

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT IN MT. BAKER

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OVERVIEW

- The Project (Questions, Goals, and Methodology)
- The Research (Community Engagement & Evaluation)
- The Framework (Appreciative Inquiry)

THE PROJECT: RESEARCH QUESTIONS & GOALS

■ Research Questions

- **What is the character of community engagement in Mt. Baker?**
- What is the relationship between social capital, community engagement, and resilience?
- How can I be supportive of the Mt. Baker community?

■ Goals

- **Develop a framework** for assessing community engagement efforts at a local level
- **Deepen understanding** of social capital, community engagement, and community resilience
- **Pilot a framework** within the Mt. Baker community context

THE PROJECT: METHODOLOGY

■ Research

- Community Engagement
- Performance Evaluation
- Social Capital
- Resilience

■ Desk review

- North Rainier Urban Village Assessment
- North Rainier Neighborhood Plan (Original & Updated)
- Mt. Baker Station Area Action Team Project Charter

■ Interviews

- HUB, Friends of Mt. Baker, City of Seattle, Berk Consulting, Community Club, University of Washington

THE RESEARCH

- Pros & Cons
- Typologies
- Takeaways



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT: PROS & CONS

■ Pros

- Promotes democracy
- Creates pathways for justice
- Builds trust
- Ensures accountability
- Reduced conflict
- Advances fairness

■ Cons

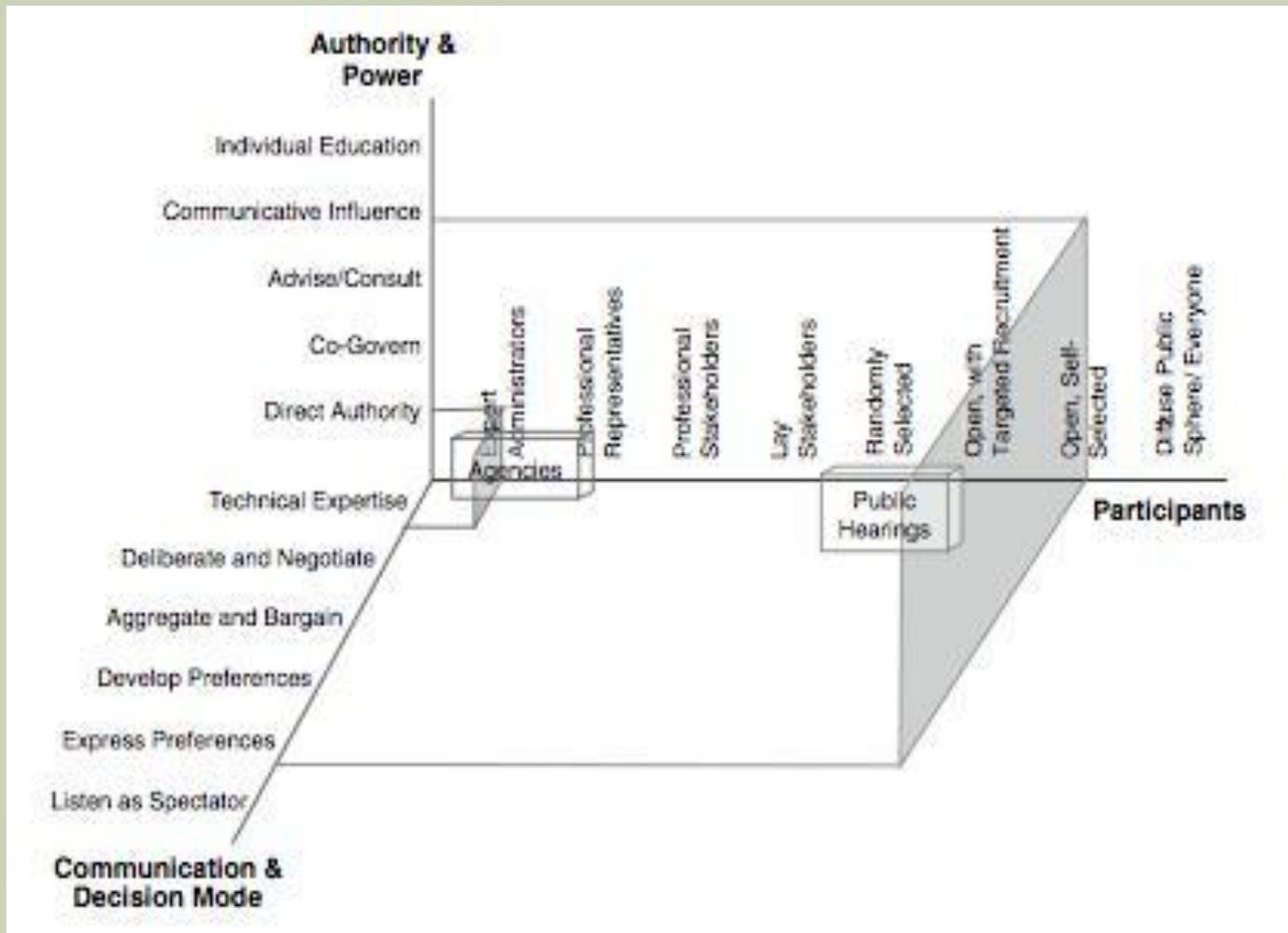
- Unrealistic
- Time consuming
- Costly
- Public lacks knowledge
- Politically naïve



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT: ARNSTEIN'S LADDER



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT: FUNG'S DEMOCRACY CUBE



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT: PRETTY'S TYPOLOGY

Type of Participation

Degree

Passive Participation

Participation in Information Giving

Participation by Consultation

Participation for Material Incentives

Functional Participation

Interactive Participation

Self-Mobilisation



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT: WHITE'S TYPOLOGY OF INTERESTS

Form of Participation	What "Participation" means to the "Implementing Agency"	What "Participation" means to those on the receiving end	What "Participation" is for
Nominal	Legitimation – to show they are doing something	Inclusion – to retain some access to potential benefits	Display
Instrumental	Efficiency – to limit funders' input, draw on community contributions and make projects more cost-effective	Cost – of time spent on project-related labour and other activities	As a means to achieving cost-effectiveness and local facilities
Representative	Sustainability – to avoid creating dependency	Leverage – to influence the shape the project takes and its management	To give people a voice in determining their own development
Transformative	Empowerment – to enable people to make their own decisions, work out what to do and take action	Empowerment – to be able to decide and act for themselves	Both as a means and an end, a continuing dynamic

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT: RESEARCH TAKEAWAYS

- Participation is dynamic and evolving; It shifts as it adapts to systems of power and control
- What is “right” or “wrong” with participation depends on context (historical, circumstantial, and environmental)
- Assessing and evaluating public engagement must embrace nuances of change and context

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



EVALUATING ENGAGEMENT: OFFICE OF ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Category	Form	Who/How	Motives	Conditions	Results
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design • Policy-Making • Budgeting • Planning 					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation • Service Delivery 					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring • Evaluation 					

EVALUATING ENGAGEMENT: BRODY, GODSHALK, & BURBY

- **Administration** (Is there an engagement person or plan?)
- **Objectives** (What is the goal of involvement efforts?)
- **Stage** (When did engagement occur in decision-making process?)
- **Targeting** (Who was included?)
- **Techniques** (What participation approaches?)
- **Information** (What kind of info guided stakeholder involvement?)

EVALUATING ENGAGEMENT: BARBEE & GARDELLA

OUTREACH

UNSURE
WHICH WE
ARE DOING

DOING
PRIMARILY
OUTREACH

BEGINNING TO
TALK ABOUT
MOVING TO CE

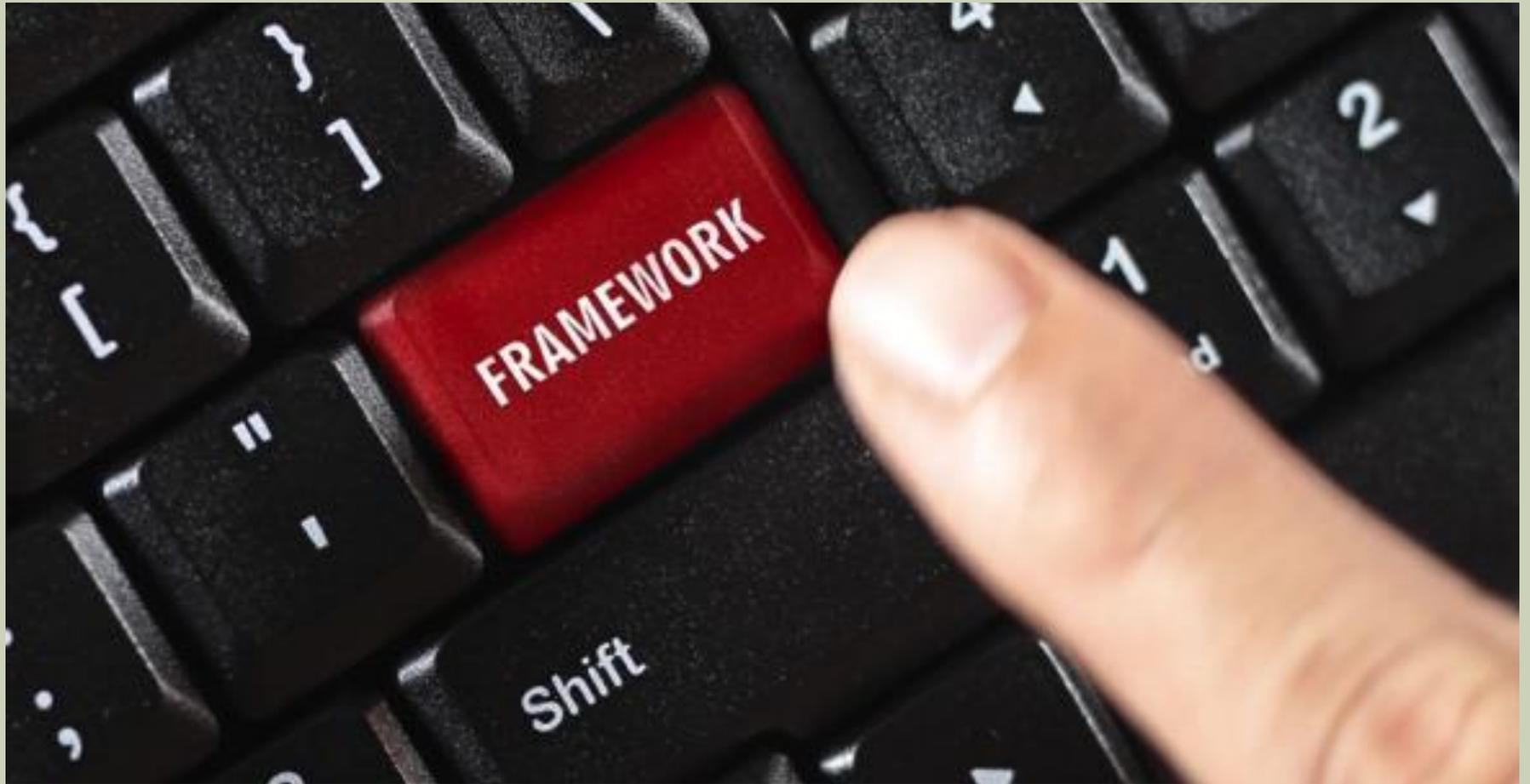
WORKING
TOWARD
CE

DOING
CE

COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT

- What kind of **relationship** do you have with community members?
- **Why** are you engaging people?
- **What** are you getting people involved in? When?
- **How** do ideas get generated?
- **How** do your organizational structures and policies support engagement?

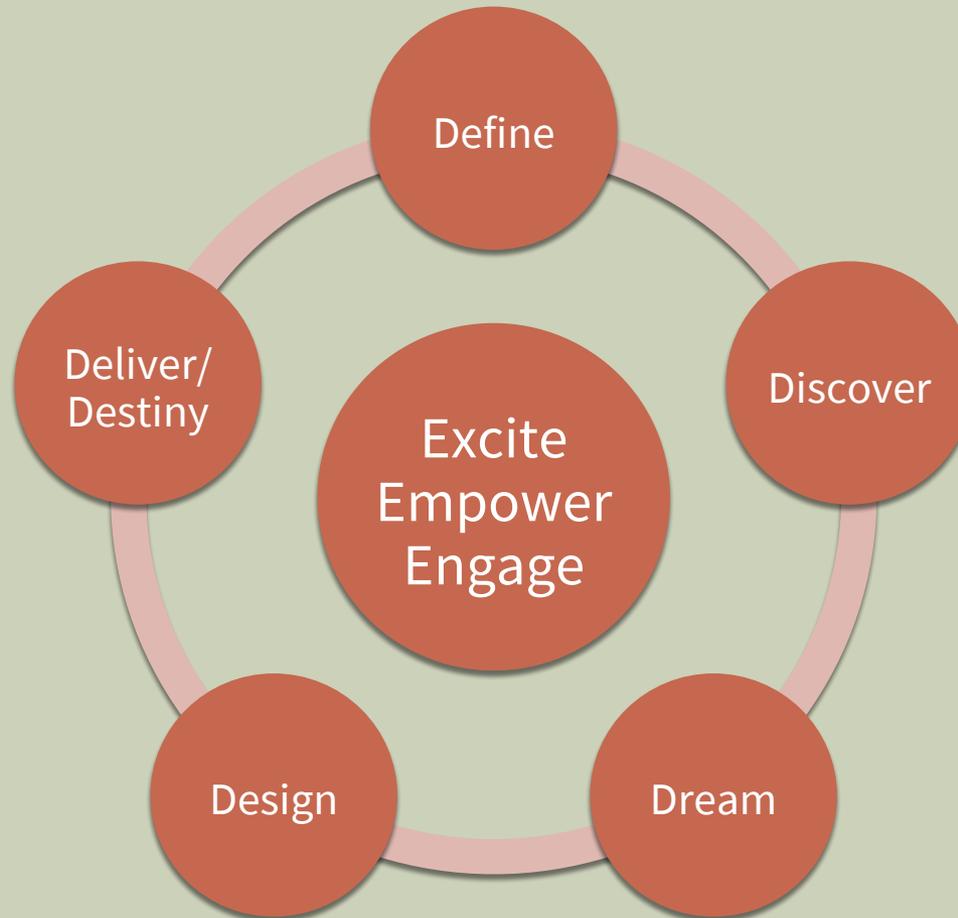
THE FRAMEWORK



THE FRAMEWORK: APPRECIATIVE INQUIRY

Principle	Summary
Constructionist Principle	Words create worlds
Simultaneity Principle	Inquiry creates change
Poetic Principle	We can choose what we study
Anticipatory Principle	Images inspire action
Positive Principle	Positive questions lead to positive change

THE FRAMEWORK: APPRECIATIVE INQUIRY



NEXT STEPS

1. Research social capital & resilience connections
2. Carry out interviews
3. Summarize research & findings
4. Rejoice



QUESTIONS?



AI QUESTIONS:

- Think back to a moment from our community workshop. Locate a moment that was a high point, when you felt most effective and engaged. Describe how you felt and what made that situation possible.
- Without being humble, describe what you value most about yourself, your work, your involvement in the workshop.
- Describe three concrete wishes for the future of yourself, your work in community engagement.