Co-Creation for Power Sharing

Description

This tool supports you in identifying opportunities to share influence over different parts of planning processes and outcomes. It can be used to identify paths to power sharing through intentionally mapping the level of influence that the community can have over component parts of the process and the outcome for the project at hand. Key to using it successfully is knowing what activities, actions, and decisions are involved at the stage that you're working on, and where there is flexibility and resources (time, money, etc.) to support more community involvement. Often, power-sharing can begin with more modest interventions (e.g. co-developing a meeting agenda) which provide opportunities for community members and professionals to learn how to work together, ahead of doing something more collaborative and ambitious.

This tool allows mapping along two axes: active to passive involvement (which speaks to how time and energy intensive we expect community involvement to be), and collaborative to non-collaborative involvement (which speaks to how much collaboration City staff can expect from communities for the process/outcome). This mapping can be useful in setting expectations with community members and City staff on how much time and energy is expected of them for a particular part of a process, and how collaborative they can expect the process to be. It makes clear where opportunities are to work together during a **planning process** (e.g. during a community engagement event) or within a **planning outcome** (e.g. programming and space provisions within a community centre).

How to use this worksheet

Step 1
Map out the specifics of the process and/or the outcome that you would like to identify power sharing opportunities for. As an example of process, if you're working on a development application and are responsible for hosting a public meeting, this could include: selecting who facilitates the meeting, where it takes place, what the agenda looks like, analyzing and documenting the feedback, etc. As an example of outcome, if you're working on developing a master plan for an upcoming development, this

MAKING SPACE
CENTERING EQUITY IN PLANNING

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could include identifying the physical elements of the plan that are to be designed, such as: mobility infrastructure, community space, parks, libraries, housing, etc.

Step 2
Fill out the matrix for the process or outcome components that you have identified. We recommend writing each component up on a sticky note and placing it within the box below that best represents the level of involvement that community can have for that particular component. If possible, conduct this mapping exercise with community leaders — identify where they would like to have more influence. Pay attention to where all of these actions land, and discuss with colleagues (and where possible, community) if there are opportunities to share some of the leadership and decision-making with community members.
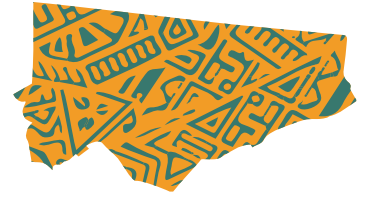
*Don't forget: If you are engaging community members, compensate them for their time and energy!

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EXAMPLE

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Transferring power to community

Power is shared with communities through equipping them with the tools and resources to carry out their own processes or developing their own outcomes as part of the planning process.

Process example: City transfers power and resources to a grassroots organization to conduct community consultations.

Outcome example: City transfers or leases building space to a grassroots organization to run a community library.

Deciding and acting together

High-level of involvement in co-producing outcomes or processes.

Process example: Setting meeting agendas and facilitating meetings together with a grassroots organization.

Outcome example: Co-designing a community centre with a grassroots organization.

COLLABORATIVE INVOLVEMENT

Providing services

Traditional service mode — the community as the recipients of the service, outcome or process. Low expected involvement from community.

Process example: Consulting community members at a typical consultation meeting.

Outcome example: Developing a public library branch in the neighborhood.

Deciding together

Asking communities to be involved in some parts of the decision-making process, but not leaning on them to make any of those decisions come to life.

Process example: Designing a community engagement plan with a local grassroots organization and local community leaders, but not depending on them to facilitate those engagement activities.

Outcome example: Asking the community to identify their wants and needs for spaces in a local community centre.

ACTIVE INVOLVEMENT

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MAKING SPACE

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ACTIVE INVOLVEMENT