

Fulton County Arts : CAPF Report

Community Action Public Forum

Date: January 3rd, 2024

Location: Canton Learning Collaborative - Canton, IL

Attendance: 10 (3 via Zoom)

Time: 7:30pm-8:30pm

FCA Updates:

1. Art Desk
 - a. The Art Desk is a project focused on liberating creative expression in all age groups
 - b. We're working on growing our inventory of supplies to support the artistic discipline on all levels - feel free to reach out if you think you have supplies you'd like to donate.
2. Community Meals
 - a. There's interest in organizing community meals
 - i. Focus #1: Community Gatherings fostering relationships between individuals of different socioeconomic statuses
 - ii. Focus #2: Charitable program providing an asset to the underserved
 - b. Social Media Survey
 - i. Lewistown use to have one and would like to have it back
 - ii. Canton has one that is ran out of the Salvation Army
3. Big Read
 - a. Discussion #1 took place December 17th, 2023. We focused on the first half of Heartland by Sarah Smarsh, starting with participants sharing their interest in joining the NEA / IL Humanities Big Read, most tying in their personal connections to the current book. We discussed a photo project created by Chicago-based artist, Amanda Williams, that depicts systemic neglect, racism, and resource inequity – exploring its relevance to the local community's concerns. This transcended into the group talking about the book's impact on us, highlighting the connection to maternal experiences, resilience, and generational poverty. Many shared personal reflections; bridging the book's themes to their own life experiences while often focusing on the “system” and the need for change. These conversations brought our awareness to the challenges faced by rural communities including traveling, community engagement projects, the economic and personal impact of extreme weather, and access to resources such as healthcare. Our group concluded with announcing details of our next book group over the second half of Heartland, and time/place for our upcoming Community Action Public Forum.

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- b. Illinois Humanities / NEA Big Read: Discussion #2 - Heartland - January 22nd @ 6:30pm-8:30pm
 - c. Illinois Humanities / NEA Big Read: Discussion #1 - Infinite Country - February 26th @ 6:30pm-8:30pm
 - d. Anyone who wants to join still can. Reach out to FCA.
 - e. LaSalle Library - Poor Kid's Documentary 6-8pm live streaming - January 23rd
 - i. Event Page coming soon to Facebook and Website
4. Fulton County Arts Online Calendar
- a. Coming in the next couple of weeks

CAPF Presentation & Community Discussion:

- 1. Asset-Based Community Development presentation by CLC founder, Josh Pickel
 - a. See slides below
 - b. <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/82cb29024ce3465290995b8f6b3ca313>
- 2. Community Discussion around ABCD
 - a. The genesis of the local Crime Stoppers
 - b. Community Questions
- 3. Date for next CAPF - Wednesday, February 7th @ 7:30pm
 - a. <https://www.fultoncountyarts.org/event-details-registration/community-action-public-forum-6>

(Conclude)

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Asset-Based Community Development



ABCD

What is Asset-Based Community Development?

- ABCD is a bottom-up or grassroots way of working with communities that focuses on community strengths and assets rather than on deficits and needs.
- Emphasizes community empowerment and sustainable development

References

Kretzmann, J., & McKnight, J. (1993). Building Communities from the inside out: A path toward finding and mobilizing a community's assets.

Graeme Stuart's article "What is asset-based community development?" (2013)

[DePaul University Asset Based Community Development Institute's Tool Kit](#)

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The New Paradigm for Effective Community Impact – Asset Based

	Needs/Deficit Based	Asset Based
Purpose	Changing Community through increased services	Changing Community through citizen involvement
Method	Institutional Reform	Citizen-Centered production
Accountability	Leaders are professional staff. accountable to institutional stakeholders	Leaders are widening circles of volunteer citizens. Accountable to the community.
Significance of Assets	Assets are system inputs. Asset mapping is data collection	Assets are relationships to be discovered and connected. Asset mapping is self-realization and leadership development.
Production Resource	Money is the key resource. Falls apart without money.	Relationships are the key resource. Falls apart when money becomes the focus.
Operating Challenge	How do we get citizens involved?	How do we channel and build on all this citizen participation?
System Dynamic	Tends to spread itself thinner over time.	Tends to snowball over time.
Evaluation	Success is service outcomes, measured mostly by institutional stakeholders.	Success is capacity, measured mostly be relationships.

By identifying our community’s assets, we can work together to explore and implement community initiatives that align with our strengths, naturally eliminating some of our needs through positive action.

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Key Principles of ABCD

- **Asset Mapping**
 - Identify strengths, skills, and resources within the community.
 - Create a map highlighting these assets.
- **Community Engagement**
 - Foster strong relationships by involving residents in decision-making.
 - Empower community members to take active roles.
- **Capacity Building**
 - Develop skills and capacities of individuals and groups.
 - Encourage training and education programs.
- **Sustainable Projects**
 - Focus on projects that can be sustained by the community.
 - Promote self-reliance and long-term viability.

Positive Examples of the Diverse Implementation of ABCD

Community Gardens:

- Utilizing local land and agricultural skills for sustainable food production.
- Fostering community connection through shared gardening initiatives.

Skills Exchanges:

- Empowering community members to share and learn diverse skills.
- Establishing a platform for skill-sharing workshops or mentorship programs.

Local Business Collaborations:

- Strengthening the local economy through partnerships and collaborations.
- Supporting and promoting local entrepreneurs, artisans, and small businesses.

Cultural Exchange Programs:

- Celebrating and sharing diverse cultural assets within the community.
- Promoting understanding and unity through cultural events and activities.

Education Hubs:

- Utilizing local expertise for community education programs.
- Creating hubs for knowledge-sharing, tutoring, and skill development.

Artistic Murals and Installations:

- Transforming public spaces with community-created art.
- Enhancing the aesthetic appeal of the neighborhood and instilling community pride.

How we view the community shapes our response to it.

While identifying needs is an important part of the community development process, placing greater emphasis on our strengths and assets starts the conversation more positively, enhances community involvement at all levels of decision-making, and increases the likelihood of long-term sustainability and community self-reliance.

Identifying Community Assets



Community Asset Mapping

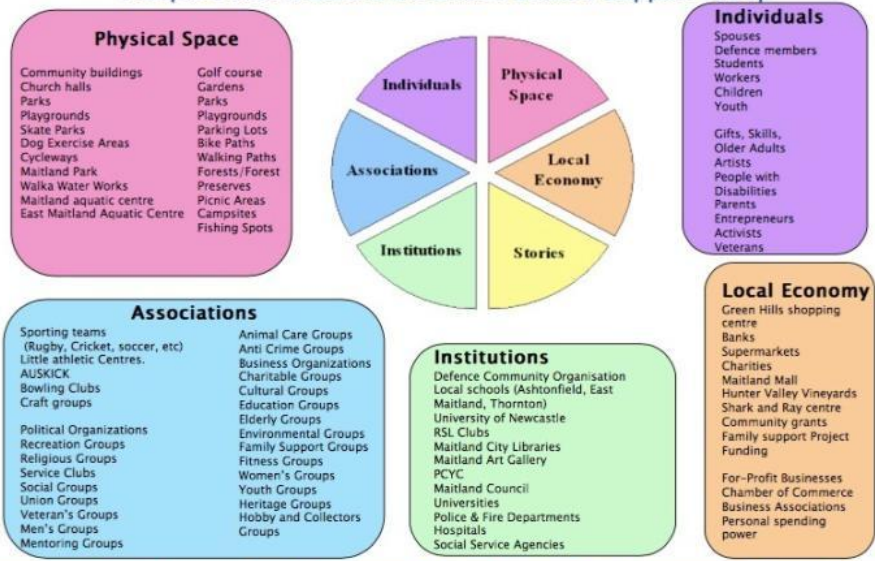
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At Least 6 Broad Types of Community Assets

- Individuals - skills and abilities, passion for community, good at making connections
- Voluntary Community Organizations and Networks - Associations
- Institutions - non-government organizations, NFPs, government agencies, businesses
 - Already connected to the community
 - Particular attention given to small, local, institutions
- Physical Space - built and natural
- Local economy
 - Informal (people swapping goods and services, voluntary work)
 - Traditional (production, consumption)
- Stories, Culture, and Heritage of the Community

A Simple Asset Map - Maitland Community

Adapted from Maitland Defence Families Support Group



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Get Involved

- Attend open meetings of local organizations to gather information on community assets
- Fulton County Arts Community Action Public Forum
 - 1st Wednesday of each month
 - Continue discussion on mapping of community strengths and assets
 - Brainstorm and explore community initiatives that align with local strengths
- Further Reading
 - [DePaul University Asset Based Community Development Institute's Tool Kit](#)

Three Mobilizing Questions

- What do you care so much about that you are willing to do something about it?
- What personal talents, skills, and motivations can you contribute with?
- What will it take to get others to join?

