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What is the BIM Manager's Roundtable?

How was the BIM Manager's Roundtable formed?

A: Over the years, I had been in the habit of meeting informally with several southern California BIM leaders one-on-one over lunch or happy-hour to discuss and share BIM ideas and directions. A few years ago, an inspiration came to me to share my BIM connections with other colleagues by creating a forum for BIM leaders to exchange ideas that could influence the direction of BIM in southern California. I put a list together of people I knew that could be the core members of such a group and instigated an exploratory kick-off meeting in July of 2014 at a rib joint in Orange County, California. Six local BIM leaders committed to attend.

What was the inspiration for the Roundtable

The Roundtable's inspiration was the famous literary society, the Inklings, an informal discussion group, active for nearly two decades in the 1930s and 1940s that met regularly in a pub near the University of Oxford in England. The group consisted of C. S. Lewis, J. R. R. Tolkien, and a handful of other prominent writers who collaborated to encourage the writing of fantasy. Most of us grew up with and are raising our kids with their work: The Lord of the Rings, The Chronicles of Narnia, The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe, and other great classics.

What was a result of the exploratory meeting?

The exploratory group agreed that we would create an informal BIM discussion group consisting only of the initial six southern CA BIM leaders to keep it small. We agreed to meet regularly, rotating meeting locations after hours at our respective offices. Any new members would be included by-invitation-only.

What was the purpose of the BMRT?

We agreed that we should call the group the BIM Manager's Roundtable (BMRT) and its purpose would be to share our current work in progress, to get critique and immediate feedback from our colleagues, and incorporate this valuable input into our creative activities, just like the Inklings. The Roundtable currently meets quarterly at local offices that turn into Inkling-like pubs with food and brew.

How did the idea for the conference come about?

At our first meeting this year, the idea was proposed to create a BIM Leadership Conference that would take the benefits of our informal collaboration "out of the pub" and share it with the Big BIM World. Our connection with Hanson Wade enabled us to align our Leadership Conference idea with the in-process planning for the Advancing Collaborative Project Delivery 2017 conference. We are very appreciative of Hanson Wade for allowing us to kick off their conference with our Leadership Workshop.

What do you want to achieve during the workshop?

This day-long Leadership Workshop will not be like typical conferences or symposiums where you glean inspiration from PowerPoint-enhanced case studies that are mainly one-directional communication. We will provide a roll-up-your-sleeves, consensus-based brainstorming and decision-making environment, where BIM leaders from all over the country can collaborate to create a roadmap for where we want to take BIM into the future. Each participant will come away from the Workshop with a deeper sense of how to lead BIM in their local communities, backed by other BIM colleagues from around the country. The BIM movement to date has been very organic and leaderless in the US, so we desire to create a greater sense of direction that will truly transform the way building projects are designed, managed, and operated...rather like "the best way to predict the future is to invent it!"