



# Working with Non-Profits and Community Organizations

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# 5 Principles of Asset Based Community Development

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Citizen led

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Asset based

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Place based

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Relationship oriented

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Inclusion focused



# 7 FUNCTIONS OF A FLOURISHING COMMUNITY

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Enabling Health

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Assuring Security

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Stewarding Ecology

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Shaping Local Economies

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Contributing to local food production

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Raising children

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Co-creating care



# Healthy, Vibrant and Productive Cities Need ...

active community agencies,  
community groups and  
engaged citizens.

**The functions of flourishing communities can not be realized by any one institution alone.**



# Community Assets



It is about a basic shift in thinking, moving away from a deficit model (what is wrong with a community?) to an asset model (what does a community have?)

Individuals + their gifts  
Associations  
Institutions  
Physical Spaces  
Exchange between Assets  
Stories, the history + culture  
created together



An institutional radical asks “what is the community alternative to my service and how can I resource it?” They precipitate action that is lead BY communities. Most reformers lack the courage this requires, they ask “What can we do WITH communities to coproduce better services?”

- Cormac Russell



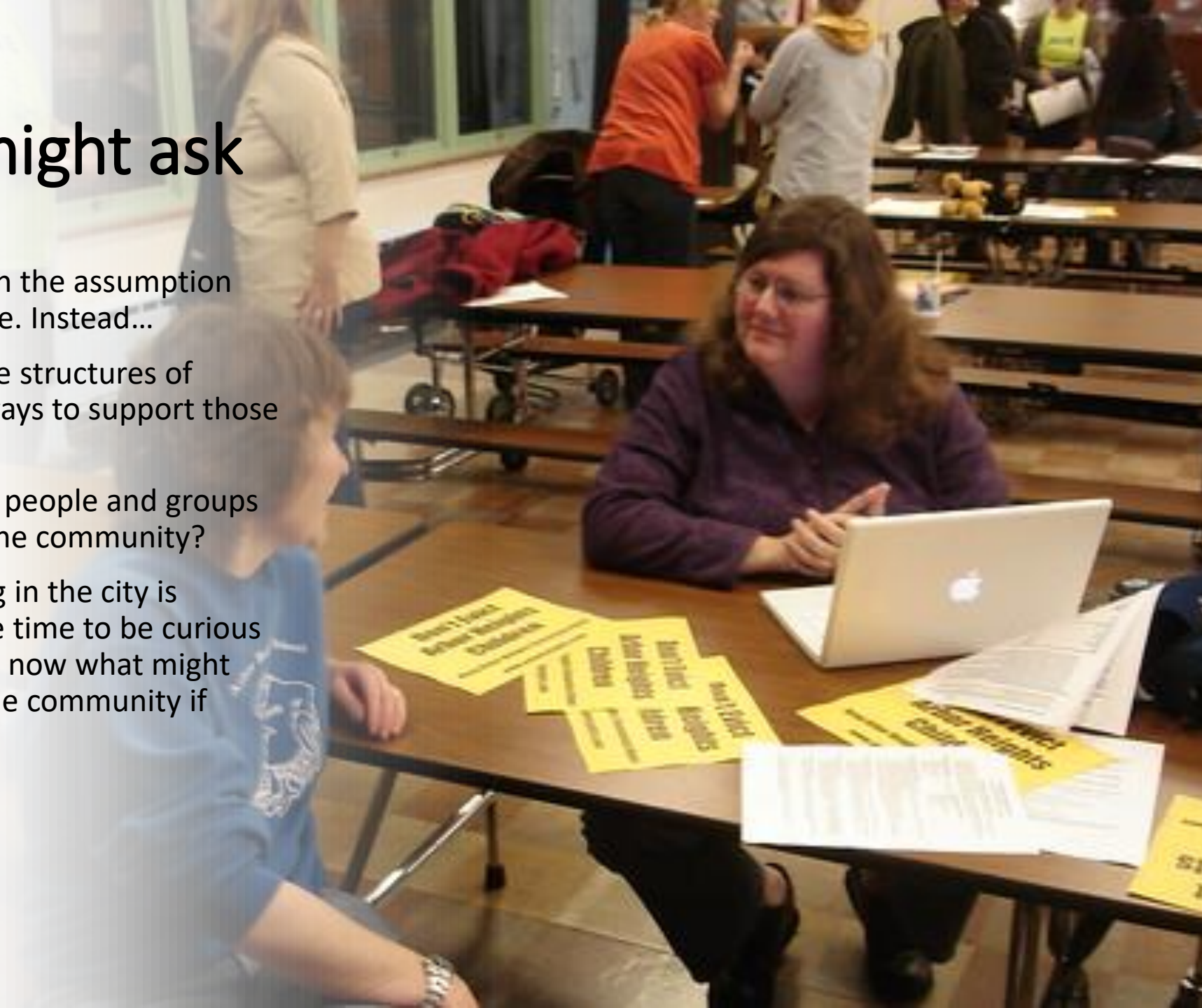
# Some Practical Suggestions

- Build a team within the city that has people from a variety of departments that are sympathetic to the importance of being precipitators for strong community.
- Get out into the community.
- Simplify gaining access to city services.
- Create environments and practices that ensure community members and groups feel comfortable and safe approaching city officials with their ideas.
- Look for community connectors.
- Promote collaboration between agencies, groups and citizens.
- Develop opportunities for micro grants and loans.
- Create opportunities for free space for community groups to meet.
- Stay strength-based and community focused.
- Get behind developing the capacity building of local nonprofits and citizen groups.
- Don't feel you need to be a fixer, come along side and partner or collaborate.
- Value neighbourhoods.

# Questions you might ask

Beware of approaching community with the assumption that they need to fit in the city structure. Instead...

- Ask how can we recognize the unique structures of agencies and associations and find ways to support those structures?
- Ask how City Officials can encourage people and groups to generate their own solutions for the community?
- The community life that is happening in the city is something to be celebrated. Take the time to be curious and ask what those groups are doing now what might they take on to further strengthen the community if asked?







# Examples

- Seattle
  - Department of Neighbourhoods (Structure)
  - Community Engagement Staff (connecting in community)
  - Matching Funds
  - Community Gardens
  - Story telling project
- Leeds
  - Community builders, (agency staff with trusted relationships)
  - Community connectors (citizens)
  - Small sparks fund (for community building led by citizens supported by community builders)

# Ontario Examples

- **City of Burlington**
  - Community Hubs (free space)
  - Love My Hood funds (for community gatherings)
  - Matching Grants (for community projects)
  - Connector Training (to empower local citizens)
- **Town of Halton Hills**
  - Non-profit capacity building workshops to support community groups and small non-profits (strength-based and community focused)
- **County of Brant**
  - PORCH (showing up and listening how to come alongside)
- **City of Brantford**
  - Tiny home project (showing up and coming alongside with expertise)
- **Halton Region Community Safety and Well-Being Plan/Homelessness Action Table**
  - Collaborative approach to planning and action (creating a space for dialogue and collaboration)



Community  
Development  
Halton  
Partnerships  
with Local  
Municipalities

As a local agency we receive financial support from Halton Region for social research, civic engagement and volunteerism. This allows us to support others!

CDH is working alongside our municipal partners from Oakville, Milton, Burlington and Halton Hills, to develop a Congress for sport, arts and culture and other grass roots groups.

An opportunity for mutual support, information sharing on collaboration, funding, governance structures etc...



# Thank you

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