

THINKING ABOUT CREATIVE LEADERSHIP

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John's Creative Leadership Blog <http://creativeleadership.com>

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In John Maeda's *Redesigning Leadership*, he challenges us to think about how creative leadership differs from traditional leadership.

TRADITIONAL LEADERSHIP

One-way

Concerned with being right

Follows the manual

Loves to avoid mistakes

Reliability

Orchestra model

Community in harmony

Wants to be right

Open to limited feedback

Sustaining order

Closed system

CREATIVE LEADERSHIP

Interactive

Concerned with being real

Improvises when appropriate

Loves to learn from mistakes

Validity

Jazz ensemble

Community in conversation

Hopes to be right

Open to unlimited critique

Taking risks

Open system

John Maeda's Principles of Leadership - Taking lessons from Artists

1. **Build from Foundations** - Artists have to get their hands dirty, starting with core foundations and basic principles.

2. **Craft the Team** - Make sure to craft your team wisely; Artists know, to do great work, you need great material.

3. **Sense Actively** - Artists sense their surroundings and communicate their impressions through their art. Maeda likens them to kite makers who sense the wind and with their kites help others to see it.

4. **Take Leaps** - Artists are risk takers. They ask questions ("Why is it this way? Why is it not?") and take leaps based on the answers they find.

5. **Fail Productively** - Artists fail often, but they recover quickly; they fail productively. They connect and reuse old failures and in doing so they create new things.

6. **Grow from Critique** - Artists are hungry for critique because they are eager to change and grow into their fullest potential.