

Community Commons Notes for December 20, 2016

Round 1 – Initial Thoughts

- DBRL starting community listening sessions to hear from the community on needs. Wants to work with community partners.
- Library is a gathering place, neutral and familiar.
- "Neutral venue" is hard to find in COU.
- African- American publishing opportunity – interns will be working with Tribune. Covering positives in the African-American community.
- Mixer activity/ice-breaker as in Toastmasters; networking activity, "working a room"
 - library event scheduled
- Difficulty in getting engagement
 - people want to "vent" not problem solve
 - check-in on citizens' issues
- Neighborhoods-delving into them as resource for learning what people are thinking, common threads, etc. Problem solving
 - "inter-neighborhood" block parties – with a structured activity
 - Neighborhood associations meeting with other organizations (how many are ACTIVE?)
 - music, food, & conversations
 - Some NAs disfunctional – no change in leadership, no real management
- How get people out of their comfort zone?
 - "Intersectionality" – how do we get people to "intersect"
 - Need to have a plan for "intentional intersectionality"
- "[Simulated society](#)" learning experience
- Level of frustration with having to try to address issues shouldn't have to address – things people have no control over – how born, where born, experiences

Round 2 – Committing to Doing

- "Taking N2N out into the community."
 - Disengagement and lack of commitment – discrepancy
 - Start in one neighborhood and go out from there.
 - Start with neighborhood associations?
 - Common threads?
 - Similar problems to share?
 - N2N challenge? "speed-networking"?
 - Arts staff write up neighborhood events?
- Blog post/invitation to Rotary meeting extended
- Commitment to hold dialogue with friends
- Possible creation of separate Facebook page for these dialogues
 - could you do a conversation cafe with Facebook friends?
 - Could you create a "civil dialogue" page and mark inappropriate remarks?
- Commitment to write articles
- Workshop to re-energize organizations (e.g., neighborhood associations)
 - work with the City?
- "Tell us" – tool to facilitate family conversations (DBRL).
- Howard Hutton – the "[Center Project](#)" – reach out to and invite
- Jan. 17 commit to training

- Use "Next Door" to invite people to N2N
- Change up diversity breakfast to encourage actual interaction between different groups and networking.
 - "people bingo"
 - "working a room" – KF op-ed and training at DBRL Feb. 25 10 to 2.
- On some difficult issues need to have allies to carry message. Can't just be people affected.
- People may refuse to listen to what they don't want to hear. Example: Palestinian speakers at library.

Round 3 – Citizen centered planning

- Facts! Process! Do people care about facts?
- Problems -forgetting our humanity. Humanity is more important than technology.
 - technology – inhibits interaction/communication
 - humanity on social media
- Government – lack of trust
 - "geographic democracy"
 - "endorsement democracy"
- Critical thinking! - need more
 - library – help to access credible sources of information

Round 4 – Summary thoughts

- Neighborhood associations – going back to smaller community
- Really like the idea of a simple dashboard /going to city council with questions
 - willing to use a dashboard?
 - What value give to data?
 - How balance engineering realities, values, and short and long-term interests?
 - How work with community to find solutions to long-standing problems?
- Commonality is our humanity. That should bring us together. Gotten away from our basic humanity. What behavior do we model?
- Library is a critical thinking community.
- Until you get to know someone, "who's right"? - is the wrong question.
- In many cases our leadership has dropped the ball on responsibility => patterns: taught to us: either/or; right/wrong; us/them.
- Do this for connections and improved problem solving.