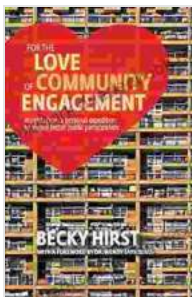


Insights From Personal Expedition To Inspire Better Public Participation

Public participation is essential for successful community development. However, getting people involved in the planning and implementation process can be a challenge. In this article, I share insights from my personal expedition to inspire better public participation. I discuss the importance of building relationships, creating a sense of ownership, and using creative and engaging approaches to outreach and engagement. I also provide specific examples of how these strategies have been used to successfully increase public participation in community development projects.



For the Love of Community Engagement: Insights from a personal expedition to inspire better public participation by Becky Hirst

★★★★☆ 4.7 out of 5

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File size : 12775 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 327 pages



Building Relationships

The first step to inspiring better public participation is to build relationships with the people in the community. This means getting to know them,

understanding their needs and concerns, and building trust. One of the best ways to do this is to be present in the community and to be visible and accessible to residents. Attend community events, volunteer your time, and make an effort to get to know people on a personal level.

For example, in the city of Detroit, the Eastside Community Network has been working to increase public participation in community development projects. One of the ways they have done this is by building relationships with residents through a variety of programs and initiatives. These programs include a community garden, a youth leadership program, and a neighborhood watch program. By getting to know the residents and building trust, the Eastside Community Network has been able to successfully engage them in the planning and implementation of community development projects.

Creating a Sense of Ownership

Once you have built relationships with the people in the community, the next step is to create a sense of ownership. This means making sure that residents feel like they are part of the decision-making process and that their voices are being heard. One of the best ways to do this is to involve residents in the planning and implementation of community development projects from the very beginning.

For example, in the city of Seattle, the Delridge Neighborhoods Development Association (DNDA) has been working to increase public participation in the planning and implementation of a new light rail line. One of the ways they have done this is by creating a Community Advisory Committee (CAC) made up of residents, businesses, and community organizations. The CAC provides input on the design of the light rail line

and helps to ensure that the project meets the needs of the community. By involving residents in the planning process, the DNDA has been able to create a sense of ownership and increase public participation in the project.

Using Creative and Engaging Approaches to Outreach and Engagement

In addition to building relationships and creating a sense of ownership, it is also important to use creative and engaging approaches to outreach and engagement. This means using a variety of methods to reach out to residents and get them involved in the planning and implementation process. Some creative and engaging approaches to outreach and engagement include:

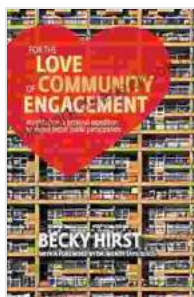
- * Using social media to connect with residents and share information about community development projects.
- * Hosting community events and workshops to get residents involved in the planning process.
- * Creating interactive online tools that allow residents to provide input on community development projects.
- * Using public art to engage residents in the planning and implementation process.

For example, in the city of San Francisco, the San Francisco Planning Department has been using a variety of creative and engaging approaches to outreach and engagement to increase public participation in the planning and implementation of the city's General Plan. One of the ways they have done this is by creating a series of interactive online tools that allow residents to provide input on the General Plan. These tools include a map-based tool that allows residents to identify areas of concern and a survey tool that allows residents to provide feedback on the General Plan's goals and policies. By using creative and engaging approaches to outreach and

engagement, the San Francisco Planning Department has been able to increase public participation in the planning and implementation of the General Plan.

Public participation is essential for successful community development. However, getting people involved in the planning and implementation process can be a challenge. In this article, I have shared insights from my personal expedition to inspire better public participation. I have discussed the importance of building relationships, creating a sense of ownership, and using creative and engaging approaches to outreach and engagement. I have also provided specific examples of how these strategies have been used to successfully increase public participation in community development projects.

By following these strategies, you can help to inspire better public participation in your community development projects. When residents are involved in the planning and implementation process, they are more likely to feel invested in the project and to support its success.



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