

Technocratic and Democratic Community Engagement: Guides for Transformative Community Partnerships

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INTRODUCTION



What is community engagement?

Why is it important?

Disciplines are not segmented; there is overlap and joint expertise is needed across disciplines.

- Bjarnason & Coldstream, 2003



Introduction: Technocratic Engagement

For the public

Deficit-based

Unidirectional flow of
knowledge

Disseminates
knowledge to the
community

Views others as
'clients' in need of
problem solving



Introduction: Democratic Engagement

With the
public

Asset-based

Shared
authority

Co-creation
of knowledge

Inclusive

Collaborative

Emphasis is on
community change

Focus on integrating
various expertise

Activity:
Applying the
Principles



Small Groups

Converse and Reflect

Application

A group of diverse people are gathered around a wooden table in a meeting. A woman with curly hair and glasses is shaking hands with a person whose back is to the camera. Another woman with curly hair is smiling and looking towards the handshake. A man with glasses is looking down at a notebook on the table. There are coffee cups, a laptop, and sticky notes on the table. A potted plant is visible in the background.

How would you define a
transformative partnership?

Mutually
Transformative

Socially
Significant

Transformative
Partnerships

Authentic

Builds
Capacity

Benefits the
'Greater Good'

Transformative Partnerships

1

Shared developmental
journey

2

Renegotiation of typical
power relationship

3

Long-term sustained
relationships

4

Attention to language



Greenleaf (1970) pioneered
servant leadership.

Northouse (2013) outlines
the characteristics and
behaviors of an effective
servant leader.



Servant Leadership Characteristics



Listening



Empathy



Healing



Awareness



Persuasion



Conceptualization



Foresight



Stewardship



Commitment
to Personal
Growth



Building
Community

Servant Leadership Behaviors

Understanding
the organization

Sensitivity to the
personal concerns
and well-being of
others

Putting others
first

Helping others
grow and
succeed

Behaving
ethically

Empowering
others

Creating
value

A young woman with dark hair tied back, wearing a light blue short-sleeved polo shirt and dark pants, is sitting on a beige couch. She is smiling warmly and holding the hands of an elderly couple. The couple consists of a man with a shaved head wearing a grey sweater and a woman with short grey hair wearing a green top. They are all looking at each other in a friendly, conversational manner. The background shows a window with light-colored curtains and a view of a building's exterior.

How can servant leadership apply
to community partnerships?



CONCLUSION

Community Partnerships are essential.

Technocratic and Democratic Community Engagement approaches serve as guides on how to form community partnerships.



Both approaches are very different and can be applied in different situations, depending on goal and need.

Transformative Partnerships are generally most effective and are emphasized.

Servant Leadership can serve as a further guide for community partnerships, particularly democratic community engagement.

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THANK YOU

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