COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT RESOURCE LIST

FOUNDATIONAL BOOKS & ARTICLES

Block, P. (2001). *The Answer to how is yes: acting on what matters.* **San Francisco, CA: Berrett-Koehler.**
As in all his past writing this "guidebook for the community leader" provides a simple, practical language paired with profound, inspiring advice. Block begins with the notion that transformation comes more from pursuing profound questions than seeking practical answers.

Campbell, P., & Burnaby, B. (2001). *Participatory practices in adult education.* **Mahwah, N.J: L. Erlbaum.**
Chapter 6 (Power and program planning in a community based context), through the examination of a case study, presents the foundational argument that programs are currently so outcome based and built through undemocratic (and bureaucratic) processes that they are destined to fail making the learning irrelevant and disengaging.   The authors of chapter 6 present a framework of sorts that lists six common elements of participatory practice models.

Chapter 7 (Strategic planning in rural town meetings: issues related to citizen participation and democratic decision making) although a bit dated (drawing on research from 1989 and 1995) presents the still important notion that rural communities are extremely rich in social capital. Drawing on the authors own practical experience he offers tangible advice on important participatory practices including: bringing in prior knowledge, developing the action plan, and the power of one. This chapter, a perfect balance between theory and action, concludes with the important suggestion that the role of adult educators is to serve as the public catalyst toward increased and more dynamic democratic participation in working with communities.

Block, P. (2008). *Community: The structure of belonging.* **San Francisco, CA: Berrett-Koehler.**
Setting the stage as part activism, part philosophy the author – a community leader, activist, and philosopher – suggest this book is a call for anyone that cares about the well-being of their community. This book allows the reader to think broadly enough to learn about theories and methodology that have the power to make a difference in community, yet through the simple, straightforward writing of Block are accessible and inspiring. Full of insightful wisdom, relevant examples, and profound ideas this book reiterates two ways in which we could do the important work of creating, sustaining and restoring our communities: by the welcoming of strangers and through generosity (an offer with no expectations in return). Further to this Block offers numerous important insights into the key of transforming communities, describing five principles of strategy for community transformation (including the idea that in order to change the community we have to change the conversation from one of problems and barriers to one of gifts and opportunities) and three tasks for leaders (shifting the context, debating through powerful questions, listen rather than provide answers). Mid way through the author offers a short yet helpful summary of his main ideas, which include: a shift from problems to possibilities, questions rather than answers, from fear and fault to gifts and generosity, the small group is the unit of transformation, and hospitality is the welcoming of strangers. More than just insight and wisdom, true to his activist roots, Block offers the reader practical, tangible ways to make these ideas happen, offering practical advice on the ideas of invitation, space, ownership, dissent, commitment, possibility, qualities of great questions, and gifts.

This is a book I have read before and will read again and again as it offers new insights each time I read it and is a familiar, relevant, inspiring, yet accessible voice to the often complex world of community. I would suggest this book for anyone looking to make a difference in their community and want to be inspired through practical, simple, relevant advice and ideas for action.

Cavaye, J. (1999). Understanding Community Development.

Falk, I., & Kilpatrick, S. (2000). What is social capital? A study of interaction in a rural community. *Sociologia ruralis*, *40*(1), 87-110.

Field, J. (2003). *Social capital.* **New York, NY: Routledge.**

Gaventa, J. (2006). Finding the spaces for change: A power analysis. *IDS Bulletin, 37*(6), 23–33.
Gaventa begins this short foundational article by posing some essential critical questions around global/local divides, interrelationships, and the changing faces of power. The questions serve as a foundation to engage the reader in examining and analyzing power through the introduction of Gaventa's power analysis tool: the Power cube. Gaventa suggests that using the framework of the Power cube can help assess the possibilities of transformative action, help analysis the types of power present, and most importantly (in my opinion) look at strategies for analysis. The cube, presented as similar to the Rubrik's Cube, has squares that are 9 represented interrelated dimensions (and 3 categories) which include 3 levels of power (global, national, local), 3 spaces of power (closed, invited, claimed/created), and 3 forms of power (invisible, hidden, visible). Like the child's toy (the Rubrik's cube) all categories can be rotated and can be linked to another; specifically emphasizing the flexible, adaptable interrelationships of all. One of the most important insights Gaventa makes in relation to the power cube is suggesting that real transformative change happens when a social movement can work effectively and manage each of the dimensions/squares simultaneously.

Krishna, A. (2002). *Active social capital: Tracing the roots of development and democracy.* **New York, NY: Columbia University Press.**

Ledwith, M., & Springett, J. (2010). Participatory practice. In *Participatory practice: Community-based action for transformative change* **(pp. 13–34). Portland, OR: Policy Press.**
Ledwith and Springett's comprehensive, insightful, analytical, theoretical, and even practical book provides a plethora of ideas, theories, models, and concepts to explore in the field of participatory practice and transformative learning. Many of their theories are examining simple ideas, yet in relation to the complexity of participation.

Ledwith, M . (2005). *Community Development: a critical* **approach (2ⁿᵈ ed). Portland, OR: Policy Press**

McIntosh, P. (1988). *White privilege: Unpacking the invisible knapsack.* **Wellesley, MA: Wellesley College Center for Research on Women.**
This thought-provoking, emotional essay written as a first-person narrative account of the author's reflection on her own privilege is an essential read for anyone working with people in any environment.   This article provides more questions than answers and provokes the reader to challenge their own assumptions, privilege and power. As the author suggests, becoming aware of your own privilege (privilege because of race, gender, culture, etc) makes one newly accountable, or as I say, you can't un-know what you know. Once you are aware of your own privilege and power it's very hard to ignore this new found awareness.

Putnam, R. D. (2004). *Better together: Restoring the American community.* **New York, NY: Simon and Schuster.**

Putnam, R. D. (Ed.). (2002). *Democracies in flux: The evolution of social capital in contemporary society.* **New York, NY: Oxford University Press.**

Wheatley, M. J. (2009). *Turning to one another: Simple conversations to restore hope to the future.* **San Francisco, CA: Berrett-Koehler.**
This beautifully written, inspirational second edition begins with the bold, yet simple statement that we can change the world if we start listening to one another. The author, part poet, part scientist, offers pages and pages of motivational, inspirational, and tangible advice for the adult educator and community developer looking to be curious, to be fearless and wishing to have new conversations to create change.

WEBSITES

Action Learning - https://wial.org/action-learning/

Appreciative Inquiry – www.appreciativeinquiry.case.edu

Art of Hosting – www.artofhosting.org

Asset Based Community Development – www.coady.stfx.ca/work/abcd

http://vibrantcanada.ca/resource-library/asset-based-community-development

Tamarack Institute - http://tamarackcommunity.ca/
An Institute dedicated to the art and science of community engagement and collaborative leadership. An extensive resource and learning section for community engagement and development.

Index of Community Engagement Techniques – Tamarack Institute -
https://www.tamarackcommunity.ca/hubfs/.Resources/Index%20of%20Engagement%20Techniques.pdf?t=1503692914314

International Association of Public Participation - http://www.iap2.org/

Change Labs – https://changelabs.stanford.edu/

Abundant Community – Peter Block & John McKnight -
http://www.abundantcommunity.com/home/resources_tools.html
A resource rich website focusing on Peter Block's and John McKnight's community change work.

Vibrant Communities Canada - http://vibrantcanada.ca/

Community CED Network toolbox - https://ccednet-rcdec.ca/en/toolbox

Community Engagement – an overview -
https://cdn2.hubspot.net/hubfs/316071/Resources/Article/Tamarack_Articles_CE_An_Overview.pdf

Collective Impact Forum - https://www.collectiveimpactforum.org/