

Community Leadership Learning Initiative

LEARNING COMMUNITY INFO SESSION



nexus
COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Agenda

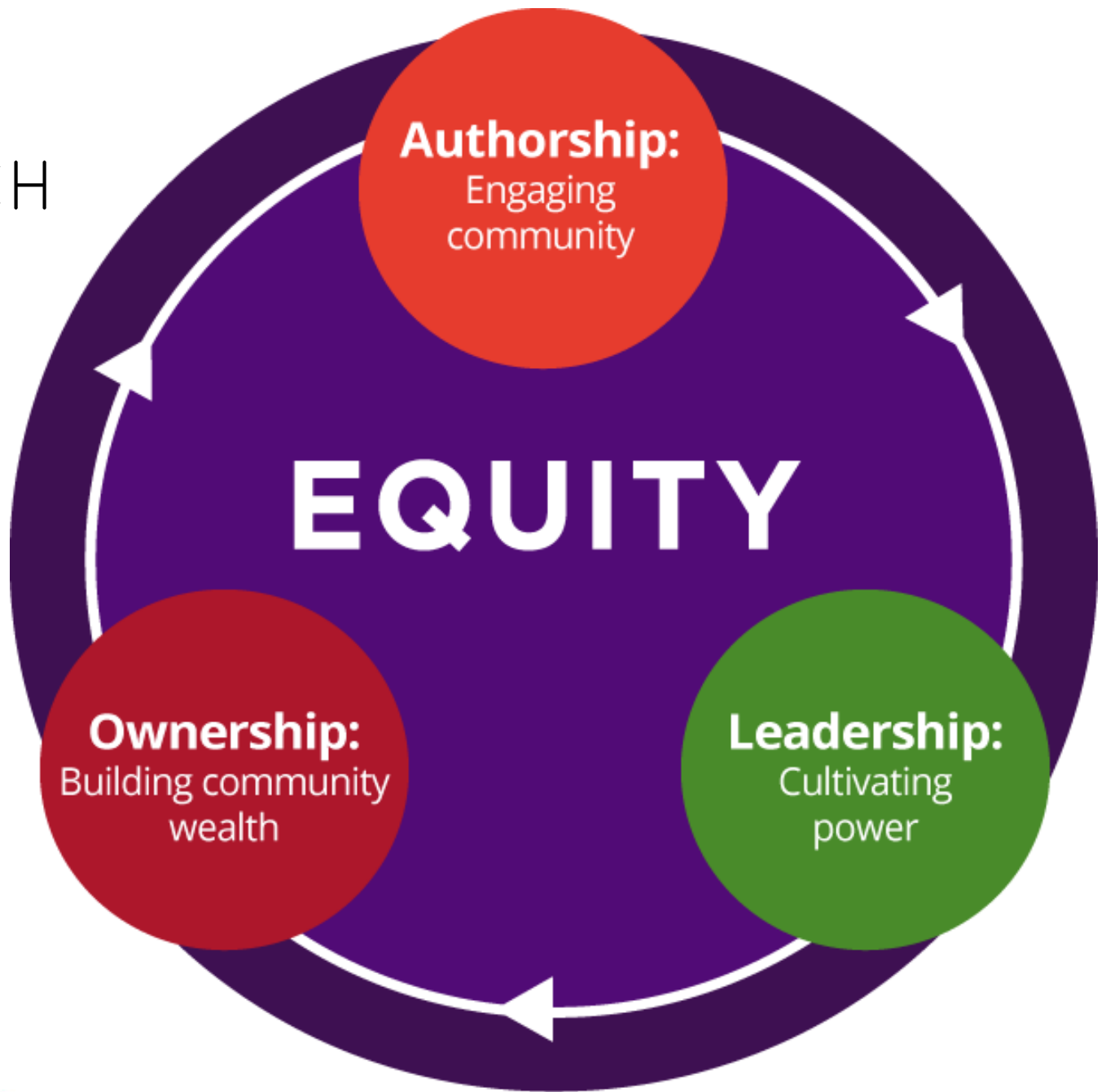
- Initiative Team & Partners
- Our Purpose & Central Questions
- Learning Opportunities for Everyone
- Your Questions

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



www.nexuscp.org

CLLI Team

Nexus



Repa
Meka



Sida
Ly-Xiong



Avi
Viswanathan

GrayHall



Nora Hall



Karen Gray

Dreams to Power



Eleonore Wesserle

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.

VIRTUAL 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

VIRTUAL GATHERING #2

April 20th

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

VIRTUAL 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

February 26th

9:30 AM – 11:00 CST

10:30 AM – noon EST

DEEP CONNECTION

April 20th

1 – 2:30 PM CST

2 – 3:30 PM EST

COMMUNITY OWNERSHIP &
AUTHORSHIP

June 3rd

9:30 AM – 11:00 CST

10:30 AM – noon EST

DISCOVERING & DISRUPTING THE
STORY OF US

LEARNING IN COMMUNITY*

April 12
Washington DC

Identity & Intersectionality:
LEADERSHIP & BELONGING

May 6
Boston, MN

Unique Perspectives & Shared Power:
LEADERSHIP AS SOLIDARITY

July 29
Buffalo, NY

Re-centering Culture:
CELEBRATING & SHIFTING NORMS

Sept 25
Baton Rouge, LA

Inverting Power Structures:
LEADERSHIP AS A MOVEMENT

**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

November 11 – 13

Location:
TBD

Story-Share Convening: MAKING MEANING TOGETHER

- Moving from stories to narrative across communities
- Probing for fixed and flexible conditions that support community leadership
- Opportunities for staying connected and engaged

**LEARNING TEAMS TO BE CONFIRMED*

SPECIAL THANKS

ROBERT WOOD JOHNSON FOUNDATION

QUESTIONS ?



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