Emergent Curriculum

Emergent curriculum refers to the learning outcomes that can never be fully known in advance but which arise in experiential education.

It is this “unfolding” or emergent curriculum that learners have reported to be the MOST powerful for their learning.

It is in this curricular environment that a number of transformational learning opportunities may present themselves, in some cases somewhat predictably, while in other cases quite unexpectedly. Learners (and teachers) need to watch for these moments and understand how to capitalize on them.

Learners need to recognize how to embrace the disruptive moments they experience and seek to better understand their own reactions (and the roots of those feelings) in ways that allow for personal growth and development.

Additional experiential education outcomes resulting from the emergent curriculum may need to be determined post-experience, by each learner, in addition to those planned for by the designer.