

LANDIS
CENTER FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

LAFAYETTE COLLEGE

<http://landiscenter.lafayette.edu/>

Landis Center for Community Engagement

Mission: *To promote active citizenship by providing experiential learning opportunities in engaged scholarship, civic leadership, and social advocacy*

Vision: *To empower members of our community to share their knowledge and skills in the creation of dynamic social action*



Landis Center Values

- *Action – translate passion and knowledge into community activity*
- *Innovation – offer new methods to untangle complex social issues*
- *Reciprocity – engage in sustainable, mutually beneficial relationships that consider needs and build on assets of all partners*
- *Reflection – connect community-based learning with other life experiences, belief systems, and academic knowledge*



Community Engagement vs. Community Service

Engagement

- Learning opportunity
- Translates values into action
- Helps organization better meet client needs
- Draws on previous knowledge/experience
- Collaborative
- Shared benefits
- RELATIONSHIP

Service

- Community-based activity
- Provides labor to the organization



Civic Learning and Democratic Engagement

Developing the knowledge, skills, and values required for civic action

- Cultural sensitivity
- Collaborative decision-making
- Ethical reasoning
- Perspective navigation
- Adaptability
- Accountability
- Authenticity
- Self-efficacy



Individual and Community Development

Civic Identity

- Experiences, beliefs, values, emotions that govern how an individual behaves as a member of society

Community Identity

- Shared traditions, history, experiences, interests that create social capital



Values

Question

- What am I passionate about?
- What is the difference I want to make in the world?
- What can I give to the world?
- In which situations do I feel/create the most energy?
- What are my strongest beliefs?

Reflect

Spend one week (or more) considering the following:

- What makes me feel good (about myself)?
- What makes me feel bad (about myself)?
- What makes me feel useful?
- What did others do that I admire?
- What did others do that made me feel uncomfortable?

How can you ground your actions in your values?

- What is the outcome you want? Is this aligned with your values?
- How is the action you are about to take aligned with your values?



WHAT IS PRIVILEGE?

A social advantage granted a person or group of persons based on a dimension of their identity

- Race
- Class
- Ethnicity
- Gender Identity
- Sexual Orientation
- Ability
- Religion
- Nation of Origin
- Body type
- Language
- Age
- Education
- Family Dynamics



Reflection

ENGAGEMENT

Think about some of your past experiences working with the community - were they mostly engagement or service? How could you or your community partner have made the experiences more meaningful?

VALUES

Think about some of the activities you're involved in on and off campus. How are these activities aligned with your values? In what ways could they be better aligned? Is there any action you can take to make this happen?

PRIVILEGE

Consider some of the dimensions of your identity. Are there any make it easier to access a societal resource that other people might not have access to? What would it look like for all members of a community to have the same access?



Community Asset Mapping

What is an asset?

- Community organizations - churches, community centers, homeless shelters, libraries, schools
- Local businesses - provide services, jobs, donations to the community
- Buildings - historic, occupied, unoccupied
- Infrastructure - transportation, telecommunications, healthcare, other public services
- People - people have knowledge and skills that support their communities



Community Asset Mapping (cont.)

Uncovering assets

- Review websites related to the area - city sites, chamber of commerce, local newspapers, community sites
 - Create an inventory of these assets
- Identify contacts at relevant organizations
 - Interview these people

Interpreting assets

- How do these assets relate to the need you are considering?
- What opportunities for collaboration/partnership exist?
- Are there any gaps?
- How can these assets be strengthened?



Community Needs Assessment

What is a need?

- Concern identified by a community or organization as a priority
- Can be related to resources, inequities, perceptions, community health

How do you uncover needs?

- Identify sources of information
- Public records, community/city websites, organization websites, school district website, census data, council meetings, community leaders
- Collect data from as many sources as possible
- Consider surveys, interviews, focus groups
- Develop a clear idea of what the ideal state is (what will the situation look like once the need is met?)
- Identify the gap between what the current state is and what the ideal state is
- Identify and/or develop resources that will fill the gap



Mitigate Uncertainty

Does the proposed service, solution, product, already exist?

- Will an additional solution enhance the current solution or create competition?
- What can you learn from people already involved in the solution?
- How can you combine resources or form partnerships?
- Is there a better solution?

Does the proposed solution require any special permissions, certifications, or licensing?

- What are the financial costs of these requirements?
- How long is the waiting period?
- How often do they need to be renewed?
- Is there a better solution?



Mitigate Uncertainty (cont.)

Create a logic model

- Considerations
- Goals
- Inputs
- Outputs
- Outcomes
- Assumptions
- External factors

Be sure to record any surprises that occur after implementation so they can be addressed in future iterations of your action plan



Other Ways *You* Can Engage

- Direct Service
- Community Research
- Advocacy and Education
- Political Involvement
- Socially Responsible Personal and Professional Behavior
- Philanthropic Giving
- Participation in Associations



**Work hard and
be nice to people**

