Community Development:
An Introduction to the Basics and Exploration of the Possibilities
Overview

• Community Development: Approaches and Dynamics Through Time
• An example in action: The Abundant Community Initiative
• Questions and Discussion
What is Community Development?
Needs Based Community Development
Asset-Based Community Development
Place-based Neighbourhood Work
The Careless Society
Margaret Wheatley’s Poem

“There is no power greater than a community discovering what it cares about. Ask “What’s possible?” not “What’s wrong?” Keep asking.

Notice what you care about. Assume that many others share your dreams. Be brave enough to start a conversation that matters.

Talk to people you know. Talk to people you don’t know. Talk to people you never talk to. Be intrigued by the differences you hear. Expect to be surprised. Treasure curiosity more than certainty. Invite in everybody who cares to work on what’s possible.

Acknowledge that everyone is an expert about something. Know that creative solutions come from new connections.

Remember, you don’t fear people whose story you know. Real listening always brings people closer together. Trust that meaningful conversations can change your world. Rely on human goodness. Stay together.”

- Margaret Wheatley

Turning to One Another: Simple Conversations to Restore Hope to the Future
San Francisco: Berrett-Koehler Publishers, Inc.
Discussion at recent national events...

• Join together with community builders, civic leaders, academics, politicians, and other passionate learners to explore ideas that will accelerate the neighbourhood agenda.

• Topics explored:
  • Why are neighbourhoods back on the agenda?
  • Why is asset-based thinking so critical?
  • How do we decentralize city services?
  • Can neighbourhoods be the centre of community life?
  • Can neighbourhoods be places of belonging?
  • Can neighbourhoods be places of caring?
The Abundant Community
Awakening the Power of Families and Neighborhoods

John McKnight
Peter Block

www.abundantcommunity.com
The Abundant Community Initiative
The Abundant Community Initiative (ACI)

• Iteration of Asset-Based-Community-Development (ABCD)

• Uncovers vision for a neighbourhood; activities and interests to do together; skills, gifts and abilities to share

• Neighbourhood is like a village/culture of connection

• Organic process/network of neighbourliness

• Local Connector Coordinator and Block Connectors

• ACI Consultant and Coordinator provide support
Neighbourliness
### City of Edmonton Pilot Neighbourhoods

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Northwest</th>
<th>Northeast</th>
<th>Southwest</th>
<th>Southeast</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pilot</strong> (7)</td>
<td>Westmount</td>
<td>Bannerman</td>
<td>Lendrum</td>
<td>Bonnie Doon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Boyle Street</td>
<td>Highlands</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Oliver/Kitchener Park</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Non-Pilot</strong> (5)</td>
<td>Glastonbury/ Hamptons</td>
<td>Alberta Avenue</td>
<td></td>
<td>Forest Heights (through NET)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Glenora</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Laurier Heights</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Connector Coordinators
Block Connector Map
Boyle Street Neighbourhood
Managing Information Collected
Organization and Support Activity Update
know your neighbours
Howard Lawrence
ACI Consultant
Contracted by City of Edmonton
howardlawrence@shaw.ca

Anne Harvey
ACI Coordinator, CRC NE District
Neighbourhoods, Parks & Community Recreation
Community Services, City of Edmonton
anne.harvey@edmonton.ca