

Co-cre@tive C@nbridge

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Goal of Report

“I believe change requires work by many people and that thousands of voices calling for change can make a huge impact in the world around us.”

- Councilor Leland Cheung

HOW CAN CAMBRIDGE:

Increase **civic engagement** and develop **collaborative partnership** with community stakeholders

The Capacity of Cambridge and Neighborhood Associations (NAs)

Meetings with
Councillor
Cheung

Meetings with
City
Departments

Evaluation of
existing tools
and processes
for collaboration

Interview with
NA's and CBO's

Opportunities

“Not every NA has the same relationship with the City.”

“The ‘digital divide’ is very real here in our neighborhood.”

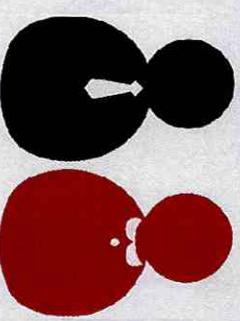
“City Committee meetings are just not convenient... I often work late.”

“I don’t see a lot of NAs working together.”

- NA’s already established and many are functioning well
- High level of individual interest in political activism
- Value of community assets
- Desire to collaborate coming from the City and NA’s
- Untapped potential of partnership between city and neighborhoods

What is Co-Creation

Tools, strategies, and partnerships
which enhance the two-way flow of
government information and the
participatory experience of its citizens



Neighborhood Associations (NAs) & Community-Based Organizations (CBOs)

Identify best practices of NA's for organization and activity

Establish framework for official recognition of NA's

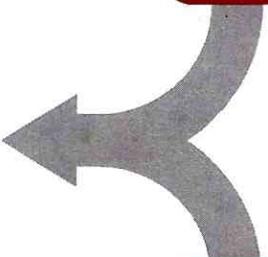
Develop Partnerships with City Council and Government Departments

Co-Create new tools and processes which enhance collaboration

Collaborative Partnership

City of Cambridge
and City Council

Neighborhood
Associations



Six Guidelines for Partnership

- Be clear on the goals.
- Internal leadership is critical.
- Utilize local talent and resources.
- Foster coordination and cooperation.
- Develop and document clear plans.
- Monitor and celebrate success.

Potential Ideas

- Opportunities for neighborhood-government partnerships
- Collaboration with local universities and businesses
- Government-To-You events
- An app that keeps YOUR needs in mind
- Neighborhood portal website
- Volunteer exchange
- Community data bulletin
- Constituent services webpage
- Collaborative workshops with community partners

Moving Forward

The Cambridge City Council has begun moving forward on a city-wide Open Data Ordinance to establish the foundations for City Departments to begin releasing helpful data to the public

FUTURE CONVERSATIONS:

What can Councillor Cheung and the rest of the City Council do to help Neighborhood Associations enhance their **organizational capacity and level of activism**

Co-cre@tive C@mbriidge

Collaboration Credible Resource
Volunteers City-Community Service
Communication **Neighborhood** Responsive
Cambridge Partnership
Innovation **Technology**
Advocacy Co-creation
Interaction Trust

Neighborhood Groups: Topics for Discussion

I. How the City of Cambridge can support recognized Cambridge neighborhood groups

- A. Allow each neighborhood group to have their own website hosted by the City
- B. City of Cambridge provides neighborhood groups with additional staff support
- C. Provide neighborhood groups with access to City meeting space
- D. Deem neighborhood groups be eligible to submit proposals should the City of Cambridge implement a participatory budgeting process
- E. If neighborhood groups do not submit their newly-elected officers by a given point each year, should they continue to be recognized?

II. Best practices in running a neighborhood group

- A. How should neighborhood groups best deal with conflict?
- B. How do neighborhood groups ensure that people stay involved?
- C. How do neighborhood groups recognize exceptional work of members?
- D. How should neighborhood groups run their meetings?
- E. What is the best way for neighborhood groups to communicate with members?
- F. What types of projects should neighborhood groups undertake?
- G. How can neighborhood groups ensure that they are representative of the entire neighborhood on any given issue?

III. Recognition as an official City neighborhood association A. How many members should a neighborhood group have?

- B. How regularly should neighborhood groups meet? Should there be a required number of meetings annually?
- C. How are officers selected? Should democratic elections be required?
- D. How does the membership make other members of the neighborhood aware that the neighborhood group meets? Should they be required to inform their neighbors? Should they be required to post their meetings on a public calendar?
- E. How many neighborhood groups can one neighborhood have?