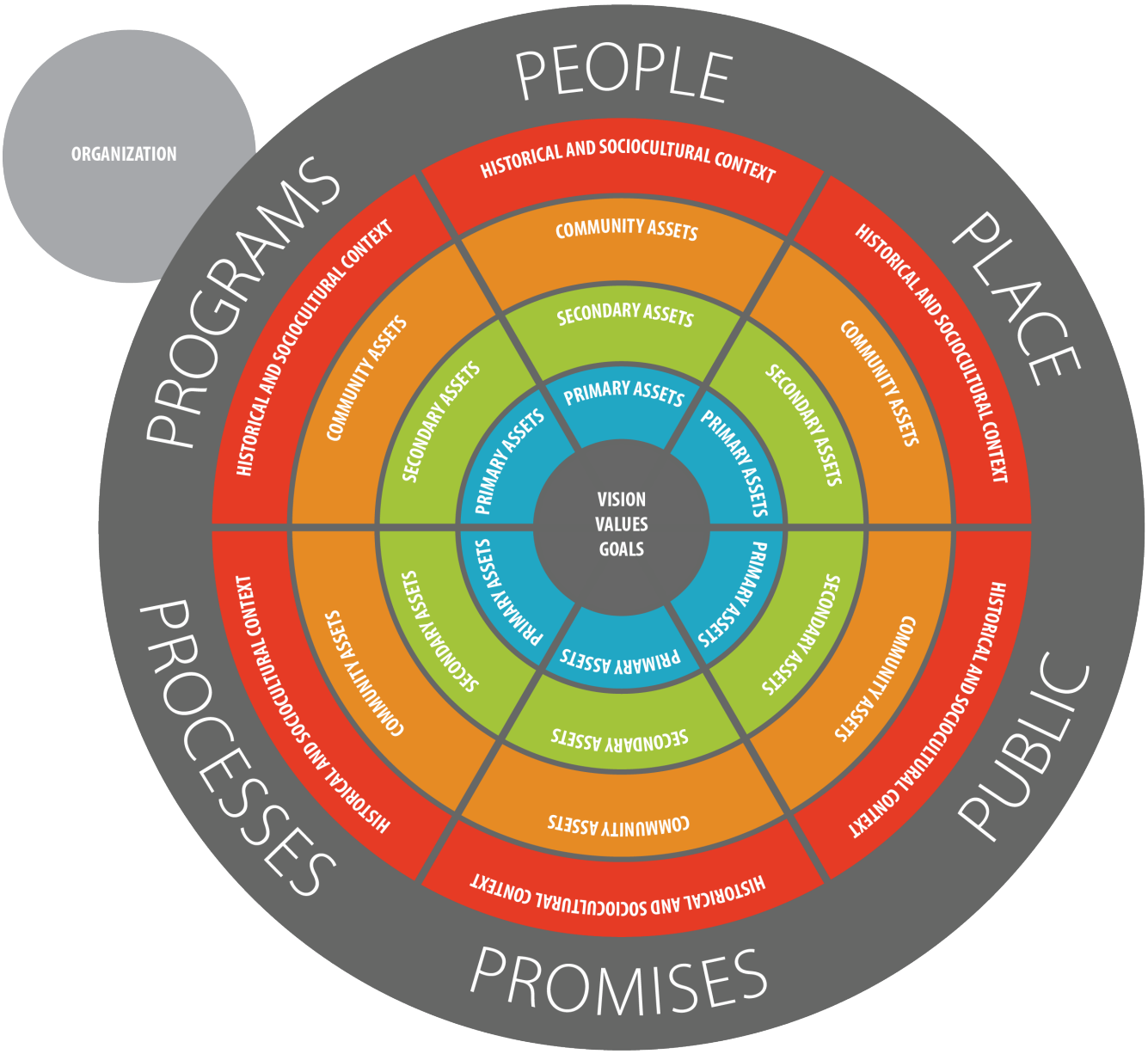
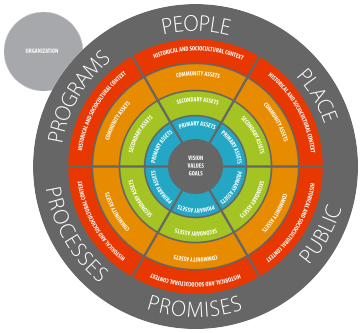
Community Engagement Framework



Equity, Transparency, Collaboration, Integrity, Self-reflection



Community Engagement Framework

An Asset-Based Approach

This community engagement framework centers the strengths of the organization instead of starting from a needs-based approach. The strengths are then used to forge sustainable relationships between group and individuals. Integrity, transparency, collaboration, equity and self-reflection are the values that create the foundation for the framework.

THE VALUES

Integrity. The framework is based on relationship-building which means one must lead with humility and respect. Acting with integrity means always being cognizant of the power in exploitation.

Transparency. The framework strives to embrace potential conflicts, histories of actions/inaction, power dynamics, and the history of limited resources.

Collaboration. This framework is a shift from a paradigm of seeking feedback on programs to an effort indicative of an authentic co-construction of ideas and plans based on assets.

Equity. This framework will align with current educational standards of equity which means intentional examination of organizational practices in both a historical and sociocultural context.

Self-reflection. This framework is meant to be a living document that will undergo multiple iterations through the tenure of current relationships as well as shift with the evolution of the organization.

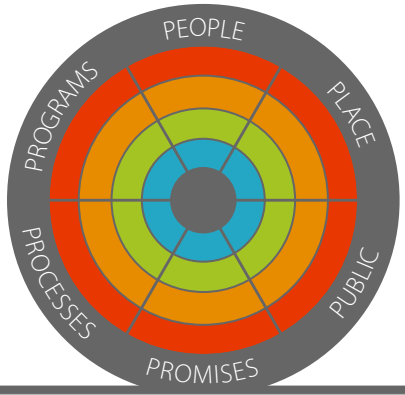
THE ELEMENTS

Asset Dimensions

Primary assets. The structures and strengths of the organization
Secondary assets. Other organizational strengths and structures that are leveraged regularly
Community Assets. Existing relationships and connections in the community that might assist in reaching the goals of the organization or be leveraged at a later time
Historical and sociocultural assets. The organization's history and sociocultural context for the type of work going on in the relationship

The 6 Ps

People. Individuals or organizations who form the structures and strengths of the organization
Place. The geographic features of the land, physical spaces (offices, meeting spaces, locations etc.), climate, plants, and animals (and the stories/knowledge about them) that are primary assets for your organization
Public. The citizens who stand to benefit from the services of the organization
Promises. Allocations of time or other resources and the outcomes to which the organization is accountable
Processes. Theoretical frameworks and theories of action that guide the work of the organization
Programs. Existing programs and projects that structure the work of an organization



ORGANIZATIONAL

Mission, vision, values, goals of the organization overall and in the context of the relationship.

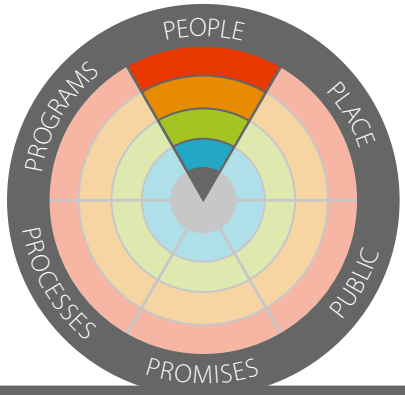
	OVERALL	RELATIONSHIP SPECIFIC
MISSION	What is the overall mission/vision of the organization?	Is there a specific mission/vision for the relationship/project
VALUES	What values structure the work of the organization?	How do these values manifest in this project?
GOALS	What are the stated and implied goals of the organization?	What are the goals specific to this relationship?

PRIMARY ASSETS The organizational aspects that will be most immediately present with regard to the relationship/project

SECONDARY ASSETS Other organizational strengths that might be leveraged for use in the relationship

COMMUNITY ASSETS Existing relationships and connections in the community that might assist in reaching goals of the partnership, or be leveraged at a later time

HISTORICAL & SOCIOCULTURAL CONTEXT The organization's history and sociocultural context for the type of work going on in the relationship



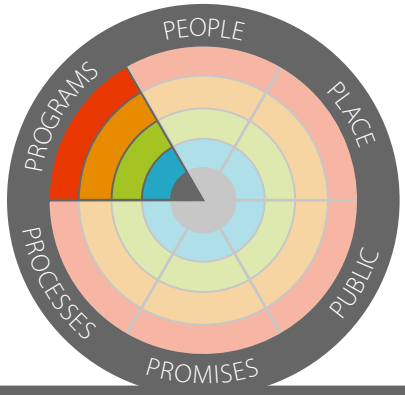
PEOPLE

PRIMARY Who are the people involved with the most direct influence on the project/relationship?

SECONDARY Who else is in the organization might support the work of the relationship?(i.e. research, finance, planning, graphic design, technology, other programs etc.)

COMMUNITY Who are some people in your community you already partner with or whose knowledge and expertise might support the relationship?

HIST / SOCIO Who are the people who started your organization? Are they still around? Who traditionally has been a part of designing and developing relationships?



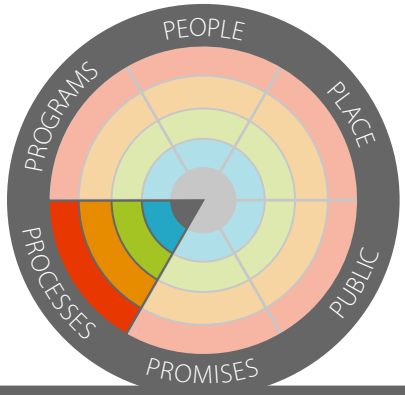
PROGRAMS

PRIMARY What programs are part of the relationship/project?

SECONDARY What are the other programs that exist within the organization? Where does this project fit within the larger organizational structure?

COMMUNITY What are some programs in the community that might support the relationship? (i.e. mentoring programs, arts-based organizations, churches, colleges and universities etc.).

HIST / SOCIO What programmatic efforts have been made in the past with regards to the project/relationship? What are some examples of success or failure regarding such programs?



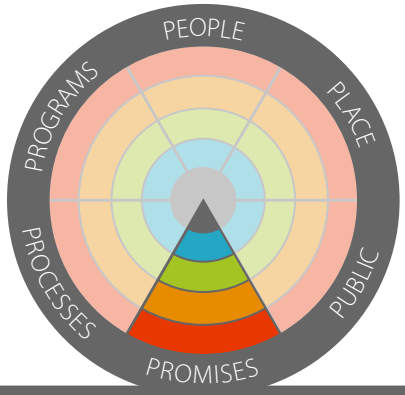
PROCESSES

PRIMARY What theoretical frameworks, theories of action etc. guide the work? (i.e. 4 Keys, ESP Pyramid)

SECONDARY Are there other frameworks or theories of action that might inform the relationship?

COMMUNITY Are there theoretical models or methodological approaches that you know of that may serve the project/relationship? (i.e. culturally responsive practices, research or evaluation models etc.).

HIST / SOCIO What processes have been used in the past? How have they been successful? Where have they been challenged? What is the process for evaluation and reflection? How has the organization's knowledge grown or changed across time with regard to the theoretical frameworks and theories of action that they choose?



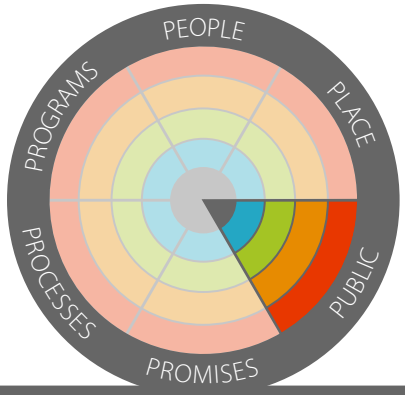
PROMISES

PRIMARY What does the current allocation of funding and resources look like for the relationship?

SECONDARY What are the other main allocations of resources in the organization? How might these be used to support the relationship?

COMMUNITY Does the organization have other commitments in the community? To who? How are resources allocated to these other relationships?

HIST / SOCIO Is the current allocation of time and resources a departure from the way the organization has approached partnerships in the past? What is new or exciting about the relationship?



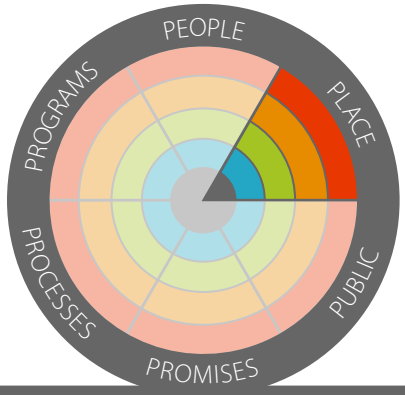
PUBLIC

PRIMARY Who are the clients targeted for service as part of the project? How are they being included?

SECONDARY Who are other clients you serve who are not targeted by the project/relationship, but might benefit from it?

COMMUNITY Who are some people in the community who might use your services but do not work in your organization? Who are people who currently/can benefit from the relationship?

HIST / SOCIO Who has the organization typically served? How would the organization like that to grow or change? What efforts have been made to reach out to potential clients, customers, and stakeholders, especially those from underserved communities?



PLACE

PRIMARY

What are the primary geographic features of the land, physical spaces (offices, meeting spaces, locations etc.), climate, plants, and animals (and the stories/knowledge about them) that are primary assets for your organization?

SECONDARY

What are the secondary geographic features of the land, physical spaces (offices, meeting spaces, locations etc.), climate, plants, and animals (and the stories/knowledge about them) that are primary assets for your organization?

COMMUNITY

What are the physical features and characteristics of the local area that might inform the work of the relationship (i.e. resources that exist in the community that might serve as assets)?

HIST / SOCIO

How has the organization used the physical spaces in the past? Why is the office located where it is? What is made possible by your place in the context of larger social and cultural influences?