

Aja M. Howell, Biography



Aja Howell, is president and owner of Howell Consulting Group, a consulting firm located in North San Diego County. Through her independent consulting practice she has serviced more than 50 different organizations reaching over 350 different organizational partners and affiliates. As a skilled organizational development consultant, with years of expertise servicing nonprofits, government, and social sector organizations, Aja has a myriad of tools and resources to help transform individuals and teams and build organizational capacity.

For the last decade, Aja Howell has dedicated herself to improving organizational teams, systems and professionals, that are dedicated to improving the quality of life for families and serving families in need. Aja has spent a significant amount of time working to advance arts education, further efforts to prevent domestic violence and sexual assault, and build capacity within initiative that focus on early childhood and early education efforts. While a majority of her work has been done in the San Diego and LA areas, Aja has also conducted organizational development interventions throughout the country as well as globally with clients in China, France, and Mexico.

Aja is recognized as an accomplished facilitator. She brings extensive experience in the design and implementation of facilitated interventions to help increase organizational effectiveness and produce measurable results. She has a unique ability to frame and facilitate processes that simplify complex issues. Clients claim her direct and efficient style helps organizations lead to breakthroughs in thinking and actionable plans. Highlights of major initiatives Aja has been involved in include:

- Currently serving as first Community Facilitator for a new placed based initiative, Best Start LA, to facilitate a community driven process for creating "baby and toddler friendly communities". This pilot project is funded by First 5 LA and is being implemented by lead entity, Para Los Niño's.
- Currently providing capacity building support to multiple organizations as a part of First 5 LA's Community Opportunities Funding. Responsible for helping organizations process individual organizational assessments, development of specific capacity building plans for individual grantees and initiative level peer learning.
- Four years as Lead Consultant for the Institute of Cultural Affairs Capacity Building Consultant for First 5 LA's Partnership for Families initiative designed to prevent child maltreatment. As a part of this effort, Aja designed and led peer learning exchanges for funded grantees, conducted initiative and collaborative level assessments, facilitated collaborative specific action plans, and ensured solid cross communication within collaborative and across the initiative.
- Six years with San Diego County Office of Education's Preschool for All program as primary planner and facilitator. Through this effort Aja was responsible for facilitating and planning a multitude of community stakeholder meetings around various topics, addressing and documenting lessons learned as it related to systems and structural issues. Aja was responsible for successfully providing direction, oversight, and feedback on a multitude of issues and topics that arose among the management team, preschool providers, contractors, and funders.

Aja is a Masters Level Trainer for the Institute of Cultural Affairs. Serving as the lead for the local public registrar office for the San Diego area, Aja has taught Technology of Participation (ToP[®]) methodology to more than 1,000 individuals, leaders, and planners to date. She was certified by the International Association for Facilitators in 2003. Aja holds a Master's Degree in Organizational Development (MSOD) from Pepperdine University and a BS in Psychology from San Diego State University. She has two children, Tyler, age 3, and Natalie, just under 2 years of age.