EFFECTIVE PARTNERING: Starting with Values, Goals and Vision

Center for Performance and Civic Practice (CPCP)

ARTPLACE | MAY 17, 2017
Center for Performance and Civic Practice functions as a national resource for artists and communities working together to develop greater local capacity for arts-based community-led transformation.
We collaborate with communities on creative strategies to problem-solve, build intersectional coalitions, and envision inclusive futures.
Our work supports and increases community organizations’ ability to imagine and collaborate towards racially equitable and economically just communities.
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**Civic Practice:** Artists co-design project with publics; the spoken intention is to serve a public partner’s self-defined needs.
An 8-step process for an organization — using a combination of full room, small groups by department, and mixed group conversations to examine mission, values and goals, address challenges, and look at how to integrate artists.
// MISSION //

What do you do?
Who do you serve, and how?
// CORE VALUES //

What are your core values as an organization?
// GOALS //

Name 3–5 goals that you work on that feel clearly connected to the mission/values we have been articulating.
Where do the goals overlap, and where do they seem different?
How do different goals impact collaboration internally and externally?
// GOALS //

Within a cross-department group, come up with three top goals that could cut across the entire organization.
As a room, vote on three top collective priorities.
// GOALS //

Discuss challenges to those top priorities.
Are there particular challenges to these goals that demand problem-solving, coalition building, or vision work that could be good spots for creative strategies/artist collaborations?
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CORE QUESTIONS

- How do artists, community organizations & government agencies develop cross-sector partnerships and for what reasons?
- How do these partnerships build collaborative practices that balance community-defined needs, change-aimed outcomes and artistic process and expression?
- What relationship-building and translation commitments are necessary for these arts-engaged partnerships to leverage the expertise of all local stakeholders as well as to imagine projects that aren’t limited to the traditional output of specific artistic disciplines?
Through civic practice, we’ve listened to partners, and learned that community partner needs often land in these areas:

**Advocacy** — help increase visibility and propel mission/message;

**Dialogue** — bring diverse groups into meaningful exchange with each other;

**Story-Sharing** — gather and share narratives from a particular population or around a particular topic;

**Civic Application** — engage the public and decision-makers together in acts of problem-solving and crafting vision;

**Cross-Sector Innovation** — leverage skills and experience from different fields or disciplines to create and manifest new knowledge.

**Capacity Building** — develop needed skills within the existing human resources of an organization to accomplish goals through current or new strategies.
Collaboration: turning constituents with varied self interests into coalitions of stakeholders.

Design: problem-solving through highly imaginative and collaborative action.

Expression: synthesizing complex data and articulating it in ways that can be comprehended and interrogated.