



Collective Genius: The Art and Practice of Leading Innovation

By Linda A. Hill, Greg Brandeau, Emily Truelove, Kent Lineback

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Why can some organizations innovate time and again, while most cannot?

You might think the key to innovation is attracting exceptional creative talent. Or making the right investments. Or breaking down organizational silos. All of these things may help—but there's only one way to ensure sustained innovation: you need to *lead* it—and with a special kind of leadership. *Collective Genius* shows you how.

Preeminent leadership scholar Linda Hill, along with former Pixar tech wizard Greg Brandeau, MIT researcher Emily Truelove, and *Being the Boss* coauthor Kent Lineback, found among leaders a widely shared, and mistaken, assumption: that a “good” leader in all other respects would also be an effective leader of innovation. The truth is, leading innovation takes a distinctive kind of leadership, one that unleashes and harnesses the “collective genius” of the people in the organization.

Using vivid stories of individual leaders at companies like Volkswagen, Google, eBay, and Pfizer, as well as nonprofits and international government agencies, the authors show how successful leaders of innovation don’t create a vision and try to make innovation happen themselves. Rather, they create and sustain a culture where innovation is allowed to happen again and again—an environment where people are both *willing* and *able* to do the hard work that innovative problem solving requires.

Collective Genius will not only inspire you; it will give you the concrete, practical guidance you need to build innovation into the fabric of your business.

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Editorial Review

Review

Winner of the Thinkers50 Award for Innovation, 2015

Gold medal winner for Leadership in the Axiom Book Awards, 2015

Winner of the HBR Warren Bennis Prize for the Best Leadership Article, 2015

“Recommended Reading: 10 Books on Creative Leadership” — ***Forbes***

“This immensely worthwhile read redefines leadership, encouraging would-be leaders of innovation to shuck the “Follow me! I know the way” approach and opt for an inverted organizational pyramid.” — ***Success magazine***

“Throughout this concise book, the emphasis is on practical examples and detailed studies of what is required to make each aspect of innovation work. This thoroughness extends to the authors’ prescriptions for the future.” — ***Forbes***

“*Collective Genius* gives diverse food for thought ... overall it successfully bridges the gap between theory and business practice.” — ***Personalwirtschaft***

ADVANCE PRAISE for ***Collective Genius***:

Tim Brown, President and CEO, IDEO—

“The leadership of innovative teams and organizations is perhaps the most confounding mystery in business today . . . *Collective Genius* reveals the principles by which we can unlock the collective potential of our colleagues and release the creative potential of our organizations.”

Reid Hoffman, cofounder and Chairman, LinkedIn; coauthor, *The Alliance*—

“An interesting and instructive look at how leaders can create flexible corporate ecosystems to unleash individual talent in ways that lead to greater organizational innovation.”

Kenneth I. Chenault, CEO and Chairman, American Express—

“*Collective Genius* offers real-world insights that will help today’s business leaders challenge the status quo, drive new ideas, and create an environment where change and innovation are the norm.”

Tony Hsieh, CEO, Zappos; New York Times bestselling author, *Delivering Happiness*—

“Linda Hill and her coauthors argue that innovation requires a different kind of leader—someone who can create and sustain a culture that brings out the ‘collective genius’ of all their diverse and talented people. A great read for anyone leading a team, organization, or community.”

Terri Kelly, President and CEO, W. L. Gore & Associates—

“ . . . *Collective Genius* is one of the few books that truly captures innovation in action and the important role—and qualities—of leaders who make it happen.”

Mark M. Little, Senior Vice President, Director of Global Research, and Chief Technology Officer, General Electric—

“A great read, full of important insights for anyone involved in high-impact innovation . . . I look forward to sharing it with my colleagues.”

Joi Ito, Director, MIT Media Lab—

“. . . A must-read for any manager or participant in an organization that requires innovation—in other words, any organization that wants to be successful in the new world of continuous massive disruptions.”

Clayton M. Christensen, Kim B. Clark Professor of Business Administration, Harvard Business School; author, *The Innovator’s Dilemma*—

“Innovation. Leadership. Motivation. Execution. What we need to do is quite obvious. And thanks to this book, we now have a guide to teach us how.”

About the Author

Linda A. Hill is the Wallace Brett Donham Professor of Business Administration at Harvard Business School and faculty chair of the Leadership Initiative. She is the author of *Becoming a Manager* and coauthor, with Kent Lineback, of *Being the Boss*. She was named by Thinkers50 as one of the top ten management thinkers in the world.

Greg Brandeau, long-time head of technology at Pixar Animation Studios, is a former EVP and CTO for The Walt Disney Studios.

Emily Truelove is a researcher and PhD candidate at the MIT Sloan School of Management.

Kent Lineback has spent more than twenty-five years as a manager and executive and, before that, several years as a consultant and a creator of management development programs. He has collaborated on several books, including *Being the Boss*.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Chris Hernandez:

Here thing why this specific Collective Genius: The Art and Practice of Leading Innovation are different and reputable to be yours. First of all studying a book is good nevertheless it depends in the content of the usb ports which is the content is as delicious as food or not. Collective Genius: The Art and Practice of Leading Innovation giving you information deeper and in different ways, you can find any publication out there but there is no reserve that similar with Collective Genius: The Art and Practice of Leading Innovation. It gives you thrill examining journey, its open up your eyes about the thing that will happened in the world which is maybe can be happened around you. It is easy to bring everywhere like in area, café, or even in your way home by train. For anyone who is having difficulties in bringing the printed book maybe the form of Collective Genius: The Art and Practice of Leading Innovation in e-book can be your alternate.

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William Perrotta:

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