

## HRPA YR Leadership Summit - Bridging Diversity

June 10, 2015



Paul Houle's "Boom! The Power of Rhythm", aptly timed after lunch, proceeded to shake things up. Houle uses his extensive background in music and performance and the power of music and rhythm to transform human dynamics. The session started off literally with a bang, with interactive playing using a diverse array of instruments provided by Houle, including various types of drums and shakers. Quoting Miles Davis: "Listen first. Then play" Houle demonstrated valuing diversity in people through valuing diversity in music.

Although the atmosphere at the summit had, up to this point, been lively, the energy

level kicked up to another notch when audience members participated in a "jam session". The entire presentation was an interactive and experiential exercise that is difficult to reproduce in words. You had to be there to feel the vibe that was created when the room of close to 100 participants played in unison and independently - simultaneously. There was no after-lunch slump here, as Houle led the group through different combinations of music and got everyone engaged, focused, and having fun! Lots of laughter and positive energy in the room as some just couldn't resist getting a hit off of those drums.

What was clear however was that this was an exercise in listening. Houle's demonstration illustrated the importance of listening to one another when dealing with human diversity, and that when working within teams how difficult it may be to appreciate that diversity when there are expectations and anticipations involved. Given the cheers that echoed around the room at the end, members came away from this having had an experience that was as uplifting as it was informative.

By: Kacey-Neile Ennis Riviere