

# Starting Your Journey to Community Performance Excellence

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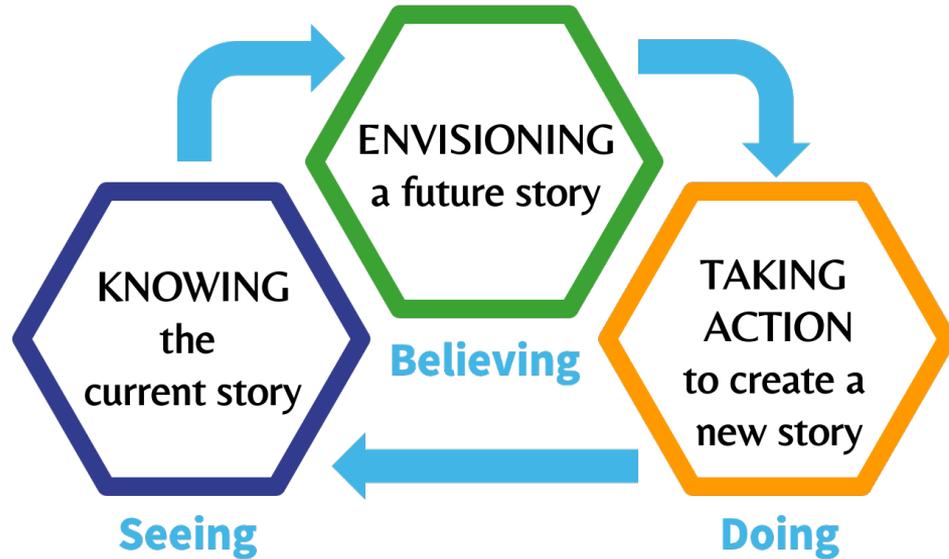
# Session Focus

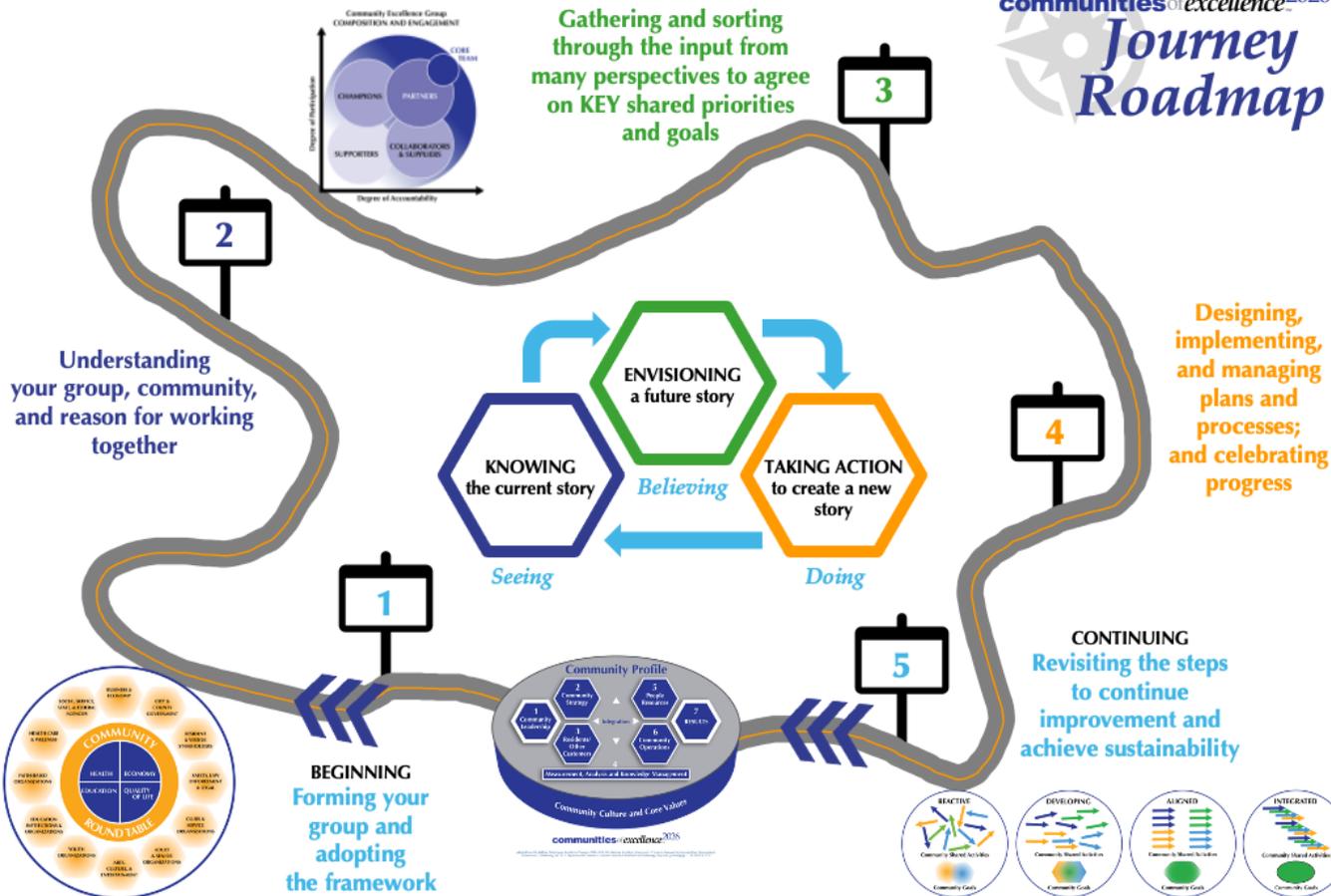
- Introductions
- What does performance excellence look like in communities?
- Who is involved?
- Why is thinking about leadership differently valuable?
- How to get started with engagement, structures, and decision-making on your Journey



# Engaging and supporting leaders through a journey

A SYSTEMS APPROACH IN COMMUNITIES





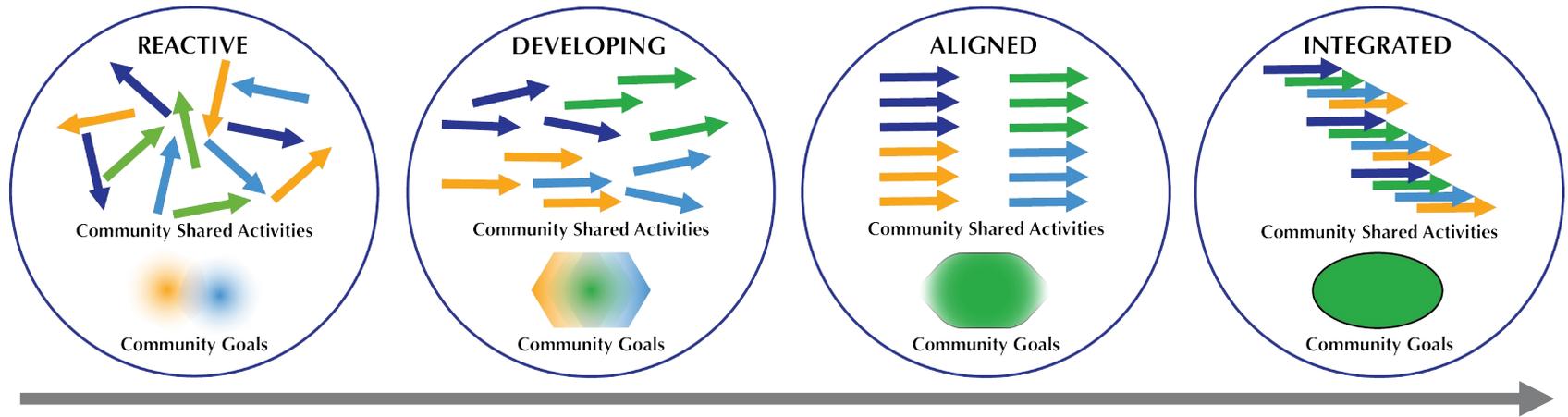
# Leadership Wisdom

“To begin with the end in mind means to start with a clear understanding of your destination. It means to know where you’re going so that you better understand where you are now and so that the steps you take are always in the right direction.”

—Stephen R. Covey,  
*The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People*

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# Growing Knowledge, Involvement, and Commitment to Purposeful Performance Excellence



The Communities of Excellence Framework | JUPER Communications, LLC. | Communities of Excellence 2026

## GLOSSARY DEFINITION:

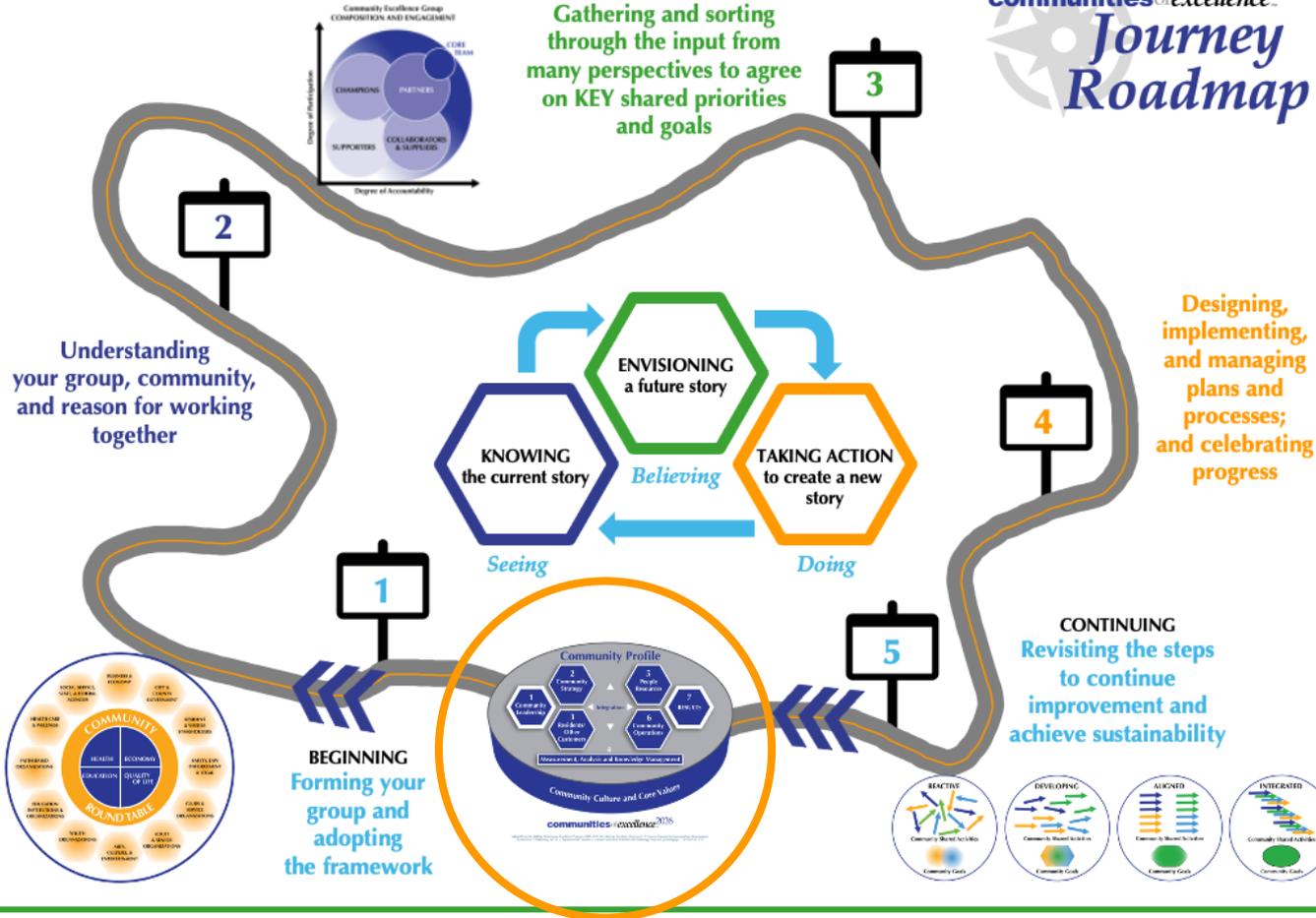


### alignment NOUN

- <sup>1</sup> : a state of consistency among plans, processes, information, resource decisions, capability and capacity, actions, results, and analyses that support key community-wide goals.

### integration NOUN

- <sup>1</sup> : the harmonization of plans, processes, information, resource decisions, capability and capacity, actions, results, and analyses to support key community excellence group goals.

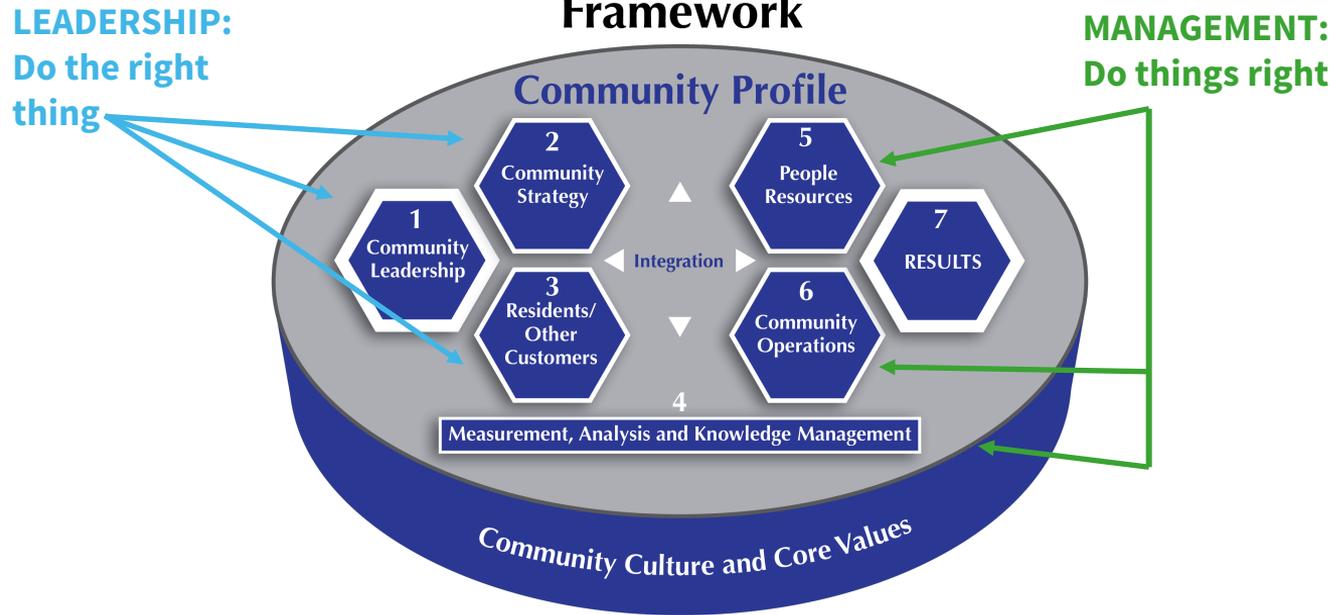


# A Proven Systems Approach

## Baldrige Adapted for Communities

**communities of excellence**<sup>2026</sup>

### Framework



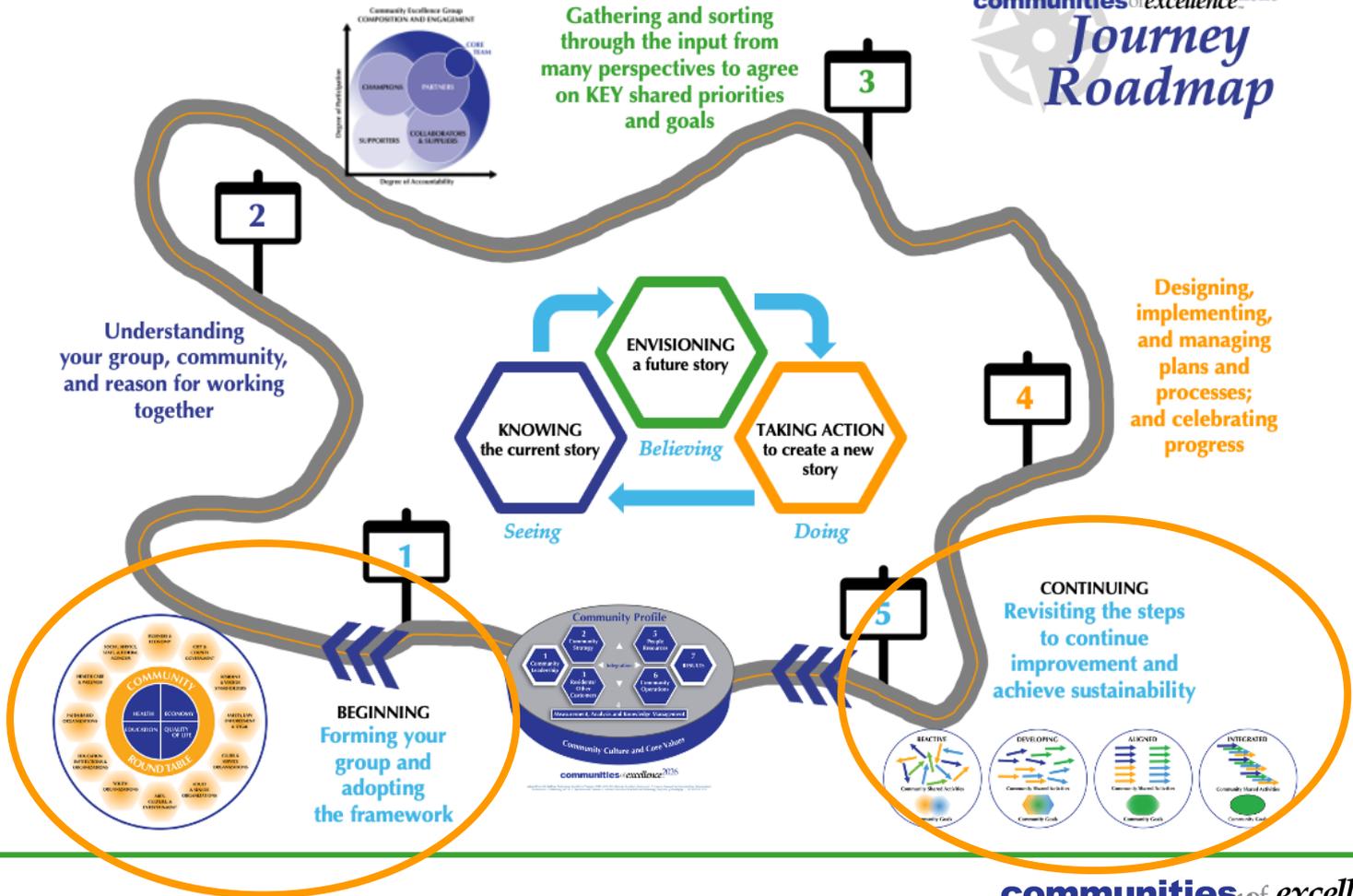
Adapted from the Baldrige Performance Excellence Program, 2015. 2015-2016 Baldrige Excellence Framework: A Systems Approach to Improving Your Organization's Performance. Gaithersburg, MD: U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology. <http://nist.gov/baldrige>. - UPDATED 6.2020

## GLOSSARY DEFINITION:

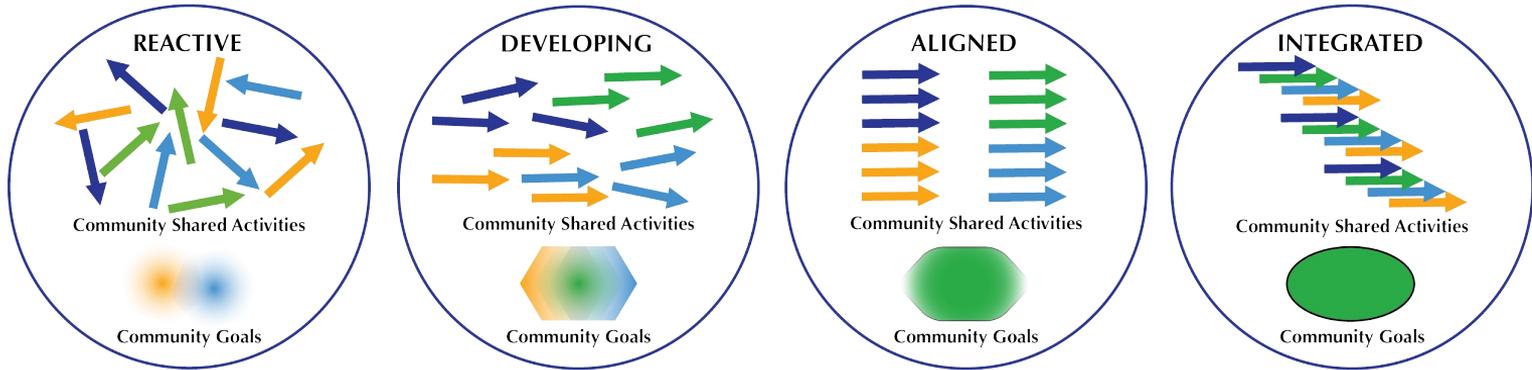
# community performance excellence NOUN

- 1** : an integrated approach to community performance management that results in (1) delivery of ever-improving value to residents, other customers, and stakeholders, contributing to ongoing community success; (2) improvement of your community's overall effectiveness and capabilities; and (3) learning for the community and for people resources.





# A Relationship Map of Progress



**WE SEE  
& UNDERSTAND  
OURSELVES  
& OUR  
COMMUNITY**

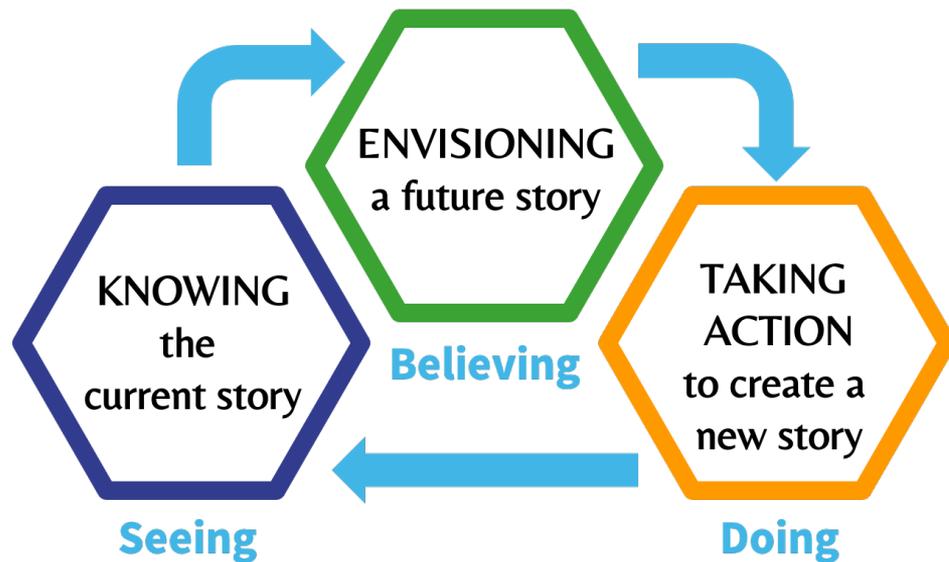
**WE SEE  
& UNDERSTAND  
EACH OTHER  
WITHIN OUR  
COMMUNITY**

**WE SEEK  
EACH OTHER OUT  
WITHIN OUR  
COMMUNITY**

**WE FIND  
SYNERGY  
TOGETHER FOR  
EACH OTHER & OUR  
COMMUNITY**

# Engaging and supporting leaders through a journey

A SYSTEMS APPROACH IN COMMUNITIES



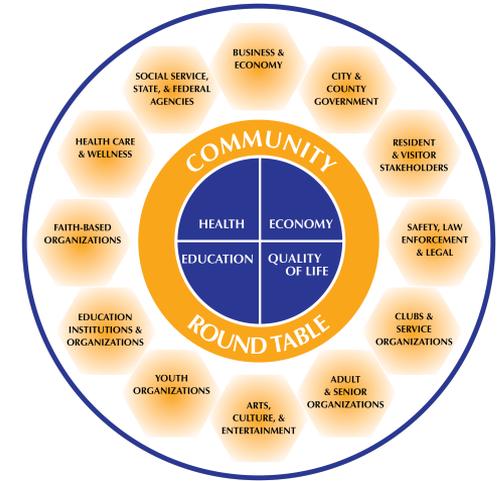
# Who is involved?



- Your community's people from many diverse perspectives
- Those who are invited/engaged

# Who should be engaged?

What does it mean to be inclusive of many diverse perspectives?



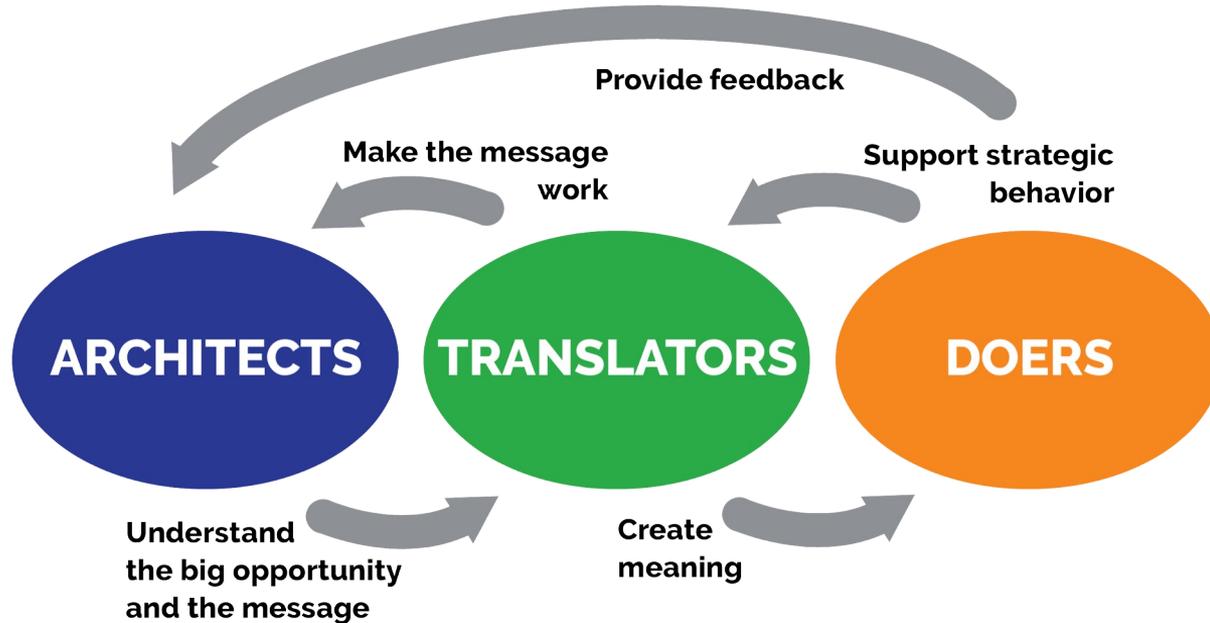
# Leadership Wisdom

“We get together on the basis of our similarities;  
we grow on the basis of our differences.”

— Virginia Satir, American author and psychotherapist

# Who should be engaged?

Think about the natural strengths and skills needed!



Adapted by Luminary Leadership from Korn Ferry's assessment, viaEdge | JUPER Communications, LLC. and Maximize NWMO | Communities of Excellence 2026

# Collective Genius

Peter Senge



It is only in creating a shared perspective informed by collective input that we can clearly see how they are all interacting and therefore see where the big opportunities lie.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OpiqnCAQ6S8>

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# Growing Through Differences

- Here's the truth, you might not see eye to eye (or even like) all of the players in your community/system, but **you do need them** for collective genius to take root.
- The diversity of perspectives, experience, preferred ways of thinking, and values is often **an untapped resource** if we know how to harness and align the perspectives.



# Leadership Wisdom

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed [empowered and organized] citizens can change the world; indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.”

— Margaret Mead, anthropologist, and [Christel Gollnick, JUPER Communications]

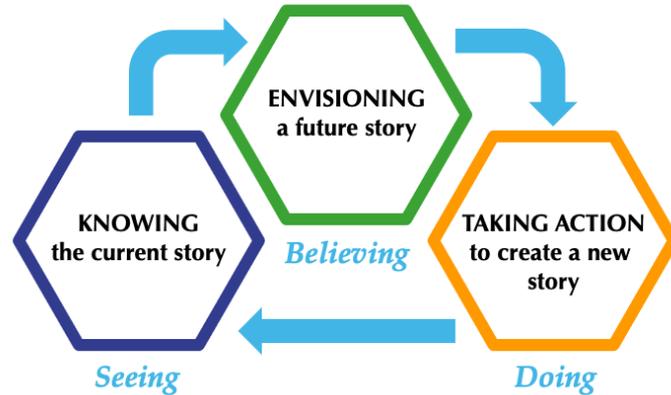
# How do we “empower and organize” people with so many different perspectives?



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# Community Engagement Map

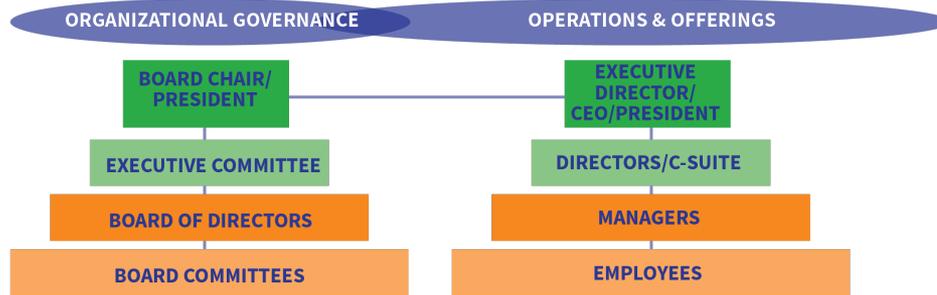
International Association of Public Participation (iap2)



# Comparison of Common Structures

Traditional Structure

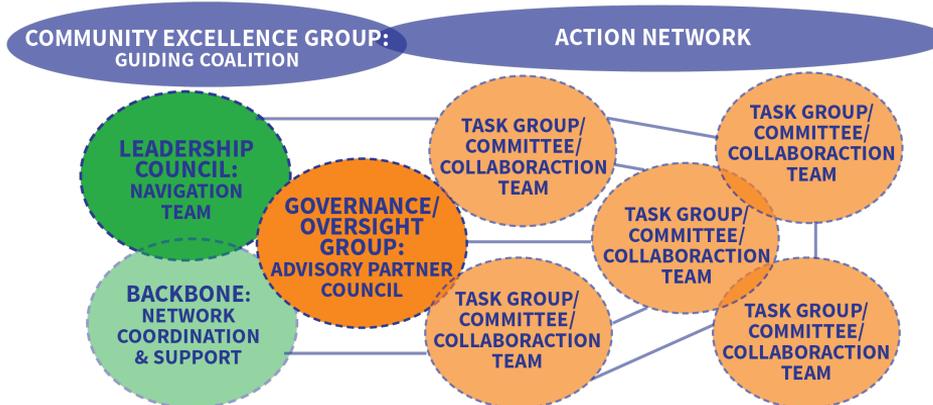
HIERARCHY  
LEADERSHIP



Which do you feel you are most familiar with in your life experience?

21<sup>st</sup> Century Structure

DISTRIBUTED  
LEADERSHIP



Which do you think lends itself best to community collaboration efforts?

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# Leadership Structures in Communities

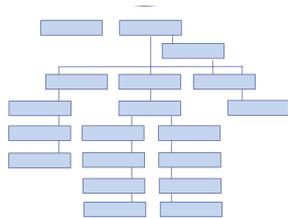
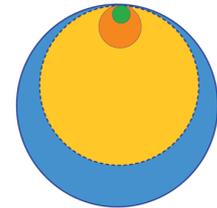
Complex and evolving

**Instead of traditional top-down & bottom-up ...**

## INDUSTRIAL ERA

- Hierarchies of command & control
- Grassroots of loose organization
- Leader-centric, linear, primarily focused on time-bound outcomes
- Few people involved in decision-making

HIERARCHY LEADERSHIP

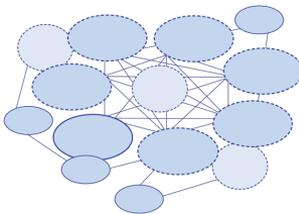
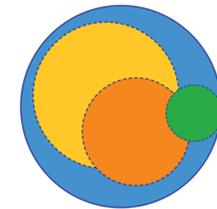


**... building networks across real & perceived boundaries.**

## KNOWLEDGE ERA

- Elevate the importance of existing
- Establish new deliberately & organically
- Focused on community/network shared purpose, vision, values, and priorities
- Many people involved in decision-making

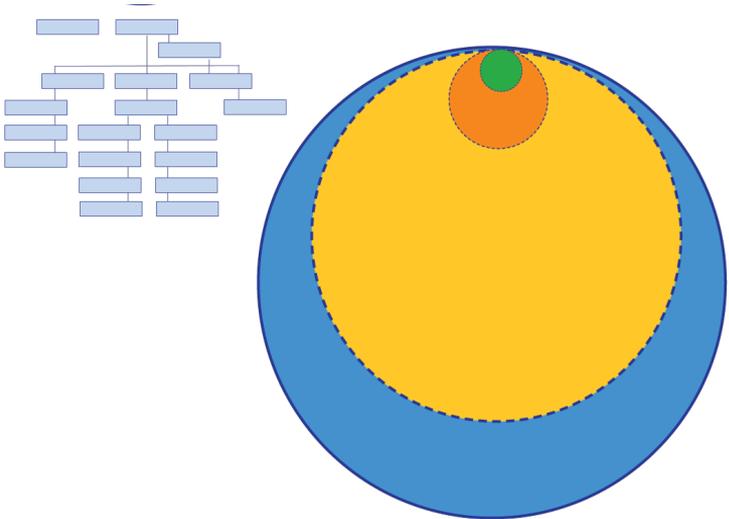
DISTRIBUTED LEADERSHIP



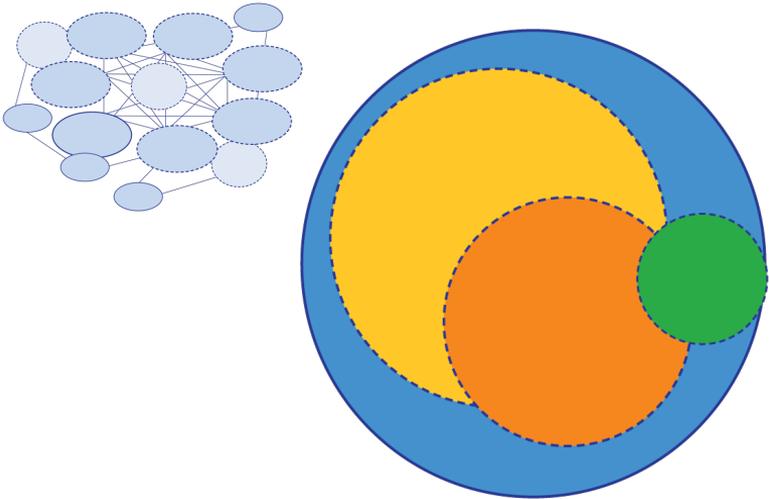
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# People Involved in Decision-Making

## HIERARCHY LEADERSHIP



## DISTRIBUTED LEADERSHIP



# Inclusive Decision-Making

Roles regardless of title or positional authority

## INFLUENCER ROLE

Influences when and why decisions need to be made.

May or may not share values with observers, participants, and makers.

## OBSERVER ROLE

Influences and is informed about when and why decisions are being made, but rarely informs decisions, and has little access to what information shapes decisions.

May or may not share values with participants and makers.

## PARTICIPANT ROLE

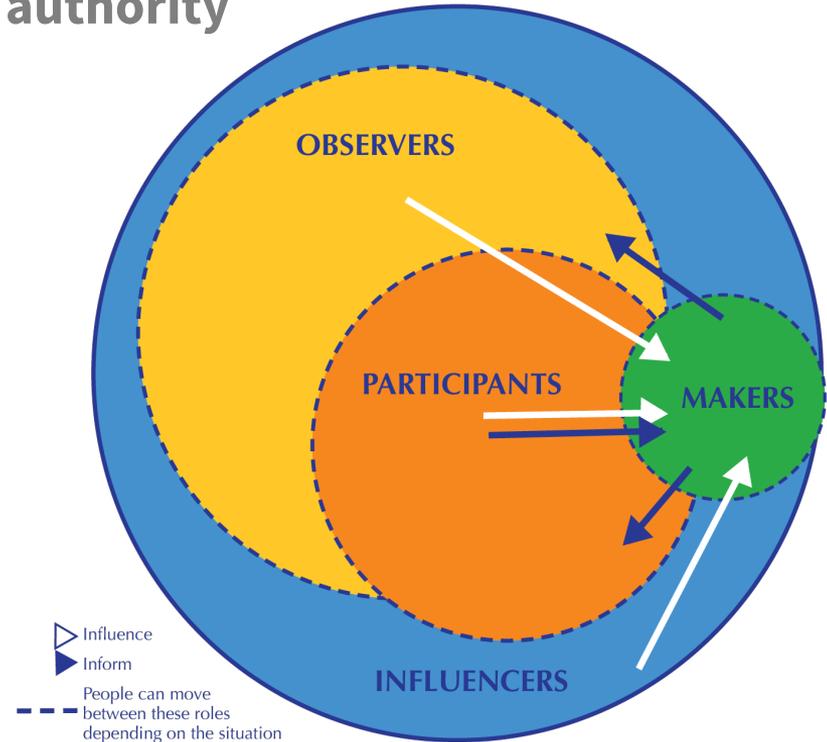
Informs and influences decisions with a genuine voice and stake in decision outcomes. Has access to varying levels of information and contributes qualitative experience to help makers.

Responsible for following shared values.

## MAKER ROLE

Make final decisions based on full access to all information - quantitative and qualitative - available.

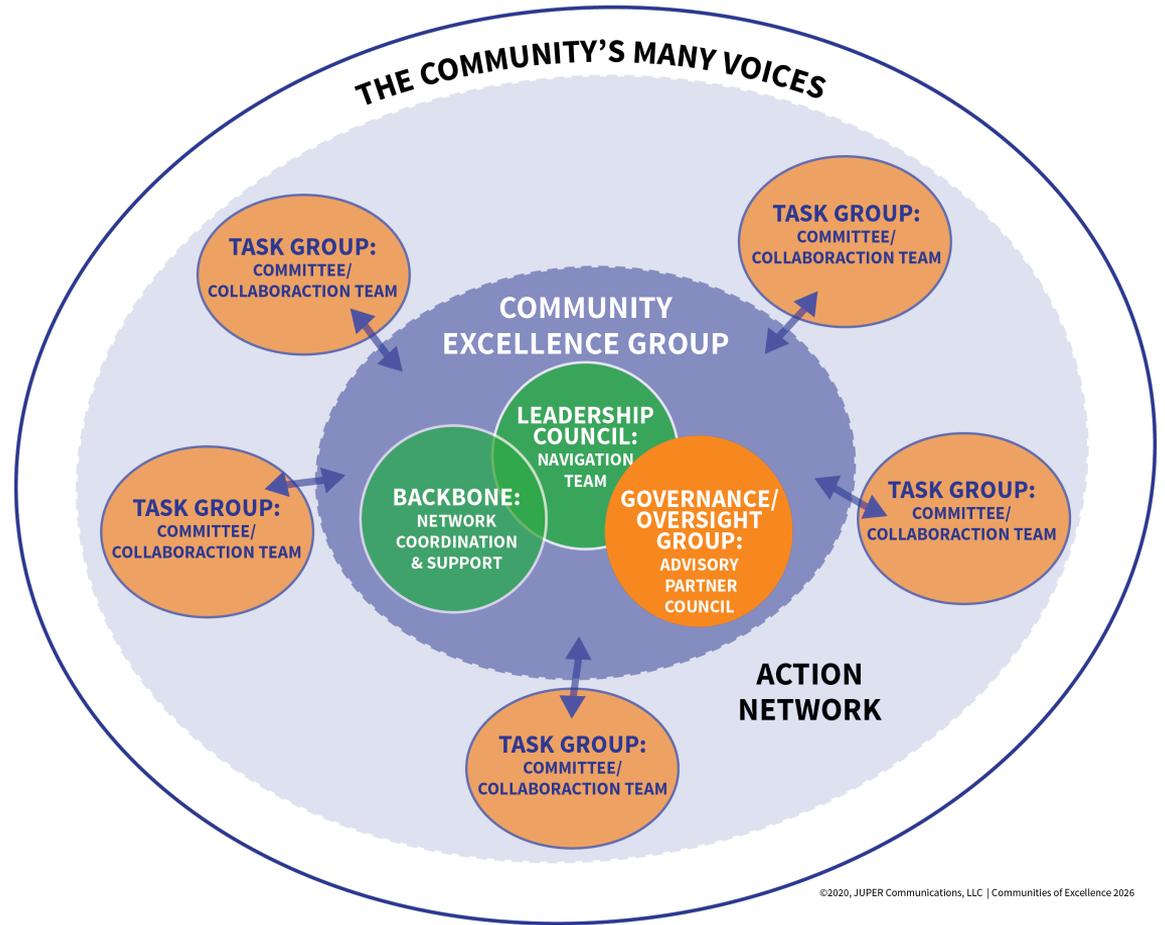
Responsible for following shared values, ramifications of decisions, and communicating decisions.



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# Distributed Leadership Model Matched with COE 2026

P.1b(2, 3)



# Distributed Roles and Responsibilities

BACKBONE	LEADERSHIP COUNCIL	GOVERNANCE/ OVERSIGHT GROUP:	TASK GROUP
<p><b>Backbone of support:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• External communications</li><li>• Public relations outreach</li><li>• Convening and facilitation</li><li>• Coaching and strategy</li><li>• Process design</li><li>• Notetaking and reporting</li><li>• Relationship-building throughout network</li><li>• Action Network oversight</li><li>• Technical assistance experts</li></ul>	<p><b>Backbone of advising:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Governance</li><li>• Resource Development of:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Partners/Network members</li><li>• Funds</li><li>• Opportunities for growth, alignment, integration, and vision achievement</li></ul></li><li>• Coaching and strategy</li><li>• Hiring key paid leaders</li><li>• Technical assistance experts</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Provide resources (time, talent, and treasure) in a win-win situation</li><li>• Share ideas and goals seeking synergy</li><li>• Empower circle of influence to participate in Action Network</li><li>• Vote on or approve Leadership Council members</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Project and key function teams</li><li>• Carry out the activities and strategic priorities agreed upon by Leadership, Backbone, Partners, and Action Network</li><li>• Provide feedback, ideas, and insight to Community Excellence Group</li></ul>

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Depending on legal needs: president, secretary, treasurer -and- directors/members

# Sample Roles and Responsibilities

## INTERNAL RELATIONS:

- **Meeting administrator**  
Scheduler/set-up, note taker, decision and action item tracker, calendar keeper, internal communications (central emailer)
- **Meeting facilitator (+ back-up facilitator)**
- **People coordination**  
Experience architect, member onboarding, caregiver, conflict management
- **Logistics coordination**  
Task coordinator, tech support, financial management

## EXTERNAL RELATIONS:

- **Spokesperson and public relations manager**
- **Online presence manager**  
Social media poster and moderator, website content creator and caretaker

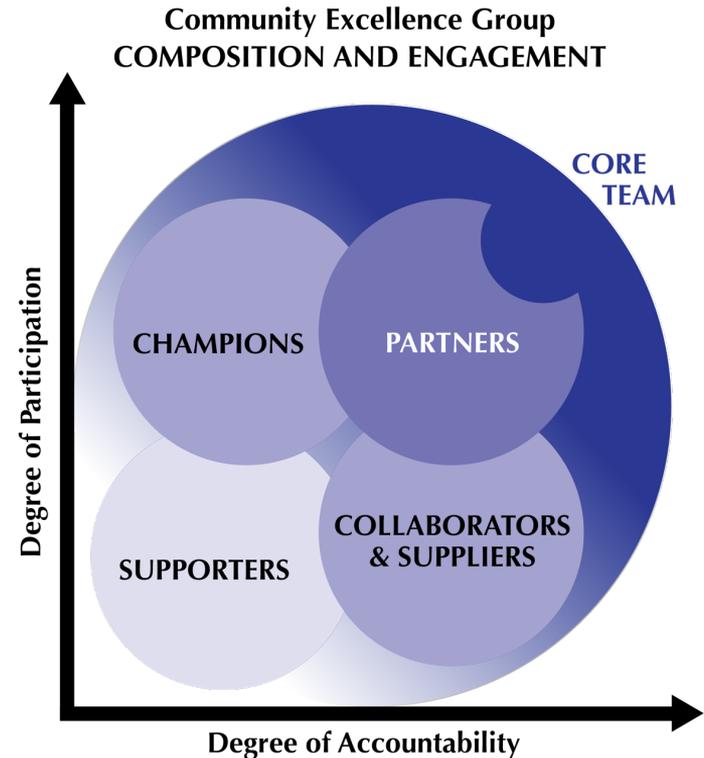
## STRATEGY AND PROCESS DESIGN:

- **Framework expert and scribe**  
Liaison with COE Coach, task initiator, progress tracker
- **Strategist and researcher**  
Comparative data analyst, conversation catalyst, big picture thinker, proposing critical path of alignment

## NETWORK WEAVING AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT:

- **Advocate and asker**  
Reaching out to others to inform and invite, storyteller
- **Resource developer**  
Finding funds (grants, sponsorships, etc.), friends, and other needed assets

# Composition and Engagement



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# Building Your Team of Teams

The most effective leaders surround themselves with the right people and then maximize their team's potential through excellent communication that inspires and informs!

# Strong Teams

- Are not destroyed by conflict
- Are focused on results
- Prioritize what's best for the group/ community
- Are equally committed to personal lives and work
- Embrace diversity
- Are magnets for talent

How strong is your team on a scale of 1-5 with 5 being strongest?

# Leadership Wisdom

“Coming together is a beginning,  
keeping together is progress.  
Working together is success.”

—Henry Ford

# Thank you!

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