

# Participatory Project Design

A workshop for community leaders



Community-based organizations are often united in their mission and clear on their vision. Yet, effective social change requires harnessing compelling, actionable ideas and turning them into projects that attract champions and funders.

Designed for individuals and groups who are ready to take action, this workshop offers tools and techniques and practice in applying them. *Participatory Project Design* builds capacity as community members design sound projects that bring sustained results.

**Objectives:** This workshop brings together non-profit leaders and activists to

- Apply community rooted participatory techniques for issue analysis, objective setting, planning, and implementation
- Build social, economic and sustainability into projects
- Strengthen organizational capacity, liberate creativity and mobilize resources
- Monitor progress, recycle best practice, and assess impact

## Half Full or Half Empty?

The limits of problem analysis

Respecting the complexity of the issues

How to avoid vicious circles, groupthink, and killer assumptions.

Inquiring appreciatively: Value what is, imagine what might be, explore what should be, and innovate what will be.

## What do we know?

Community expertise and outside specialists

Participatory techniques for assessment, monitoring and evaluation

Embracing diversity, counting stakeholders.

How will we define success?

## Planning

Identifying priorities and synergies

Establishing goals, setting objectives,

Participatory Planning Toolkit

## Resource Mobilization

Networking with passion, vision and purpose

Attracting and retaining volunteers

Foundation grants and corporate sponsorships

The creative edge of community-based fund raising

## Building Sustainability into All Project Activities

Addressing social, financial and environmental sustainability

Sustaining results and building durable communities

Accountability to multiple bottom lines

*Participatory Project Design* was developed by Steel Bridge Principal Associate Carol McCreary during fifteen years of work with community leaders in Asia and Africa.



Steel Bridge, LLC  
503.984.4081 [contact@steel-bridge.org](mailto:contact@steel-bridge.org)  
411 NW Flanders #704, Portland, Oregon 97209  
[www.steel-bridge.org](http://www.steel-bridge.org)