

FACE Peace Initiative PRESENTS

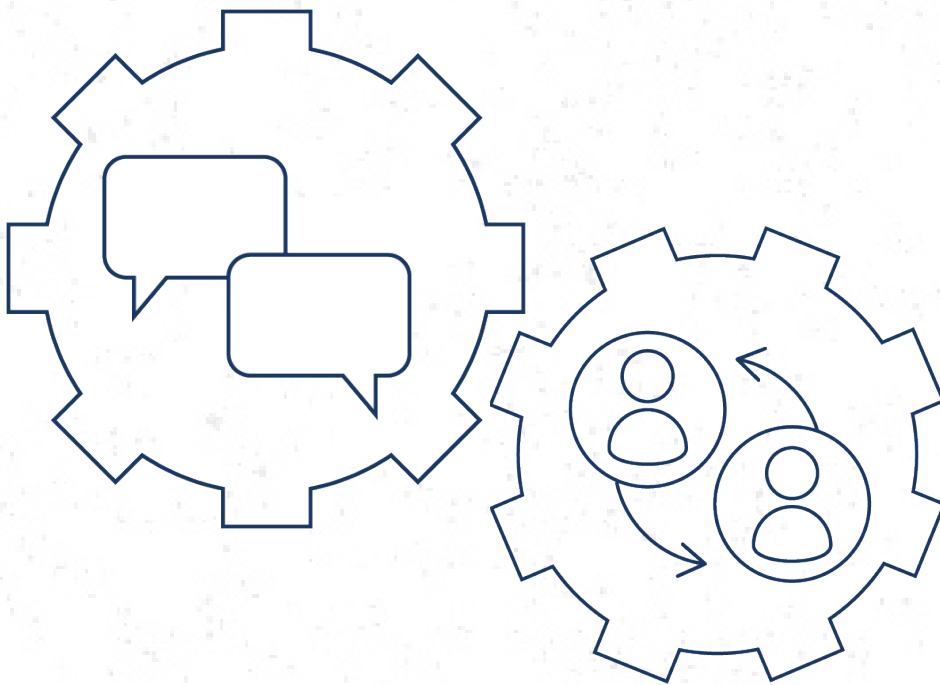
Collaborative Convening Share-out

Where: Joan B. Kroc School of Peace Studies at the University of San Diego

When: September 14-16, 2022

WHY WE GATHERED...

The ultimate goal of FACE Peace is to create a library of resources for peacebuilders supported by a design tool that helps users ask the right questions and generate thoughtful answers to programming dilemmas in the COVID era. The Collaborative Convening brought together an interdisciplinary group to evaluate, and advance, a first prototype of this tool.



WHAT WE DID...

We became philosophers

We thought about nature and how it sparks creativity and togetherness. We talked about what tools are - and how they manifest as both specialized and mundane.

We became designers

We thought deeply about the experience of program officers and managers in international development. We asked how, and why, a program design tool might fit their actual needs and workflow. Using paper and pipe cleaners we made visible, and physical, some of the challenges inherent in this intellectual effort.

We became peacebuilders

We dove deep into a fiction built around an institution created to reflect the problems and realities peacebuilders face, and thought about ways to solve those problems. We generated guiding principles for the new reality of online and hybrid activities. We built a new peace program from the ground up.



WHAT WE LEARNED...

Lack of Transparency

You were frustrated to have options and memos taken away once you deselected them! You wanted to know when and why certain survey choices constrained your programming options. You wanted to be able to call options back and compare suites of choices in context.

"We had a user in our group, which was really excellent, because he was constantly . . . wanting to see everything all together. And so we thought that there might be a better way to very simply have . . . visual snapshots with quick headlines around each piece of resource or memo. . . thematically organized."

Generative versus Prescriptive Outputs

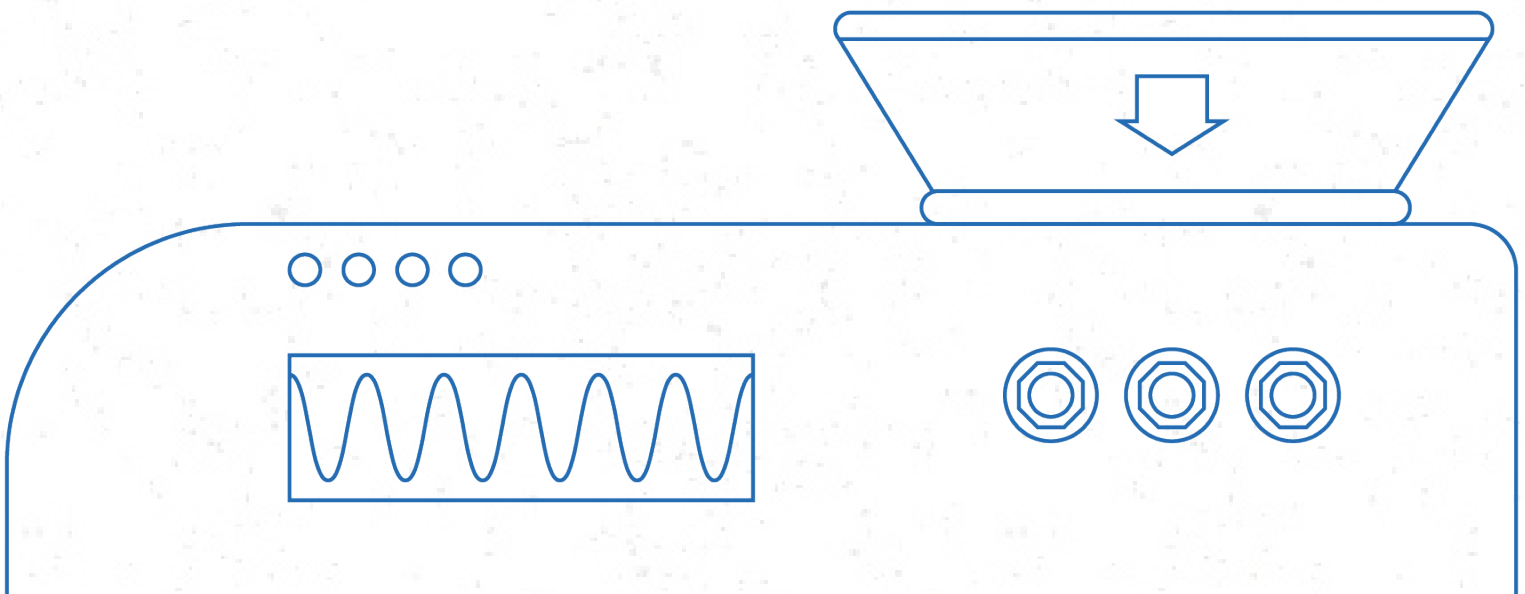
You felt that users might have more flexibility in program terms and budgets than the questions allowed for, you felt that those constraints should be addressed up front, and you thought the user base of the tool might grow if it accounted for this flexibility. You suggested the tool might also link out to external resources, creating a broader landscape of advice and expertise.

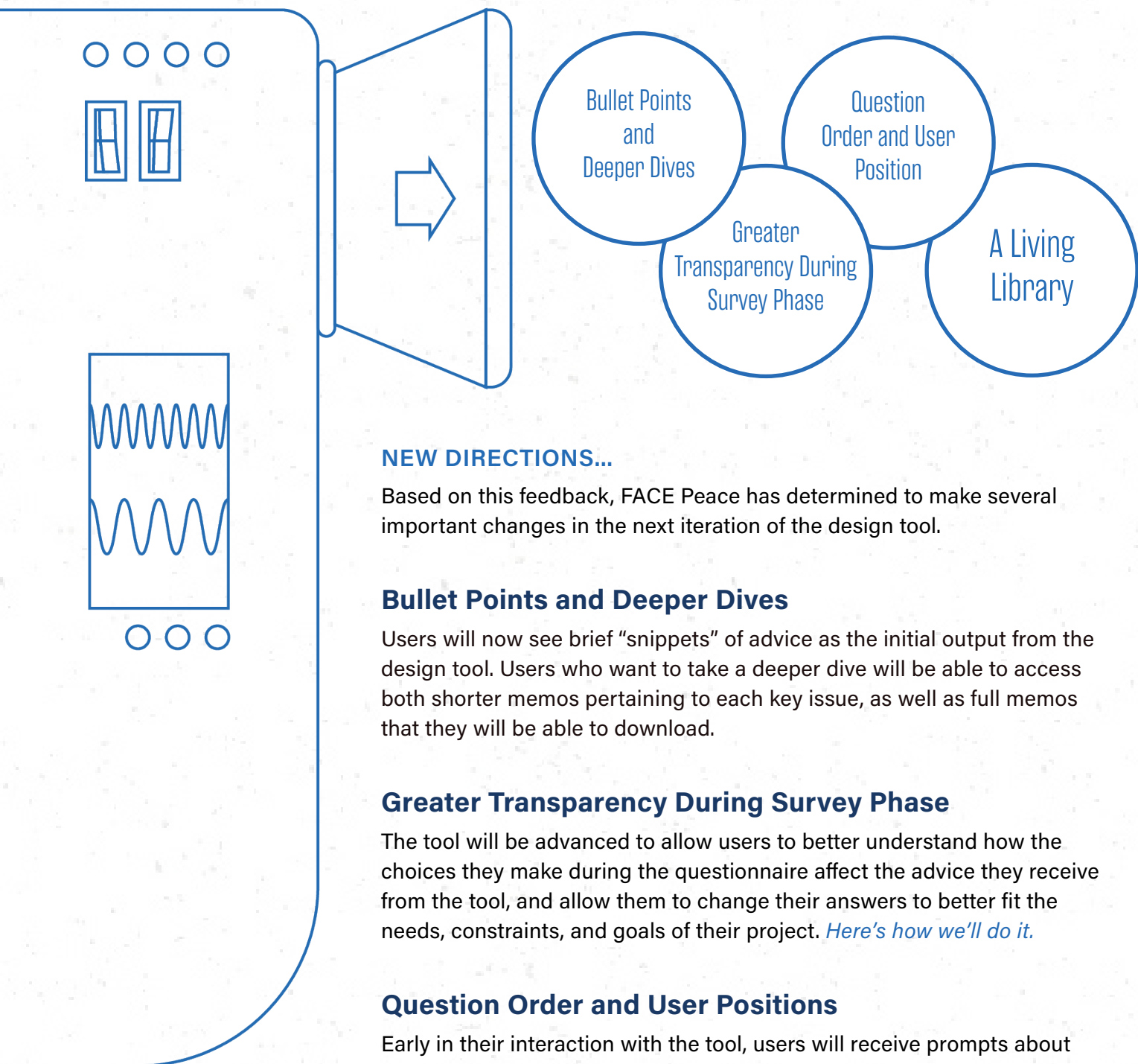
"And ultimately the product that I reach is a toolbox. And the toolbox has several [components, including] considerations . . . coming from the memos. They're not telling you what you have to do. They're just things that you should consider."

User Experiences

You wondered whether the tool could somehow incorporate the experiences of past users to inform the advice presented to new users, lending content and credibility to make the tool increasingly robust.

" . . . how do we have people add to it, so how do we make it 'living,' . . . 'living' as a concept was something very core to our discussion."





Thank you!

Thank you for your energetic collaboration and your help in moving the FACE Peace Tool forward into its next iteration. We will send periodic updates on our progress, and we hope you'll consider actively participating in later phases of the prototyping process.

After all, the best critique is help.

Your Next Big Thing

Please take a moment to share some thoughts about your next big thing with the group! What challenges and promises lay ahead for you? The FACE Peace website will feature blurbs on your work during the coming months!

Email jporten@san Diego.edu

About FACE Peace

COVID-19 and the subsequent explosion in use of telecommunication software ushered in a new era of distanced collaboration in peacebuilding, leading to meaningful and urgent questions about how the field convenes. These questions include how to engender creative thinking and build trust at a distance, how to use distanced gatherings to assure the inclusion of all stakeholders in decision making, and how to maximize impact by strategically combining online, hybrid, and in-person modalities. FACE Peace, supported generously by the Carnegie Corporation of New York, is synthesizing existing research from multiple fields and case studies in the peacebuilding space to help peacebuilders generate answers to those questions.

