

IMAGINE

Singapore

APPRECIATE WHAT IS

IMAGINE WHAT CAN BE

CREATE WHAT WILL BE

IMAGINE Singapore is about creating hope and possibilities through conversations that matter. It is an effort to bring people from all walks of life together to discover the true essence of our strengths, qualities, and spirit that have stood the test of time. It is also about the discovery of our communities' hopes and aspirations, verbalised through active dialogue and engagement. Through simultaneous interviews and the sharing of high-point stories, Imagine Singapore aims to unleash the collective capacities of our nation.

Simply put, we imagine a nation in conversation.

Imagine Singapore deploys a simple and accessible methodology called **Appreciative Inquiry** – a positive oriented approach towards change. Singaporeans from all walks of life will be equipped through workshops to conduct interviews that will help in the expression of the hopes of our families, friends and neighbours.

Over and over again, we have experienced the ability of this simple approach to bring about positive changes - the mere act of being asked these questions serve to deepen the quality of connection between people and strengthens the individuals' sense of hope for the future.

**“Human systems grow in the direction of questions we most frequently ask ourselves.
Positive images precede positive action.”**

Why this project is central to the mission of the Sustainability Institute

Sustainability Institute aims to build sustainable organisations through our WISE framework - great Workplaces, Innovations for sustainability, Societal and community engagement and Environmental conscience. The mission of Si is to create **lasting positive impact**. Our programmes are aimed at development of strong and sustainable individuals, organizations and communities. Through Inquiry into the best of (practices, hopes, dreams and ideas) in our human systems - whether families, business or communities – we hope to further recognize and propagate self-directed positive innovations amongst Singaporeans. Imagine Singapore is the first societal engagement project embarked on by the Institute. Our interest is also on downstream research on positivity (hope and optimism), community-engagement and outcomes of shared vision processes.

WHAT IS APPRECIATIVE INQUIRY?

The essence of Appreciative Inquiry can be drawn much from the definition of the words:

Appreciate - The act of recognizing the best in people or the world around us; affirming past and present strengths, success, and potentials; to perceive those things that give life (health, vitality, excellence) to living systems; and

Inquire – The act of exploration to be open to see new potentials and possibilities

An action-research methodology pioneered by Dr David Cooperrider of Case Western Reserve University and practiced in Organizational Development as a process that engages individuals within an organizational system in its renewal, change and focused performance.

Appreciative Inquiry is often depicted as a 4-D process or cycle of:

- DISCOVERY – “Best of the Past and Present” which leads to the emergence of the ‘Positive Core’ of a community or organisation;
- DREAM – “What might be?” which leads to clarity in shared vision and encourages ownership of the possibilities;
- DESIGN – “How can it be?” which leads to charting aspiration statements and action plans; and
- DESTINY – “Fulfilling what must be” – ownership and follow through of actions for vision fulfillment.