Review Your Community Network

TIME COMMITMENT

2–4 hours

PEOPLE

Park organization staff

SUPPLIES

Review Your Community Network worksheet (link included in this tool download)

INTRODUCTION

How will you connect with new communities?

Evaluate the depth of your organization's engagement with community members. Meaningful engagement is deeply connected to understanding local histories and equity conditions.

Your equity goals, and the programs developed to further those goals, are only meaningful if they stem from and elevate voices historically and presently excluded from planning and redevelopment processes. Community networks are key to building and sustaining these connections, ensuring your project remains grounded in the concerns of those you aim to support. This tool will help you analyze and set goals for your community engagement work.

High Line Network | Embedding Equity in Public Space | Tool 14: Review Your Community Network
This tool is part of the Community First Toolkit, available at **toolkit.highlinenetwork.org**

**HIGH LINE
NETWORK**

Review Your Community Network

TIPS FOR USING THIS TOOL

- Note: You will be prompted to create a copy of Tool 14, Review Your Community Network. Please click on Make a Copy. The new file should automatically open in your internet browser.

- Center your answers by focusing on a plurality of voices from the communities your project serves.

- Avoid relying on assumptions, stereotypes, and poverty myths.

- Understand that most engagement doesn't start at the deepest levels. Rather, engagement exists along a spectrum.

- Be honest with your community network on the role you seek with their organization. Don't promise control or power where you aren't able to give it.

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Use the **Review Your Community Network** worksheet to list existing community groups in the impact area of your project and ask the following:
   - What are some historical facts you know about these community groups or their neighborhoods?
   - Do you have relationships with leaders, advocates, or organizers from these communities?

2. The status of your relationships within these communities will vary. Using the following checklist, verify where you are:
   - **Informing:** My organization has reached out, but now is not a good time to initiate or pursue partnerships.
   - **Consulting:** My organization has engaged to ensure concerns and aspirations about our work are understood and considered.
   - **Involving:** My organization has periodically held meetings to obtain feedback on problems, solutions, or alternatives on programming or community needs.
   - **Collaborating:** My organization is working with community members to develop projects and programs. They have direct and valued input into decision-making.
   - **Power-shifting:** My organization has shifted control of some portion of our work directly to community members. They drive the content and also receive direct benefit from the work.

3. Identify how to deepen your engagement within these communities. If you are already at the level of engagement desired, how can you make the work more sustainable?

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