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The Challenges of Community Engagement

A Challenge

- “ We must now conceive the city, ... not primarily as a place of business or government but as an essential organ for expressing and actualizing the new human personality – that of “One World Man.”
 - Mumford, The City in History, 1961

Sustainability

- A focus on the tenets of sustainability
- Challenges communities to redefine their place in the context of
 - Social Factors
 - Economic Factors
 - Environmental Factors

Case Study of a Community-University Partnership

- Project: Community Action for a Renewed Environment (CARE)
- Location: Gary, Indiana
- Time Period: 2007 to 2009

Redefining “One World Man”

- Partnership?
- Engagement?
- Tool Set?
- Outcome?

Self-Sustaining Partnerships?

- Power Differentials
- Dialogue Challenges
- Divergent Perceptions of Needs and Wants
- Divergent Expectations

Engagement?

- Entrepreneurial
- Engaged University
- Social Venture
- Civic Engagement

Tools?

- Collaborative Problem Solving Model
 - Issue identification, community vision, strategic planning
 - Community capacity building and leadership development
 - Consensus building and dispute resolution
 - Multi-stakeholder partnerships and leveraging of resources
 - Constructive engagement by stakeholders
 - Sound management and implementation
 - Evaluation, lessons learned and replication of best practices

Expected Outcomes

- Reduction in exposure to toxic pollutants
- Help communities understand all potential sources of exposure to toxic pollutants.
- Work with communities to set priorities for risk-reduction activities.
- Create self-sustaining, community-based partnerships that will continue to improve the local environment

Toxic Release Inventory

- Role in the process of collaborative problem solving
- Next steps

Parting Thoughts....

- Now it is not the will of a single deified ruler, but the individual and corporate will of its citizens, aiming at self-knowledge, self-government, and self-actualization, that must be embodied in the city.... Education will be the center of their activities; and every process and function will be evaluated and approved just to the extent it furthers human development.”
 - Mumford, The City in History, 1961

Questions or Comments

Thank You