

Who's on the Team?

Community Development in the Creative Age

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Why use a team?

Introductory Exercise:

- Find your partner.
- Learn the following and be prepared to introduce him/her.
 - Name
 - Where they're from
 - One reason why a team is needed for community development

Characteristics of Team Members

- Positive, can-do attitude
- Optimism about the future
- Works well with others
- A good listener
- Open to new ideas
- Willing to try new things
- Willing to invest personal time and energy
- Willing to share ideas
- Trustworthy – will follow through on commitments
- Believes in the power of citizens to create their own destiny

Identifying Team Members

Diversity is critical. Teams should be made up of people with different:

- Ages
- Genders
- Backgrounds
- Experiences
- Economic levels
- Education
- Lengths of Residency
- Interests
- Connections
- Geographic distribution

Strategies for Identifying Team Members

Make lists of:

- churches
- organizations
- businesses
- civic groups
- hobby clubs
- housing developments
- neighborhood associations
- volunteer organizations
- (firefighters)
- societies (historical, etc.)
- cause groups (environmental)

Strategies for Identifying Team Members

Identify small geographic areas.

- Work outward from the 'usual' place of focus in your larger geographic area/county.
- What are the small neighborhoods and towns?
- List the associations, clubs and groups in those smaller areas.

Strategies for Identifying Team Members

Identify natural leaders.

- Look back at your lists (geographic, clubs, etc.)
- List people by name that:
 - » Other people know and look to for advice
 - » Are trusted
 - » Are involved

Words of Wisdom

- Make it your business to be a continuous learner.
- Find others that are trying new things.
- Stay connected.
- Be honest about mistakes – learn from them.
- Be inspired.
- Be inspiring.
- Believe!

A Scenario

In your community of Tango River, West Virginia, the local Economic Development Authority, the County Commission and a few business owners are interested in seeing Main Street redesigned. You have been asked to advise the group at a joint meeting about how to start the process.

In small groups, develop an outline of what you would you tell them?

Resources

- Architects
- Banks (Community Reinvestment Act funds)
- Community Collaborative, Inc.
- Community Development Partnership
- Community Foundations
- Conferences
- Housing Development Fund
- Leadership Development Programs
- National Foundations
- Other Communities (in WV, the US and the world)
- Private Consultants
- Regional Foundations
- West Virginia Development Office

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