

Advances in Education within the Community Wealth Building Field

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Who We Are

Promote innovations in community economic development that enhance democratic life

RESEARCH

Write reports on anchors, public enterprise, community wealth building, green economy, etc.

FIELD BUILDING

Participate in anchor institution task force, metrics development, webinars, education & training, our Community-Wealth.org web information portal, etc.

ADVISORY

Develop community wealth building strategies linked to “eds and meds” & local philanthropy:

- Cleveland, OH
- Atlanta, GA
- Washington, DC
- Pittsburgh, PA
- Amarillo, TX

Community Wealth Building Approaches

Community Organizing	Comprehensive	Anchor Partnerships	Technical Assistance
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative, Roxbury, MA (land trust) - People United for Sustainable Housing (PUSH) Buffalo, NY - Wellspring Collaborative, Springfield, MA (worker cooperative network) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Market Creek Plaza, San Diego, CA (community-owned center) -New Community Corporation, Newark, NJ (community development corporation) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Near West Side Initiative, Syracuse University, NY (housing, education, cultural revitalization) -St. Joseph's Health System, Sonoma, CA (community organizing, education) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Roberts Enterprise Development Fund, San Francisco, CA (social enterprise accelerator) -Ohio Employee Ownership Center, Kent, OH -Cooperation Texas, Austin, TX -Paraprofessional Healthcare Institute, Bronx NY (Cooperative Home Care Associates)

Defining Education for Community Wealth

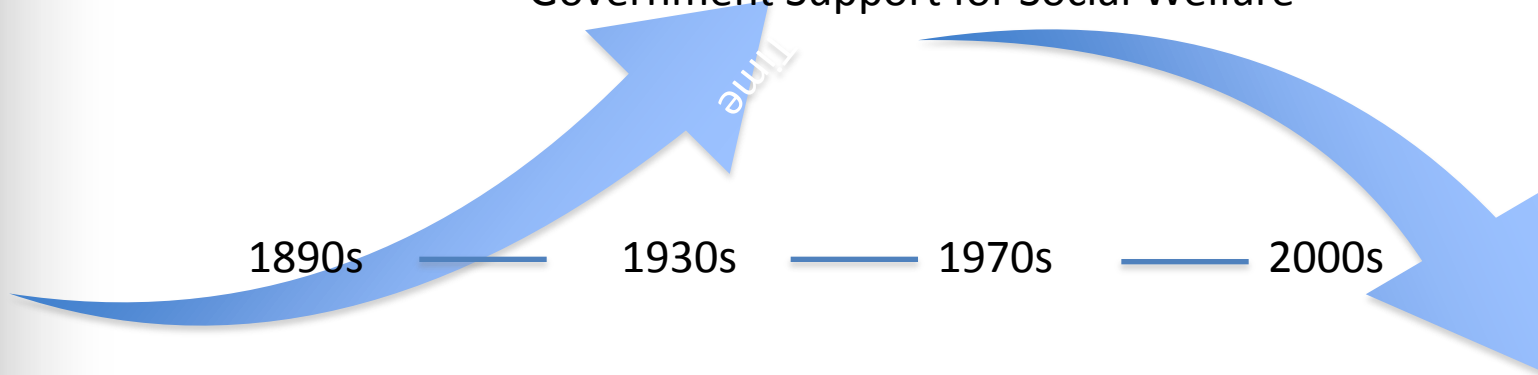
How can skills, commitment and knowledge be transferred and cultivated more effectively within low-income communities?

Challenges include:

- Inherent difficulties of small business development
- Lack of culturally appropriate pedagogies for business and management training in low-income communities
- Unclear and fluctuating philanthropic priorities
- Finding right balance of top-down and bottom-up approaches for a given community

Historical timeframe for Community Economic Development

Government Support for Social Welfare



- **Progressivism/New Deal:** Settlement Houses and Congress of Industrial Organizations (CIO)
- **Civil Rights Movement** (Septima Clark's citizenship schools, Black Panther survival program)
- **Emerging New Economy movement(?):** Southern Grassroots Economies Project, National People's Action, etc.

Paraprofessional Healthcare Institute (PHI) (Technical Assistance)

- Flagship project, the Cooperative Home Care Associates (CHCA), founded in 1985, is the largest worker cooperative in the country
- Low-income area, Bronx NY, with feminized and racialized poverty (black and Latina home care workers)
- Founded by nonprofit manager and education specialist who saw gaps in workforce development
- Within worker cooperative spectrum, operates as a more conventional business

Paraprofessional Healthcare Institute (PHI) (Technical Assistance)

Education and Capacity Building Takeaways:

- Highly professionalized arm of educators with decades of experience
- Emphasis on “PHI Coaching Approach” - (active listening, self-management, collaborative problem solving)
- Peer Mentor Program
- Opportunities to recreate and participate in governance

Dudley Street Neighbors, inc. (Community Organizing)

Membership organization founded in 1984 with 3,000 residents, businesses, non-profits and religious institutions in multi-ethnic Roxbury, MA; focused on:

- community economic development
- leadership development and collaboration
- youth opportunities and development

With partners created 300 new homes, Town Common, gardens, urban agriculture, parks and 300 rehabilitated housing units

Dudley Street Neighbors, Inc. (Community Organizing)

Education and Capacity Building Takeaways:

- Learning by doing is fostered through democratic governance
- Bottom-up doesn't mean starting from scratch
- Investment in youth development has unpredictable but huge returns
- Institutionalizes capacity building through in-house training institute

Market Creek Plaza (Comprehensive)

- Commercial and cultural center designed, built and (eventually?) owned by neighborhood residents in low-income Diamond Neighborhoods of San Diego
- Home of first grocery store in the area in 30 years, a bank, first sit-down restaurant, 500-seat open-air amphitheater, restored creek, public art.
- Built through participatory engagement model – 600 surveys in four languages, input of over 2,000 residents in planning and design; construction involved local hiring and capacity building

Market Creek Plaza (Comprehensive)

Education and Capacity Building Takeaways:

- Participatory commercial development brought concrete benefits (e.g. avoided displacement, sped up construction and zoning) and costs (initial survey process was expensive and long)
- Cultural emphasis pervaded the economic development and built greater community cohesion among fragmented ethnicities
- Participatory convening and conscious gender-parity tools had broader impacts on relationship with city government, education and small businesses

Near West Side Initiative (Anchor)

Community partnership involving Syracuse University, the Gifford Foundation, area residents, the Center of Excellence (a sustainability federation), and civic leaders in areas of:

- Real estate development
- Social enterprise
- Social service delivery
- Preventive health care
- Cultural vitality

Its initial \$14 million investment leveraged over \$100 million in state and other funding for housing, education, advocacy, health, and jobs.

Near West Side Initiative (Anchor)

Education and Capacity Building Takeaways:

- Board of NWSI incorporated conventionally excluded voices to guide process, including representatives from the public housing tenants association
- College students' engagement went from being ineffectual to invaluable through professors' mentoring and institutionalization of curricula around community needs
- Key staff positions filled by long-time community advocates
- Implicit aim is a Deweyite vision of "learning by doing"

Next Steps and Discussion Questions

Why does replication, even after the success of one effort, remain so challenging?

How can there be greater leadership representation from disadvantaged communities in community wealth building?

What is the “right” balance between top-down and bottom-up approaches to community development?

What actions does the field need to take to institutionalize continuous education and training in the movement?

Thank you!

For more information:
www.community-wealth.org

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