

Models and Practices for Meaningful Community Engagement

Resource Guide

This crowdsourced resource guide for creative community engagement was created by participants of a Citizens' Institute on Rural Design webinar, Models and Practices for Meaningful Community Engagement, hosted by artist Jamie Horter. <https://www.rural-design.org/webinars/models-and-practices-for-meaningful-community-engagement>

Book Recommendations

- Building communities from the Inside Out: A Path towards Finding and Mobilizing a Community's Assets by John P. Kretzmann and John L. McKnight
 - http://www.ekarifoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/Kretzman_McKnight_BuildingCommunitiesInsideOut.pdf
- Community: The Structure of Belonging by Peter Block
 - <https://www.peterblock.com/books/community-the-structure-of-belonging-2nd-edition/>
 - 6 fundamental types of questions regarding gifts and realization that we all belong
- Dream Build Play by James Rojas

- <https://islandpress.org/books/dream-play-build>
- Education for Socially Engaged Art by Pablo Helguera
 - <http://pablohelguera.net/2011/11/education-for-socially-engaged-art-2011/>
- Pedagogy of the Oppressed by Paulo Freire
 - <https://www.bloomsbury.com/us/pedagogy-of-the-oppressed-9781501314131/>
- The Art of Relevance by Nina Simone
 - <http://www.artofrelevance.org/>
- We Make the Road by Walking: Conversations on Education and Social Change by Miles Horton and Paulo Ferire
 - <http://tupress.temple.edu/book/3600>

Community Engagement Models and Frameworks

- Springboard for the Arts - Spectrum of Collaboration Worksheet
 - <https://springboardexchange.org/artists-working-in-community/>
 - Participant suggestion: Breaking down implementation to prototype/pilot
- Rosa González: Facilitating power
 - The Spectrum of Community Engagement to Ownership
 - https://www.facilitatingpower.com/spectrum_of_community_engagement_to_ownership
- Shelly Arnstein's Ladder of Citizen Participation
 - <https://organizingengagement.org/models/ladder-of-citizen-participation/>
- NEA-LISC Creative Placemaking Toolkit - Community Engagement tools
 - <https://www.lisc.org/our-initiatives/creative-placemaking/main/creative-placemaking-toolkit/community-engagement/>

- AIR Institute
 - <https://www.airinstitute.org/abbba/>
- Folklorist Ethics
- James Rojas: Place IT!
 - <https://www.placeit.org/index2.html> <https://www.placeit.org/about.html>
- The Dignity Institute Online Resource by Thrivance Group and Dr. Destiny Thomas
 - <https://thrivancegroup.com/tools-and-resources>

Accessibility Ideas

Logistics

- Free food/ Dinner at Events
- Child Care
- Offering compensation for time given by community members
- Include Breaks

Location

- Transportation options
- Being mindful of location and walkability
- Go to the folks in the community verses asking them to come to you

Translation

- ASL translators
- Closed captioning
- Language Translators

- Microsoft Translation

Learning Styles

- Accommodating different learning styles in event presentation and participation
- Variation of materials used in presentations
- Providing a variety of participatory materials that are suited for various of age groups
- Integrating multiple presentation and engagement styles
- Non-language based input opportunities for participants, i.e. clay, drawing, legos, etc
- Provide opportunities for engagement for community members of various literacy levels
- Tactile models for engagement, for example James Rojas: Place IT!
 - <https://www.placeit.org/index2.html>
 - <https://www.placeit.org/about.html>

Partners / Community Input

- Partnering with social service organizations that serve folks with disabilities for advice and for support at events
- Partner with people and organizations outside of the folks you normally partner with resources, insights, and accessibility.
- Holding community input sessions for specific people groups, particularly marginalized groups ie. women, youth, elderly, veterans etc only sessions
- Ensure that folks who represent the disabled community and communities that would benefit from accessibility offerings for full and comfortable participation are included in the decision-making process.

Surveys

- Conduct Oral Surveys
- Providing online and paper versions of surveys

Technology Ideas

Tech Accessibility

- Laptops available for check out
- Providing laptops for use during meetings
- Public library that can offer hotspots for people to check out

Digital Tools

- Google Jamboard: <https://jamboard.google.com/>
- Microsoft Translation: <https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/translator/>
- Mintimeter for interactive surveys and polling: <https://www.mentimeter.com/>
- Miro: <https://miro.com/app/dashboard/>
- Otter.ai for transcription services: <https://otter.ai/>
- Using a second device and mic for presentations

Time and Advance Planning Ideas

Scheduling Around the Community

- Community Calendar
- Schedule events right before or after a well-established gathering (i.e. farmers market)
- Facebook Groups

Invitations in Community Spaces

- Signs hung in Stores and window fronts
- Posters and Bulletin Boards
- Send notes home through school kids to get community input
- Posters in Grocery Store Windows
- Send information through the local library

Personal Invitations

- Building relationships
- Door to door invitations
- Phone calls, particularly for those not comfortable with technology or do not have access to technology
- Reach out individually and in person to oppressed/minority people with genuine care. Empathy interviews and personal invitations to join or collaborate
- Establish trust and expectations early in the process. Create shared expectations EARLY about the work being done together.

Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Ideas

Foundational Consideration in the planning process: What would make this an equitable process?

Inclusivity

- Inclusive hosting and welcoming

- Inclusive Language
- Inclusive agreements for interaction as a community
- Simplified language and visuals. NOT dumbed-down, but no jargon-y
- Inclusive avatars for illustrations
- Sensory and Tactile Engagement Opportunities

Visual Design

- Visuals Signage that demonstrates a safe and inclusive space, i.e. posters affirming oppressed groups, etc.
- Structure of seating i.e. audience facing each other to see other speaking, etc.
- Considering lighting in the room, illuminating everyone's hands and faces, seats facing each other to facilitate being able to see all speakers in the room, accessibility for deaf and hard of hearing folks.
- Consideration for how comfortable and safe folks feel in a location i.e. churches, community center next to a police station, etc.
- Iconography that represents the community

Space for Identities

- Make room for identities, write all the ways you identify and how they influence how you show up in the space
- Interview someone of another identity
- Active Listening Spaces
- Open dialogue, understand and acknowledge individual biases
- Informational interviews with individuals in the community, national/ state associations or

support organizations

Context of Place

- Psychological and Physical Safety
- Alcohol-Free Social Spaces and Happy Hour Opportunities
- Quiet room availability with tools for relaxation ie markers and paper for colorings

DEI Resources

- How a diverse coalition in Portland, Oregon, is centering racial equity in a large-scale development project by Meg Walker: https://www.brookings.edu/blog/the-avenue/2021/07/12/how-a-diverse-coalition-in-portland-ore-is-centering-racial-equity-in-a-large-scale-development-project/?utm_campaign=Bass%20Newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_content=159854974&utm_source=hs_email
- Carlos Barcenas: I Choose Purple
 - <https://ichoosepurple.com>
 - Making room for identities
 - Design environments that are inclusive for all identities

Additional Offerings

- Tools: MOUs - Memorandum of Understanding -
 - <https://www.lisc.org/our-initiatives/creative-placemaking/main/creative-placemaking-toolkit/contracts-mous-agreements/>
- CIRD's Pueblo of Laguna Workshop: An example of community engagement in practice

through the design process.

- <https://www.rural-design.org/stories/pueblo-of-laguna-explores-marketplace-design-concepts> <https://www.rural-design.org/workshops/pueblo-of-laguna-nm>
- Examples of past CIRDC workshops
 - <https://www.rural-design.org/past-local-workshops>
- Example of non-voluntary community engagement: Student Walkability Audit Project for a civic engagement exercise
- Podcast: Nice White Parents
 - <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/07/23/podcasts/nice-white-parents-serial.html>
- Appalshop, based in Whitesburg, KY
 - <https://appalshop.org/>
- CIRDC Community-Engagement Resources:
 - <https://www.rural-design.org/community-resource-categories/community-engagement>