

Leveraging Our Strengths Conference.

Notes from Community Conversation on Place Based Community Development

- 1) Do we have a shared vision locally around place based community development? What would it be?
- 2) What are your thoughts on a shared agenda or vision? What elements would be there? What would be the added benefits for engaging in a shared vision/agenda?
- 3) What needs to be in place? Who can put them in place?
- 4) Over lunch, think about who would be willing to get together to further talk about these shared visions.

Our purpose today, is to learn from one another and come-up with a common agenda/vision, to recognize why we are coming together and explore the various categories of Collective Impact (CI).

Ex:

Community Development Framework (CDF), created in 2008 to build on success and lessons learned from strategic initiatives. Collective interests and working together with a common language, purpose and goals, with the desire to share responsibility for solutions and leadership.

Common Agenda; create healthier neighbourhoods, aligning partners, collaboration/working together, dedicate resources and agree on shared measurements, maintain grassroots service providers and residents engagement.

Questions asked by group:

Q: Provide concrete examples of the private and public sector coming together and working towards a common goal/initiative. – Bayshore shopping centre and surrounding community(ies).

Q: What methods are used to measure success within various community based initiatives?

Q: Do cities or municipalities assist communities outside the CDF model? – Challenges faced outside the five model neighbourhoods, do to resources, time, etc. However, information (and skills) are shared and encouraged throughout the city.

Q: Will a common vision ever exist? A sense of universal belonging.

Shared Vision: What is PBCD vision?

- Where stakeholders participate in problem solving.
- “Ottawa will not be a great city until it is a great city for everyone” this can be transcended to any area/municipality.
- Empowering citizens and residence within the community to foster/encourage contributions.

- ‘A city without poverty.’
- Collaborations/involvement of various sectors/people/developers to make a city great!
- “Shared responsibility” where we live and work. It is everyone’s responsibility to solve problems within the community. Solutions come from all not from one.
- Ideally, agendas should be resident and community based/focused agendas. “Putting community first.”
- Common language! Collaborative frameworks to peek interest and efforts in various sectors.
- Connectivity b/w the family, the community, funding frameworks and policy.
- Limitations: administrative responsibilities and a gap b/w policy and practice. Accountability – managers, politicians, etc.
- Ex. Common agenda: it’s been tried in five sample areas, however, there seems to be a disconnect b/w residents and the city.

What’s most troubling of the Five Pillars?

- Backbone support, resource – community engagement and involvement. Very challenging to find funding for coordination – “buying in” to the agenda.
- Service delivery – the preliminary step/prerequisites to the common agenda. Attracting people to the issue(s), goal(s), objective(s), etc.
- Ex. Alterna Savings: the shared measurement. Accomplishing goals as a cooperative still maintains certain obstacles and various motivations. Establishing a universal set of criteria. “Who is accountable to whom?”
- The measurement system requires common goals, “theory of change.”
- Continuous communication: various players who all have various interests/agendas, resource alignment, timelines, meeting fatigue.
- Mutually reinforcing activities: what is happening on a community level vs. what is happening on a systems level? Various skills, talents and experiences and how they can all contribute to the CA.

What has worked? Where coordination has been allowed to work.

- Ex: West End, City of Ottawa; Youth at End. Open dialogue and participation by youth leadership, teachers, principles etc.
- Ex: Ottawa Community Housing, partnership with Algonquin College, Ottawa Day of Action. Three participating/facilitating groups that share a common goal and specific actions based on individual contributing strengths.

Community Engagement:

- Empowerment
- Delegated authority
- Collaboration
- Involvement
- Consulting
- Informing

To what extent do you think this topic has been successful?

- Individuals who are the real (of most powerful) drivers of change have and continue to be absent from the surrounding conversations.
- A common agenda is the most important piece of the puzzle! Consistency and cohesiveness is key!
- Keep on trying, no matter how much push-back you might experience or feel, pushing forward is very important.