

PLANNING + SUSTAINING CULTURALLY HEALTHY COMMUNITIES...

Make all residents feel welcome, valued, and safe

Foster creativity, leadership, community ownership, and self-determination

Create, sustain, and celebrate community histories and legacies

Connect residents to each other and to information about their community

INSTRUCTIONS:
What helps to celebrate & sustain culturally healthy communities?

Write down places & practices that you want to bring back, preserve, and create.

EXAMPLES

BRING BACK

PRESERVE

CREATE

Places to Gather

parks, community centers, bodega storefronts, laundromats, churches, parks, beauty salons,



Programs

community theaters, after-school, gardens, libraries, museums, dance & art classes, story circles



Heritage

block parties, community markets, Afro-Cuban bembe, drum circles, cultural celebrations



Next Steps: PRIORITIES + STRATEGY

After hearing everyone's contributions to what helps celebrate & sustain culturally healthy communities, how do you think the group can prioritize + strategize around the places & practices listed? Write (or draw) your ideas here and share with the group.

PLANEANDO + SUSTENTANDO COMUNIDADES CULTURALMENTE SANAS...

Hacen que todos los residentes se sientan bienvenidos, valorados, y seguros

Fomentan la creatividad, el liderazgo, la propiedad comunitaria y la auto-determinación

Crean, sostienen y celebran historias y legados de la comunidad

Conectan a los residentes entre sí y a la información sobre su comunidad

INSTRUCCIONES:

¿Qué ayuda a celebrar y mantener comunidades culturalmente sanas?

Escriba lugares y prácticas que desee traer de vuelta, preservar y crear.

EJEMPLOS

DEVOLVER

PRESERVAR

CREAR

Lugares para Reunirse

parques, centros comunitarios, bodegas, lavanderías, iglesias, parques, salones de belleza



Programas

teatros comunitarios, actividades extraescolares, jardines, bibliotecas, museos, clases de danza y arte, círculos de historias



Herencia Cultural

fiestas en bloque, mercados comunitarios, bembé afrocubano, círculos de tambores, celebraciones culturales



Pasos Siguientes: PRIORIDADES + ESTRATEGIAS

Después de escuchar las contribuciones de todos sobre que ayuda a celebrar y sostener comunidades culturalmente sanas, ¿cómo crees que el grupo puede priorizar + elaborar estrategias alrededor de los lugares y las prácticas enumeradas?
Escriba (o dibuje) sus ideas aquí y compártalas con el grupo.

Cultural Blueprint for Healthy and Sustainable Communities

Workshop Outline + Facilitation Guide

INTRODUCTION

El Puento, Arts & Democracy, Hester Street, Naturally Occurring Cultural Districts NY (NOCD-NY), and other community organizations in NYC came together and asked, **what does a culturally healthy community need?** Together, they created a “blueprint” - a guide that communities and organizations can use to incorporate arts and culture into planning and rezoning processes. To develop this tool, they held workshops and kitchen table conversations in Bushwick and Gowanus, Brooklyn and had conversations with neighborhood leaders and organizations throughout the city.

GOALS

- Amplify the inclusion of arts and culture in current or future community planning processes
- Support more informed participation of community residents and artists in community planning processes

TIME REQUIRED

1 hour

Plan gatherings for 90 min. Encourage people to stay, talk, enjoy snacks after a 60 min program.

AUDIENCE + STAFF

- o Tool is intended for small groups of 5-15 neighborhood residents
- o Identify one facilitator or co-facilitators; one to guide participants through the Blueprint and another to take notes (especially for important moments that aren't recorded by the Blueprint itself).

MATERIALS

- Information on planning efforts, processes, events at play in your neighborhood and events and public meetings where you can make your voice heard.
- Planning + Sustaining Culturally Healthy Communities (worksheet)
- Planning + Sustaining Culturally Healthy Communities (poster)
- Neighborhood Experiences (poster)
- Neighborhood map (recommended, but not necessary)

CONTENT

*This is a thorough facilitation guide. After reviewing, facilitators can use the elements that are most important to them, given the context of their neighborhood, the audience, and the constraints of the workshop timeline. *Look out for Italicized text, which identifies tips for facilitators.**

1. Introduction (10 min)

- To begin, let's all share our names and one place you LOVE in your neighborhood (a place where you feel at home, a place that represents the culture of your community)
- Dot down what participants share and thank everyone for sharing.*
- Today we're going to talk about arts and culture, with a focus on how we can preserve the things we love about our neighborhood, and even create new community places.
- What is arts and culture? We're not just talking about theaters or galleries - we're talking about the things that build the soul of a community. It is increasingly important to talk about the value

of art and culture, and more importantly, to understand the types of places, practices, and activities we want to make sure we celebrate and keep alive.

- e. Your neighborhood is (or may be) going through major demographic changes. Development threatens to change the very character of the community. As change occurs, it is important that we establish a plan to protect and cultivate the institutions, places, activities, and practices that are unique/special to your community. It is also a good moment to document what things we don't have and need to push to have.

2. Connecting Arts + Culture to Local Planning Efforts (10 min)

- a. Planning efforts led by City agencies are often not thinking about art and culture in the way that you or I may think about it.
- b. This is why it is so important to organize our thoughts and recommendations in preparation to influence those processes.
- c. *(Make space to clarify planning and rezoning efforts in your neighborhood. Encourage a moment for questions and comments, then steer people to resources to get involved.)*

3. Cultural Healthy Communities (45-55 min)

- a. Defining Culturally Healthy Communities (10 min)
 - i. Let's talk about a "culturally healthy community." What do you all think that means?
 1. Let's break it down! "cultural health" – refers to a strong, inviting or accessible community. What does it mean to have a strong or inviting culture in a community?
 2. Who feels a sense of belonging in a culturally healthy community?
 3. Do you all think (name of neighborhood) is or could be a culturally healthy community?
- b. Framing Arts & Culture (5 min)
 - i. What components of arts and culture make culturally healthy communities? Think about traditions, celebrations, food, community institutions, beloved businesses, gathering places, and more.
 - ii. Arts and culture is what makes this community special – it often represents the things we value and how we express them (for example, social equity).
 - iii. There are several types of art and culture expressions. Some are accessible by all and some are not. What are some of examples of each?
- c. Show poster: "Planning + Sustaining Culturally Healthy Communities..." (3-5 min)
 - i. **Ask a different participant to read off each of four principles (in bubbles). Pause as we read each question to ask what this means to people. Jot down some of the definitions/key words participants share after each principle.*
 1. Principles:
 - a. Make all residents feel welcome, safe, and valued
 - b. Foster creativity, leadership, community ownership, and self-determination
 - c. Create, sustain and celebrate community histories and legacies

- d. Connect residents to each other and to their community
- d. Planning + Sustaining Culturally Healthy Communities worksheet (7-10 min)
 - i. *Hand out the worksheet and ask everyone to take a few minutes to reflect and fill in cultural places in their neighborhood that come to mind for them*
 - ii. Think about places they want to bring back (revive), preserve (protect or improve), or create.
Think about a diversity of places - gardens, libraries, churches, community centers, schools, parks, museums, block parties, corner domino games, theaters, galleries, events, affordable neighborhoods, etc.
 - iii. It is helpful if you can list the specific names of places, but general categories of places are ok too.
 - iv. *While participants fill out their handouts; keep yourself available to answer questions.*
- e. Sharing back (15-20 minutes)
 - i. *Ask everyone to share and discuss some of their ideas and fill them in on a poster-sized version of the handout.*

4. Other ways to amplify the inclusion of Arts & Culture in the future (or current) planning efforts of your neighborhood (10 min)

- a. *Invite participants to identify and share strategies to amplify priorities on the back of their worksheet*
- b. *(Handout sheets with info on the planning efforts/processes at play and existing coalitions in your neighborhood.)*
- c. *Emphasize that upcoming public meetings may be a great place to make your voice heard!*
 - i. Beyond planning and rezoning processes, we can think about this as an inventory and aspiration tool; where we can document and celebrate what the neighborhood has (and should value and keep!) and what is missing (and needed) to have “cultural health.”

5. Closing (5 min)

- a. *Thank everyone for their contributions.*
- b. As we close, let us know if you thought this activity was (helpful, relevant, useless) and why you think so. In a changing (name of neighborhood), why is this conversation so important and relevant to have?
- c. *Ask participants if they are interested in having a follow-up strategy conversation about who/what (organizations, residents, churches, etc.) can take the lead to influence (current or future) planning processes in your neighborhood.*
- d. *Encourage participants to visit culturalblueprint.org for more information on planning and sustaining culturally healthy communities*