

Anchor Institution work group

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EastSide Unified Unido has an interest in connecting with institutions/organizations in the community that have large physical impact on their neighborhoods either through their buildings, their hiring and vendor practices, and community engagement opportunities.

We see many varied organizations as a part of this work – from hospitals to schools to art and science buildings.

- A traditional view is Anchor Institutions as economic engine drivers
- A unique view we are interested in is beyond looking toward education, engagement, and services.
- Hospital transformation is a bottom line incentive for hospitals to engage in this work.
- Arts and Science Institutions instead of cultural institutions
 - o non-formal learning, free-choice learning, informal learning venues
 - focuses more on the activity that occurs rather than the items that are in house
 - o Children’s Museum has also heard from community members that "institution" has a negative connotation - aka psychiatric institution
- What does it mean to adopt an anchor institution

What is an example of Anchor Institution Work?

- At Denver Public Health we consider many of the things we do as “ground softening” work that paves the way for greater change
- Christymarie and Breast Feeding Work
 - o Data on breast feeding
 - 78% women do not breastfeed for first 6 months, though the first 6 mos is the recommendation
 - Barriers include lack of environmental support – those who breast feed may experience privilege others do not (additional time off, space to breast feed)
 - More white women breast feed – additional equity issue related to wages, time off, issues
 - There is a greater shift toward creating space and time to breastfeed/pump
 - We are interested in adding a policy to event requirements that in addition to bathrooms, etc breastfeeding places are available
 - o Our focus – we have funding to promote breastfeeding across the area
 - Working in businesses, medical care centers, childcare centers and public spaces to promote space to breastfeed by providing technical assistance and resources
 - Toolkits for different audiences
 - An assessment for current status and using that to develop an action plan

- Supporting orgs to become breastfeeding friendly
- Can get “certified” as breastfeeding friendly
- Minigrants (reimbursement) to transform and repurpose spaces which is one of the biggest barriers
 - Maybe anchors could front the money for small organizations
- Chuck - in the netherlands, when a line is formed the actual government/city works shows up to provide services to those in the line the example is when a group grew in 1 spot to see a banksy work which was not formal and so the city/govt came to provide services organically
 - Yes exactly! Christymarie – interested in leaning more about barriers and figuring out how to get the city to provide portable toilets and breastfeeding spaces in a similar way.
- Christymarie – part of this work is figuring out what is missing and what barriers exist – forming an advisory group to find the barriers and then see how their work can provide what is needed.
 - Meeting on Monday
- This work can focus on guests and employees of an organization
- Sometimes it is as simple as adding signage to indicate that resources are available rather than creating something new
 - Children’s Museum is a group that is working on this
- Chuck – I see that breastfeeding spaces is a ground softening opportunity, but there are many other opportunities. How do we choose what is the right first step or where to focus?
 - do we need to work on the same ground softening issues, or simply discuss our different work that ultimately ties into the vision ? Or does this group focus on what the community wants and then how they can achieve it. Below considering through the lens of great eu

Overall – east5ide seeks to address creating positive change in 80205 through anchor institution policies etc.

- there is an interest in having an event that bridges the anchor institution group and movement makers group
 - interest in having an event that looks at data PLUS the actual stories
 - interest in a food tour across the neighborhood – progressive meal to places that also have catering menus to give and become a vendor
 - Christymarie and Paula plus ABCDers
 - There must be a stop at a place in each one of the 5 neighborhoods
 - Partner with Maria Rosa, Walk2Connect
- Readiness Assessment – find a new name for it
 - This is a part of the grant to ultimately determine what supports we needs to continue down this path.
 - Readiness for what is TBD
 - MSU has adopted an Anchor Mission with the coalition of metro and urban universities
 - <http://www.cumuonline.org/>
 - What ever answers come out of this work is a great starting place for work even

- We want to work on the language
 - Saying “working on anchor mission activities” vs “adopt an anchor mission” – very different. Talking about activities we are working on and building the case may work for some, others may start by adopting a mission and changing from there. For this group, starting at looking at activities may be where we want to focus
 - Don’t call it assessment
 - Menu, appetite?
- Some ideas
 - Ready to learn
 - Ready to adjust policies
 - Ready to research self
 - Ready to advocate for others
- We have TA from Jodi Drisko to construct this tool and use it
- Proposed 3 components
 - Individual interviews
 - Group interviews
 - A data collection tool
- The tool has pointed questions to certain departments
- Take an appropriate approach for each org – ie PSL go to CEO 1st, others other ways

Open invitation to Community Council Meetings – especially need 1 additional representative to attend with Kellie

- 2nd Wednesday of the Month from 5-7:30 pm at 3532 N Franklin Street
- Next meeting is March 13th