seattle
- Providence NICU, Portland OR
- Seattle Public Schools
- Senior Services of King County
- Sound Transit
- Tacoma Public School for the Arts
- University Child Development School in Seattle
- University of Washington
- WA State Developmental Disabilities Administration
- W.K. Kellogg Leadership for Community Change Program

Presenter:

Pat Hughes is the primary author of [Gracious Space: A Practical Guide for Working Better Together](#) and [Courageous Collaboration: From Small Openings to Profound Transformation](#), and gave a TED talk on the subject in 2017. (Search 'Gracious Space TED')

For over 25 years Pat has brought her enthusiastic, hands-on expertise in leadership, coaching and facilitation to organizations and communities to help cultivate their highest potential. Pat is also the owner of Trillium Leadership Consulting in Seattle and delivers keynotes and workshops on frequently on Gracious Space, courageous leadership and other topics to national audiences.

Pat holds an M.A. in Whole Systems Design from Antioch University and a B.A. in Economics and International Relations from the University of New Hampshire.