

Augusta Street Park:
A case study for using
Asset-Based Community Development
techniques for community building

Jeff Mills, Coordinator Community Development,
Mills Community Support

Key points from my presentation

- 1) Understand the difference between means and ends
- 2) Have a clear vision of what the future will look like
- 3) Recognise who else cares and make room for them
 - When you do good work creative and non-traditional partnerships will come to you!

Shooting Hoops at Augusta Street Park



We're your neighbours—Sarah and Pete

Join us for a pick-up game of basketball!
Learn skills, share skills!

We play every Tuesday at 7pm
(weather permitting)

It's fun, it's free!!

Bring your friends, see you soon!

Spring 2011

Neighbours have concerns about
the safety of the park

*The Reframing of
Augusta Street Park
as a welcoming
public place...*

Summer 2011 - Local Park Planner offers his expertise and develops a plan
 December 5, 2011 - Council approves plan



REMOVALS

- 1 Remove station, over grown Manitoba Maples
- 2 Remove abandoned sand play area
- 3 Remove remains of glide slide
- 4 Remove over grown shrubs
- 5 Relocate Rocket Climber



KEY

- A** SPLASH PAD
Concrete pad with water jets.
- B** BMX TRACK
- C** COMMUNITY GARDENS
1.2m x 3.3m x 4m (high). Wooden, 3 with future expansion to 10.
- D** FITNESS TRAIL
Shorewalk, 1.2m wide, 250m loop.
- E** ASPHALT PATH
Two park connections, 2m wide, accessible (less than 5% slope), lighted.
- F** PEDESTRIAN FOOT BRIDGE
Timber, 3m wide
- G** BASKETBALL COURT
Topcoat existing asphalt, repair hoops, repair lines.
- H** ROCKET CLIMBER
New location in sand pit.
- I** OPEN PLAY AREA
Catch, frisbee.
- J** PARK SIGN
- K** FUTURE STREET EXTENSION

LEGEND

- ASPHALT PAVEMENT
- CONCRETE PAVEMENT
- STORMDUST PATH
- SAND PROTECTIVE PLAY SURFACE
- MOWN LAWN
- PARK BOUNDARY
- PATHWAY LIGHTS
- BLAST ROCK (SEATING)

Park Location Plan



Augusta Street Park Rehabilitation
PRELIMINARY CONCEPT PLAN

DATE: AUGUST, 2011 DESIGN: DRAWN BY: DEL REYNOLDS



When
neighbours have
a sense of
ownership

- they care
- they volunteer
- they empower others to give



They have been coming for years...

here in the 1980's



and still here today...



We offer opportunities for neighbours to come together and celebrate

We bring neighbours together to partner with service clubs, Mills Community Support homes, businesses and artists to offer free, welcoming, accessible, inclusive, local music concerts, barbeques, and community pot lucks.



Folk, jazz, country and youth performers...





5 Wednesdays
in July
(free music concerts)
in Augusta
Street Park Park
is ...

Looking for Youth Musicians
to perform 1-3 songs each on Wednesday July 29, 2015
5:30—6:30 pm
Contact LindaAnneClipper@hotmail.com

Augusta Street Park COMMUNITY GARDENS



Neighbourhood Tomato Community Gardens “grow” in Augusta Street Park from 8 raised beds in 2013 to a 6,000 square foot garden with individual allotments and collaborative gardens in 2014

You are invited to the launch of
THE GREAT
VEGGIE
GROW-OFF



Everyone Welcome
Join us as we launch this community challenge!

The Neighbourhood Tomato Community Gardens in Mississippi Mills, and the Community Gardens at St. Gregory's Next Door in Carleton Place are challenging the towns of Beckwith, Carleton Place, and Mississippi Mills to see which town can grow the most local produce for the Lanark County Food Bank in 2014.

Thursday May 1, 2014 at 12:30 pm

At the Community Gardens in Augusta Street
Park in NE Almonte (see map below)



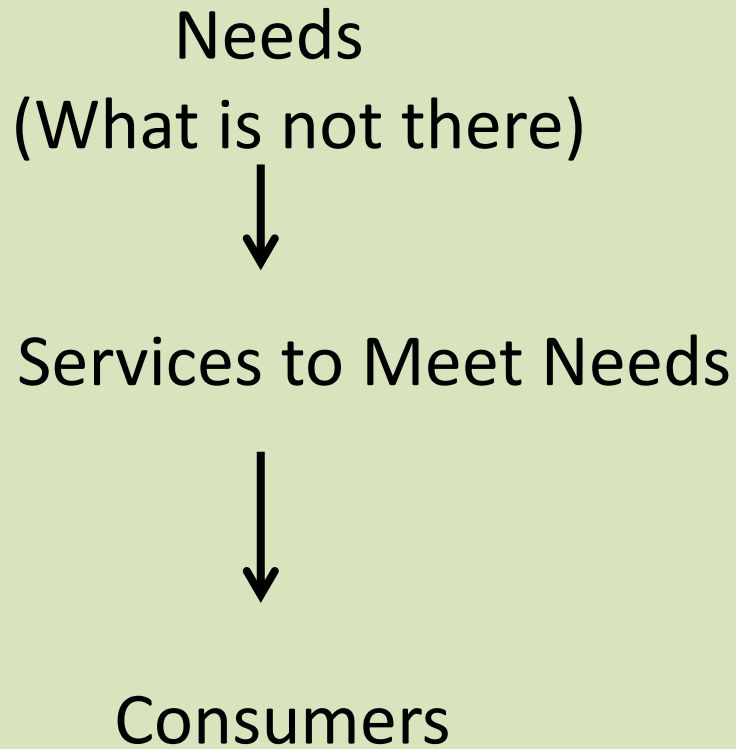
So Why Asset-based Community Development?



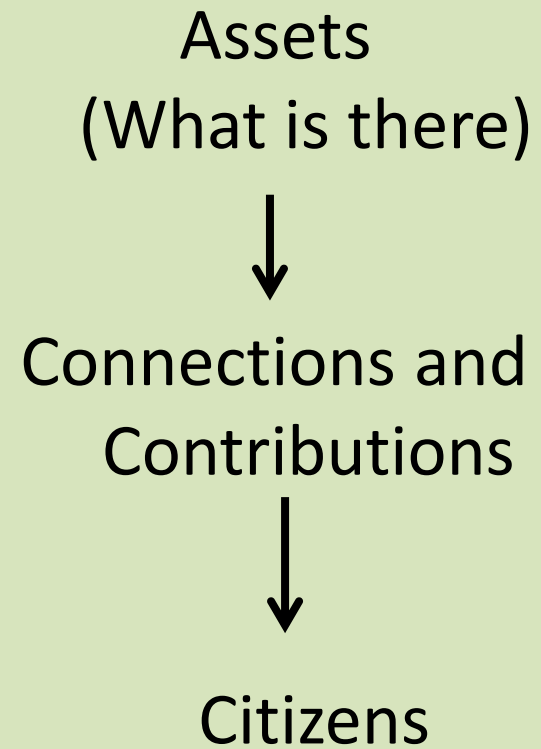


Asset-based community development (ABCD) is a methodology that seeks to uncover and utilize the strengths within communities as a means for sustainable development.

Two Paths – Two solutions



“Programs are the answer”



“People are the
answer”

The Guiding Principles of ABCD

- Everyone Has Gifts
- Relationships Build a Community
- Citizens at the Center





- Leaders Involve Others as Active Members of the Community.
- People Care About Something and are
- Motivated to Act



- Listening Conversation
- Ask, Ask, Ask
- Asking Questions Rather Than Giving Answers



- A Citizen-Centered “Inside-Out” Organization is the Key to Community Engagement

- Institutions Have Reached Their Limits in Problem-Solving

- Institutions as Servants



...there are assets and gifts out there in communities, and that our job as good servants and as good leaders is not only just being humble, but it's having the ability to recognize those gifts in others, and help them put those gifts into action.

Communities are filled with assets that we need to better recognize and mobilize if we're really going to make a difference.

~ Michelle Obama



When people lead, leaders follow. ~Gandhi

As difficult as it may be for them, local governments must re-examine their role in community building and learn to lead by stepping back. ~ Jeff Mills

Learning Conversations - Start with the Question

Care= Motivation to act: “What I will go out the door and do something about”

- Concerns – What I don’t want to happen
- Dreams – What I want to create
- Gifts – What I want the opportunity to give

Distinguish motivation to act (“I will...”) from opinion (“Somebody ought to...”)

Less Successful

Start with the Answer



Recruit People to
Implement the Answer



Look for answers to the
additional problem of
“lack of motivation”

More Successful

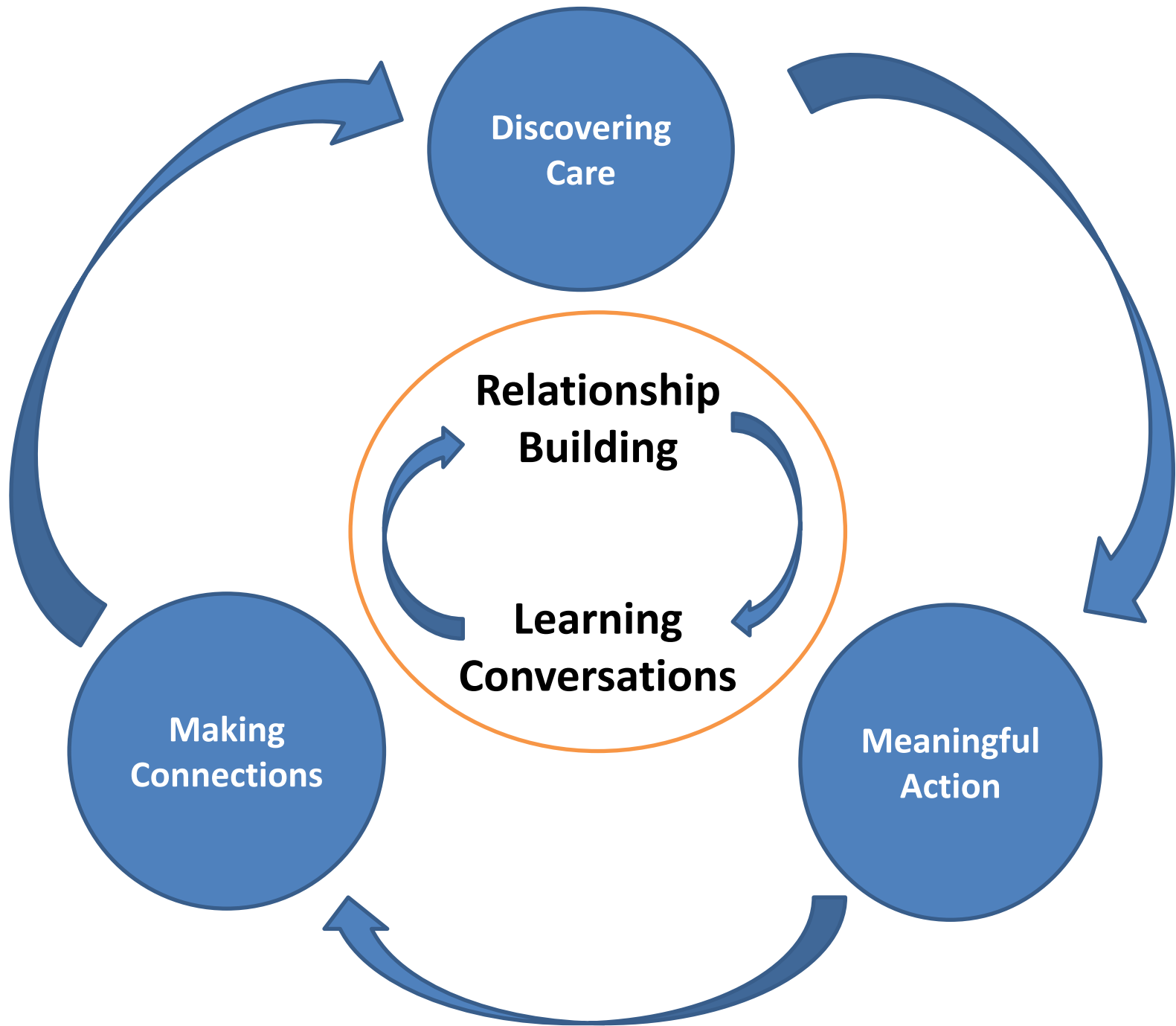
Start with Learning Conversations



Discover what people care about,
How they see the situation, and what
they want to offer



Mobilize Assets



Change the question, Change the world!

1. What do you want the world to look like?
2. Who else cares about this?
3. What resources do we have together that we don't have alone?

Creatingthefuture.com



WE PLAY ENDLESSLY

NBA Canada video

http://cloudintheskystudios.com/portfolio_page/nba-almonte-and-basketball/