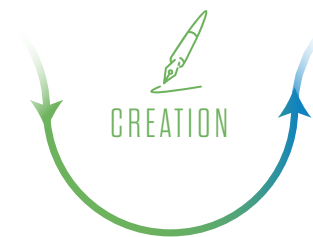# 42 TOOLKIT

LOTUS BLOSSOM

CREATION

The Lotus Blossom tool is used by designers for creative purposes. It is a tool for idea generation, starting from one central theme, then eight conceptual themes ow out from the main theme and each of them are used as central theme to generate 8 more themes.

PREPARATION:
up to 15 minutes

DURATION:
45-60 minutes

FACILITATORS:
1 per workshop

RESOURCES:
Pens, Post-its, a large sheet of paper or whiteboard

PARTICIPANTS:
Up to 6 per group, design team, partners, community members

EXPECTED OUTCOME:
Many ideas

DESIGN PHASE:
Creation

TEMPLATE OR GUIDELINES:
Use the Lotus Blossom template

Invented in Japan by Yasuo Matsumura, the Lotus Blossom tool adds focus and power to classic brainstorming. The method helps designers to create more and higher quality ideas for services as it starts off with a central idea or theme, and then expands outwards with solution areas or related themes in an iterative manner.

1. START:
State the design challenge (i.e. the selected "How Might We" statement) or a sub-focus area of it.

2. IDENTIFY:
Based on your HMW statement or the focus of what you are interested in, define the criteria and select suitable group of participants. Aim for diversity among participants.

3. PREPARE:
Decide what are the central themes to start generating ideas. Then, organize a meeting with the selected participants, and gather the necessary resources and supplies. Print enough Lotus Blossom templates in A3 or bigger. Think about what expectations will be set up-front, how you will start and end the workshop, and how much time participants are expected to dedicate to this activity.

4. CONDUCT:
Use the Lotus Blossom template and write down the central theme in it. Then, individually or in pairs think of 8 related ideas and write them around the square using a new square for each. Take each of the 8 previous themes and create 8 new themes around it. Write them in new squares. Try your best to complete all of the blossoms to maximize ideas. Upon completion, at least 64 new ideas related to the original central theme will have been created each participant or pairs.

5. REPORT:
Right afterwards, write up the key outcomes from this exercise. Make a short summary or presentation that includes the key findings.

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