Community Leadership Learning Initiative

LEARNING COMMUNITY INFO SESSION
Agenda

➢ Initiative Team & Partners

➢ Our Purpose & Central Questions

➢ Learning Opportunities for Everyone

➢ Your Questions
COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP LEARNING INITIATIVE

Our goal is to deepen our collective understanding of community-driven leadership, while raising the visibility and demonstrating the value of this powerful work to the field of philanthropy and the broader ecosystem of leadership and community development.
NEXUS APPROACH

Authorship: Engaging community
Ownership: Building community wealth
Leadership: Cultivating power

EQUITY

www.nexuscp.org
LEARNING COMMUNITY PURPOSE:

• To support and explore community-driven leadership that improves the overall health and well-being of a group as defined by those individuals, families, or community members.

• To develop and share stories of dynamic and cultural practices that support intersectional and relational shared power.
Our Learning Community

• Cooperative learning approach
• Learn and practice through iteration
• Different sectors & cultural communities

Four community storytelling partners at the core of our learning community.
COMMUNITY STORYTELLING PROJECTS

Food for the Spirit - Buffalo, NY

Intergenerational Multilingual Storytelling Soundscapes - Boston, MA

Starseed Earthroot - District of Columbia

Together Baton Rouge, Spirit & Justice - Baton Rouge, LA
If we create storytelling spaces that

- Highlight cultural contexts of community practice, wisdoms and experiences
- Get closer to natural or intrinsic practices of collective well-being
- Lift up absent narratives about leadership in context
- Make visible those practices, conditions and systems that contribute to collective, community leadership

And, if we cooperatively learn and reflect on these community stories so that we

- Better understand where there is overlap, limits or connections to the dominant, person-centered leadership framework
- Co-create a shared narrative that weaves and mirrors our own experiences
- Re-center on our shared power
Then together, our learning community can

- Own and write our own stories of possibility and power
- Validate community-rooted, practice-based ways of being and knowing
- Share and attract others to community-driven model(s)
- Begin to flag where change is possible in our relationships and systems
CENTRAL QUESTIONS

• What does collective leadership look like when operating from a cultural context (e.g. in lived and historic experiences of power and privilege)?

• How does a community’s cultural practices impact their ability to have authorship of their lives and future?

• What are the conditions and supports that allow natural community systems to flourish and evolve?
COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

All members are leaders

People are engaged in authorship of their lives

We share power based in cultural practices & group dynamics

People must work collectively to understand the reality they seek to transform

People are practicing transformation in their lives, relationships & communities

People are resilient despite constraints
Community-Driven Leadership Framework

- All members are seen as leaders, are given opportunities to grow in their leadership, and are able to represent their communities at multiple tables.
- People are engaged in and have authorship of their lives and their future.
- People can and are practicing transformation in their lives, relationships and communities to improve their own health and well-being.
- People must work collectively to understand the reality they seek to transform in order to improve and sustain the overall health and well-being of their communities.
- People are adaptive, innovative and resilient despite the constraints that push them to conform to dominant, hierarchal forms of leadership and power.
- People have formal and informal processes to share power in ways that are contextual and responsive to changing group dynamics and based in cultural practices.
VIRUTAL GATHERING #1

February 26th
9:30 AM – 11:00 CST
10:30 AM – noon EST

Community Storytelling Launch: DEEP CONNECTION

- Sharing to learn & teach
- Grounding in community engagement framework and core questions for community leadership
- Introduce partners, goals and activities for cooperative learning
VIRUTAL GATHERING #2

April 20\textsuperscript{th}

1 – 2:30 PM CST
2 – 3:30 PM EST

Framing Leadership: COMMUNITY OWNERSHIP & AUTHORSHIP

- Exploring individual, community, and organizational identity and intersectionality
- Connecting storytellers and audiences’ perspectives to uncover absent narratives
- Reflecting on the power of story and storytellers to frame possibilities
VIRUTAL GATHERING #3

June 3rd

9:30 AM – 11:00 CST
10:30 AM – noon EST

Making Change: DISCOVERING & DISRUPTING THE STORY OF US

• Uncover cultural practices and identify related leadership practices

• Name and explore community/cultural ways of knowing

• Review a theory of change that brings issues and people together around systems-level solutions for positive outcomes
# Virtual Gatherings

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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| February 26\(^{th}\) | 9:30 AM – 11:00 CST  
10:30 AM – noon EST | Deep Connection                              |
| April 20\(^{th}\)   | 1 – 2:30 PM CST  
2 – 3:30 PM EST | Community Ownership & Authorship              |
| June 3\(^{rd}\)       | 9:30 AM – 11:00 CST  
10:30 AM – noon EST | Discovering & Disrupting the Story of Us      |
# LEARNING IN COMMUNITY*

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April 12</td>
<td>Washington DC</td>
<td>Identity &amp; Intersectionality: LEADERSHIP &amp; BELONGING</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 6</td>
<td>Boston, MN</td>
<td>Unique Perspectives &amp; Shared Power: LEADERSHIP AS SOLIDARITY</td>
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<td>July 29</td>
<td>Buffalo, NY</td>
<td>Re-centering Culture: CELEBRATING &amp; SHIFTING NORMS</td>
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*ALL DATES ARE TO BE CONFIRMED, Learners must apply*
Apply for onsite learning trips*

1. Letter of interest
2. Learning team selection and confirmation
3. Pre- and Post- trip check ins
4. Equity funds contributions & reimbursements

*LEARNING TEAMS TO BE CONFIRMED
# HARVEST TOGETHER

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<tr>
<th>November 11 – 13</th>
<th>Story-Share Convening: MAKING MEANING TOGETHER</th>
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<tr>
<td>Location: TBD</td>
<td>• Moving from stories to narrative across communities</td>
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<td>• Probing for fixed and flexible conditions that support community leadership</td>
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<td>• Opportunities for staying connected and engaged</td>
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*LEARNING TEAMS TO BE Confirmed*
SPECIAL THANKS

ROBERT WOOD JOHNSON FOUNDATION
QUESTIONS ?
Sida Ly-Xiong

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