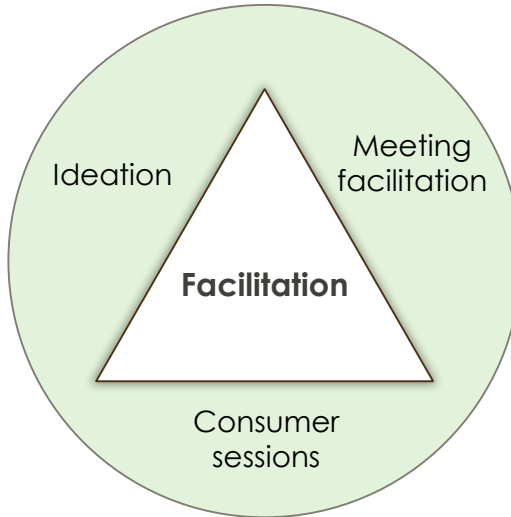


The Sage Network is a group of experienced, senior-level facilitation professionals. We focus on Ideation, meeting facilitation and consumer sessions.



Ideation

We use an extensive variety of creative techniques to generate new ideas.

Includes naming, new products, positioning, building awareness, fundraising events ... anything your team needs inspiration on!

Synectics-trained facilitators.

Meeting facilitation

We facilitate meetings, taking responsibility for the process and the flow of the meeting so you're free to focus on the content and achieve the results you want.

Includes strategic planning meetings, team meetings, board retreats ...

Consumer sessions

We uncover consumer insights through ethnographic exploration (in-home interviews, on-site studies), online panels and focus groups.

With our strategic background, we can help cut through the clutter to determine what's really important.

Why The Sage Network?

We are senior level, experienced facilitators so know what works well and what doesn't. We free you up so you can focus on the issues at hand, confident that you'll get results.

We provide:

- Facilitators who command presence in a room
- Full-picture thinkers who are quick to understand issues
- Flexible leaders who are comfortable with change and can accommodate the unexpected
- A tailored, collaborative effort
- Proven tools that are tried and tested and can deliver the results you need

Clients

We have worked with a broad array of clients

Clients have included ...



Our team

Jo Thorogood, co-founder



Jo believes anyone can be creative – sometimes we just need a helping hand. She has spent the past 20+ years consulting across a variety of industries. She is a Synectics® trained ideator and knows from experience which creativity techniques can draw the most intriguing new ideas and insights from a group. Prior to co-founding The Sage Network, Jo worked at The Cambridge Group, Gemini Consulting, Accenture, Booz, Allen & Hamilton and Philips. Jo has an M.B.A. from The Kellogg Graduate School of Management and an Meng (Electrical and Electronic) from Bath University in the UK. She has lived and worked in the UK, Australia, Finland and the USA.

She loves triathlons and running with her dog ... followed by a good glass of wine

Jill Davies, co-founder



Jill's proficiency for facilitating and training comes from 20+ years of corporate and consulting experience in all areas of business and brand strategy, particularly strategic planning. She can draw out the best in a team to create focus, build efficient dialog and reach a shared conclusion. Prior to co-founding The Sage Network, Jill worked at The Cambridge Group and Booz, Allen & Hamilton. Jill holds an M.B.A. from the University of Chicago and a BscHons from Manchester University (England) in Statistics and Operational Research.

Jill is a board member of Sustainable Woodstock in VT, helping make change happen in her town and an Avatar Master helping people learn new skills to make change happen in their own lives.

Chris Holliday



Chris has 20+ years marketing experience and is a working NYC actor with 6+ years of stage, film and commercial work. She combines marketing expertise and acting/performance know-how to create and facilitate ground breaking ideation sessions, deliver high impact marketing and presentation skills training, and moderate focus groups for compelling consumer insights. Before consulting, Chris worked for Frito-Lay and Citigroup. She has an M.B.A. from the Kellogg Graduate School of Management, a Masters in Education from Trinity College Dublin and a BA from DePauw University. She is also Synectics® trained.

A foodie, Chris is writing a cookbook for wheat, dairy, sugar and preservative free cooking.

Carrie Friend



Carrie has 20+ years of both client-side and consulting experience. She is the founder of Friendsight, a qualitative research & strategic consulting firm, where her belief in getting inside the heads, hearts & souls of both consumers & clients has allowed her to discover & develop proprietary & actionable insights that strongly influence marketing and business decisions. Prior to Friendsight, Carrie worked at Fusion 5, Minute Maid, Pizza Hut and M&M/Mars. Carrie holds an MBA in Marketing/Marketing Research from Wichita State University and a BS in Food Science from Cornell University.

Carrie began running 4 years ago, became a "Half Fanatic" (22 half marathons thus far), but more than anything else, enjoys inspiring others to get active.

Diane Dubovy-Benke



Diane combines high energy and 15+ years consulting experience to help clients achieve their desired objectives. She brings disciplined techniques and is quick to grasp the issues at play. She draws out creative ideas from teams while setting boundaries and managing diverse participants. She is the founder of Dubovy Consulting, a marketing consultancy company. Prior to Dubovy Consulting, Diane worked at The Cambridge Group, MasterCard and Greenwich Associates. Diane has an M.B.A. from Columbia Business School and a B.S. from Cornell University. Diane is a trained facilitator in Synectics® and a focus group moderator by RIVA.

Diane stays active by chasing after her two sons and training for her next endurance athletic event