

# Beyond self awareness, our world now demands Collaborative Awareness™



## What Is the Blueprint of We?

A collaboration document, and on-going process, used to mindfully custom design business and personal relationships.

### Benefits:

- Navigate transition and change with ease
- Create evolving leaders in highly collaborative work environments
- Create compassionate communication among deeply diverse people and ideas
- Wire your brain for clarity and connection
- Can serve as a traditional legal contract with both people and process in mind
- Works seamlessly with other tools or processes you have already adopted



## 5 Components of a Collaboration Document

1. **The Story of Us**  
Share what draws you to these people and this situation.
2. **Interaction Styles & Warning Signs**  
Who you are. How you work best.
3. **Custom Design**  
Determine what matters most. Use it to mindfully design the what, when, why and how.
4. **Questions for Peace & Possibility**  
Capture your most creative and compassionate selves ahead of time.
5. **Short & Long-Term Timeframes**  
Coming back to center and building your document.



## Who's Using It

The Blueprint of We, created by the Center for Collaborative Awareness, is currently being used in 100+ countries in communities, corporations, small businesses, non-profits, families, schools—between business partners, boards of directors, teams, virtual teams, clients, suppliers, families, couples, etc.



# The 5 Components of a Blueprint of We Collaboration Document



## 1. The Story of Us

It's important to build a foundation of trust from the beginning to keep the relationship in flow. Establishing the connected perspective allows us to return to and grow the connection through complex changes and stressful situations.

Each person writes their version of The Story of Us, which is the story of the other's characteristics they most admire or appreciate and the reasons they're attracted to the situation. It could also be in the form of a bullet-pointed list. This serves as a reminder that when things get tough, these brilliant characteristics still reside. It's a mind map back when we need it most.



## 2. Interaction Styles & Warning Signs

Each person creates a bullet-pointed list of his or her Interaction Styles and Warning Signs.

The Interaction Styles are an account of how you generally like to work and live. Do you need to think out loud with a group, work alone at times, need an agenda? Do you tend to prefer quiet time, are you high energy, direct when you communicate, do you lean towards the optimistic? Interaction Styles deal with how each person likes things done, what's non-negotiable, what their preferences are, etc.

Warning Signs is a list of the external clues you may show as signs of stress. The behaviors you exhibit right before things spin out of control. Are you less patient, do you immerse yourself deeper in your work, become a perfectionist, tap your pen on the table?

And most importantly, when you show these signs, *how might someone help you pull out of the spiral?* Tell them *now*, because in the moment, it might feel impossible to say what you really need. Come talk to me; give me space, then talk to me; help me see the data so I can step back from the emotional; offer me a back rub; reassure me, etc.

Warning Signs are the behaviors each person tends to display when things begin to go awry. Knowing these up front, and having someone tell you how to best assist, can alleviate a great deal of miscommunication and assumption that lead to a downward spiral.



## 3. Custom Design

Custom Design focuses on both the elements that contracts traditionally cover and the shared values that inform what's to be done, agreed upon, or intentioned. Each person determines what matters most and what they specifically want to build as part of this particular relationship. They then collaboratively design the structure that best serves each person, the entire we, and the activities at hand.



## 4. Questions for Peace & Possibility

The parties co-create a list of questions they commit to answer with one another that will accelerate new possibilities or get them back to a good place if the need arises. Questions like:

- How can we turn up the volume on what's already working?
- What truths do I need to tell?
- What do I need from you right now?
- Does money play a part in this situation?
- How can we move from judgment to curiosity in order to get more clarity?
- Is it time to redefine or redirect our work together?



## 5. Short & Long-term Timeframes

The first **Short-term Timeframe** is for **Clarity Conversations**. If you went on a 5-mile hike and got a stick in your shoe in mile one, you would stop and remove the stick. The same applies for stress in collaborative relationships. If you have that knot in your stomach or something feels off, how long are you willing to go before inviting the other party to a conversation? It's important to realize stress in the system is not a problem, but an important message that says we need more clarity. We suggest timeframes such as 4 hours, 24 hours or 3 days. It depends on your style of relating to one another and how much time you need to calm your mind down enough to have an open-minded, compassionate conversation. Within the agreed upon timeframe, each person re-reads the Blueprint to reorient themselves with the other person and reconnect to the positive neural pathways built over time. Then you use your Questions for Peace & Possibility to find clarity and get back to a good place.

The second **Short-term Timeframe** is for **Document Building**. Your Blueprint will change and grow in concert with your relationship. Establishing a habit of consistently reviewing and adding to your document is powerful. We suggest weekly, monthly and/or annually.

The parties also agree on a **Long-term Timeframe** of a year or more to get back together to find peace if something unimaginable happens and you can't seem to go over their Questions before then. You agree to no outright harm to the other person. You will not speak negatively to others or create more pain for them. You also make a personal commitment to finding peace within yourself. Many of us carry the pain of a bad ending for a lifetime and never resolve it. This commitment allows us the opening through the healing nature of time.

*The Blueprint of We is a written trust between two or more entities who see the power in moving through the fears and joys of a relationship with ease. It's typically written in the initial stage of the relationship, but if the relationship is not new, it can be written if the people involved are currently in a good place with each other.*