Innovation Lab: Building Creative and Impactful Civic Practices

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Greg Stopka, Central Regional Director, Alliance for Innovation

Joe Gacioch, City of Ferndale
Workshop goals

Get to know your peers

Learn from national and statewide case studies, as well as the people in the room

Explore new topics in civic innovation

Take lessons, experiences, and contacts back to your own community
Alliance for Innovation:
Inspiring Innovation to Advance Communities

Greg Stopka
Membership Director
Alliance for Innovation

- Premier Resource for Emerging Practices
- Building Cultures of Innovation
- Connecting Thought Leaders
What is an innovation lab?

- Learn about new innovations
- Learn from action-leaders
- Develop plan to adapt ideas
- Connect with local governments behind the ideas
- Adapt ideas and develop pilots
- Showcase the results
Identify Community Priorities
Socially Equitable
Storytellers
Putting a Face on Local Government

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Involving Citizens to Solve Problems
Top 10 Civic Engagement Innovations
Diversity Dinners & Citizens for Fair Ferndale
Ferndale, MI and Oak Park, IL
Social Media Photo Takeover

various
Conversation Corps

Austin, TX
15 for 15 Films

Troy, MI
Neighborhood Partnership Program

Austin, TX
Welcome Wagon

Brooklyn Park, MN
Periscope

San Jose, CA
17 Strong Neighborhoods

Hamilton, OH
Tweet-a-Long

Topeka, KS
Who attended?

- Elected officials
- Leadership
- Staff
- Graduate students
- University of Michigan faculty
- Other city executives
The way we look at the world shapes the way we think about it.
Innovation Lab: Panelist Topics

- Ideation
  - Innovation Adaptation Actualization

- Networking
  - Expand your professional network
  - Professional development

- Identifying the best tools for engagement
- Becoming better storytellers
- Involving citizens in solving community problems
- Building consensus around community problems
- Being socially equitable in community engagement
Small Groups: What Resonated with our Participants?

- **Prevailing practice**
  - Piqua, OH: CitizenNet
- **Prevailing practice**
  - Dublin, OH; Novi, MI: Biannual community survey
- **Leading practice**
  - Hamilton, OH; Evanston, IL: 311 Citizen Request System
- **Emerging practice**
  - Fate, Tx: Virtual ridealong with officers
Small Groups: What Resonated with our Participants?

- **Emergent practice:**
  - Topeka, KS: Tweet-a-long

- **Leading practice:**
  - Avondale, AZ; Dublin, OH: Community Facebook Photoshare

- **Prevailing practice:**
  - Lawrence, KS: Lunch’n-Learns on department processes
  - Dublin, OH; Novi, MI: Biannual community survey

- **Leading practice**
  - Olathe, KS; Tyler, TX, Ferndale, MI: Using infographics to narrate issues

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Small Groups: What Resonated with our Participants?

- **Prevailing practice**
  - Austin, TX; Hamilton, OH: Diversity and inclusiveness (DI) commissions

- **Prevailing practice**
  - Painesville, OH: Diversity of housing stock and service provision

- **Leading practice**
  - Brooklyn Park, MN: Strategic planning for a diverse community

- **Leading practice:**
  - New Haven, MI; Oak Park, IL: Community and diversity dinners
Small Groups: What Resonated with our Participants?

- **Prevailing practice**
  - Waukeksa, WI: Roadshows to discuss budget and service changes

- **Leading practice**
  - Austin, TX: Budget in a Box—mailing budget engagement activities to citizens

- **New idea from conversation:**
  - Ferndale, MI: Pocket-plan – little free-library street concept for advertising a graphic summary of the 2016 MLUP update

**Identifying the best tools for engagement**

**Involving citizens in solving community problems**

**Becoming better storytellers**

**Building consensus around community problems**

**Being socially equitable in community engagement**
Small Groups: What Resonated with our Participants?

- **Leading practice**
  - Novi, MI; Sugarland, TX, Piqua, OH: Citizen, fire, and police leadership academies

- **Leading practice**
  - Kansas City; Blue Springs, MO; Austin, TX: Open data platform – ordinance, policy, strategic plan for open data

- **Emerging practice**
  - Wyoming, OH: MeWeUs – citizen engagement forums

- **Emerging practice**
  - Austin, TX: The Neighborhood Partnering Program

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Michigan Case Studies: Engagement & Civic Trust

Sarah Craft
MML Civic Innovation Labs
Benton Harbor
HEART of Monroe
What does engagement & civic trust mean to you?
Introduce yourself, how does this topic resonate with you?

What challenges are you experiencing?

What successes are you having?

What lessons could you bring to your community?

How could you apply what you learned to an upcoming initiative?

How could we explore this topic further?
Workforce of the future

Joe Gacioch
City of Ferndale
Crowdfunding
Andrea Karpinski
City of Hamtramck
Performance Management

Jerry Walker
Village of Holly
Marketing your community

Ann Meisch
City of Muskegon
Citizen empowerment

Amanda Edmonds
City of Ypsilanti
Roundtable Discussions

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Next steps