Building a Learning Cities Culture

The Muncie Community and Lifelong Learning

Who We Are

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Session Objectives

- Review the concept of UNESCO Learning Cities

- Understand the two initial steps for developing a learning cities lifelong learning culture:

  1) Planning
  2) Involvement

- Apply practical ideas and hands-on skills to strengthen

  - Community-building skills and

  - Lifelong learning culture

What are Learning Cities – UNESCO defined

UNESCO Learning Cities

- Effectively mobilize its resources in every sector to promote inclusive learning from basic to higher education;

- Revitalize learning in families and communities;

- Facilitate learning for and in the workplace;

- Extend the use of modern learning technologies;

- Enhance quality and excellence in learning; and

- Foster a culture of learning throughout life.

In doing so, the city enhances individual empowerment and social inclusion, economic development and cultural prosperity, and sustainable development.

https://www.uil.unesco.org/en/learning-cities

Why a Learning Cities Model in Muncie

- Engaged Neighborhoods and Community Leaders
- Muncie Action Plan (MAP) to support community revitalization
- Collaborative agencies and nonprofit organizations
- Educational-focused initiatives and commitment
- Strong educational institutions and philanthropy
- Diverse community members
- Culturally and historically recognized - "Middletown"

    - We – MUNCIE - are doing much of this work. Now we can showcase it.

    **ACTIVITY - Share your list of organizations and groups that support this type of work

How to Build a Learning City

Building a learning city is a collective and continuing journey. It requires a concrete action plan with strong political leadership and steadfast commitment; participation and involvement of all stakeholders; diverse celebratory events charged with enthusiasm and inspirations; easy accessibility and enjoyable experiences for all citizens; a proper monitoring and evaluation of progress; and sustainable and secure funding.

https://www.uil.unesco.org/en/learning-cities/build-learning-city

Planning

- Creating a Core Team

- Identify connections and assets

Connections Exercise

Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD)

Hands + Head + Heart = **Finding Shared Gifts and Assets**

- **ABCD builds on the assets that are already found in the community and mobilizes individuals, associations, and institutions to come together to build on their assets-- not concentrate on their needs.**

- **Time to identify assets (micro- and macro- assets)**

- **Then matched assets with people or groups who have an interest or need in that asset. The key is to begin to use what is already in the community.**

Collaborative for Neighborhood Transformation http://www.neighborhoodtransformation.net/

Involvement

- Identify Shared Vision and Mission Statement

- Develop a Coordinated Structure of All Stakeholders

- Identify Stakeholders' Interests

- Clearly Define Stakeholder Roles and Responsibilities

Interactive Scenario

The simulation will use arts-based activities for community members to express their stories in unique and collective ways. Session participants will develop strategies for an art-based approach for building a lifelong learning culture.

- Creative expression helps people connect using emotions and allows for uniqueness.
- Painting, poetry, music, craft making, storytelling, performance.
- Photovoice as participatory action research.

Example Article about Photovoice

Photovoice as Methodology, Pedagogy, and Partnership-Building Tool: A Graduate and Community College Student Collaboration

<u>Authors – 2015 publication</u>

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https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/EJ1123809.pdf

Thoughts and Thank You

Remember collaboration is an adult education activity!

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