

CML

EFFECTIVE GOVERNANCE

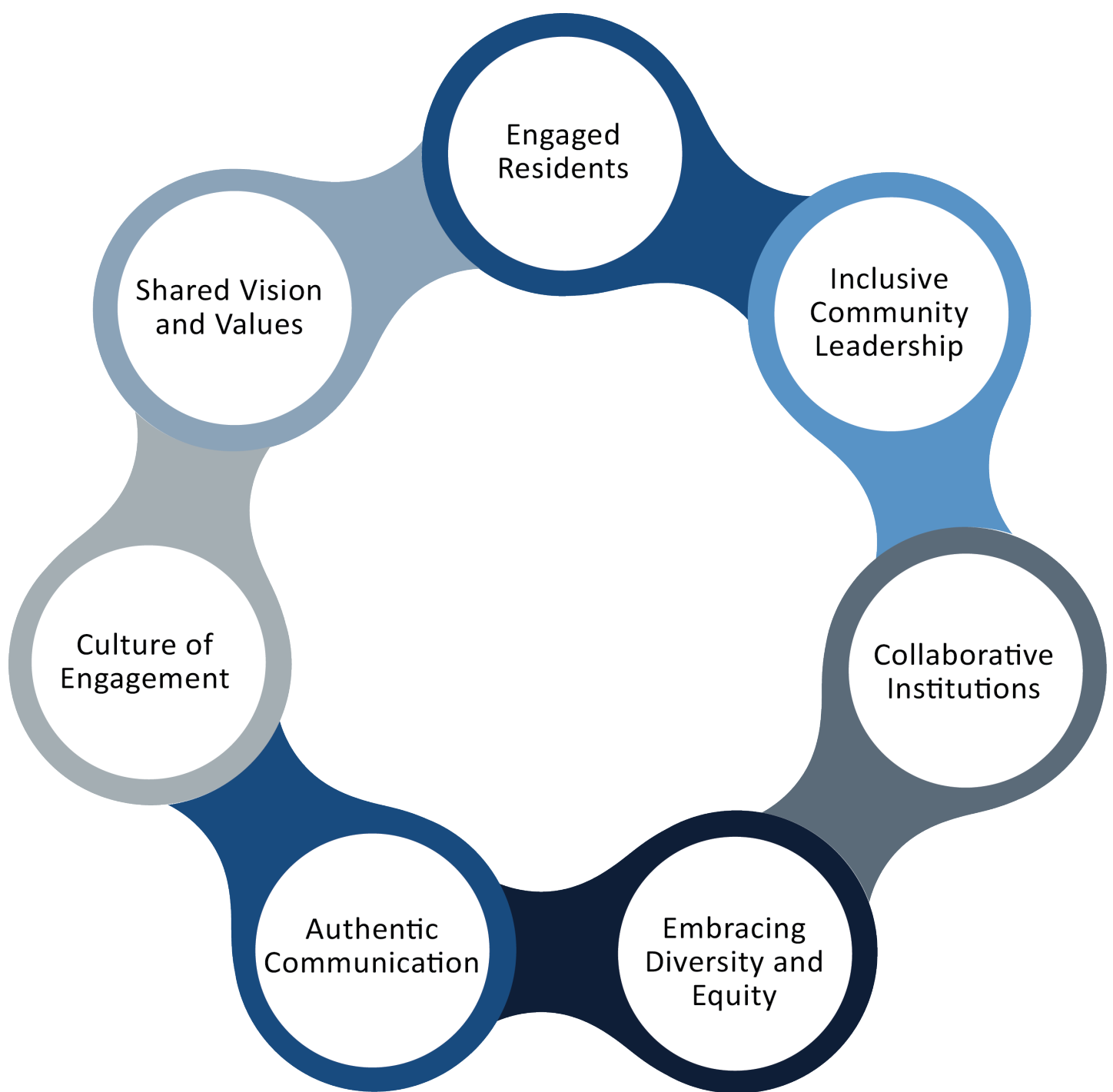
Public Engagement:
Building Civic Capital to
Enhance Problem-Solving





7

Components of Civic Capital

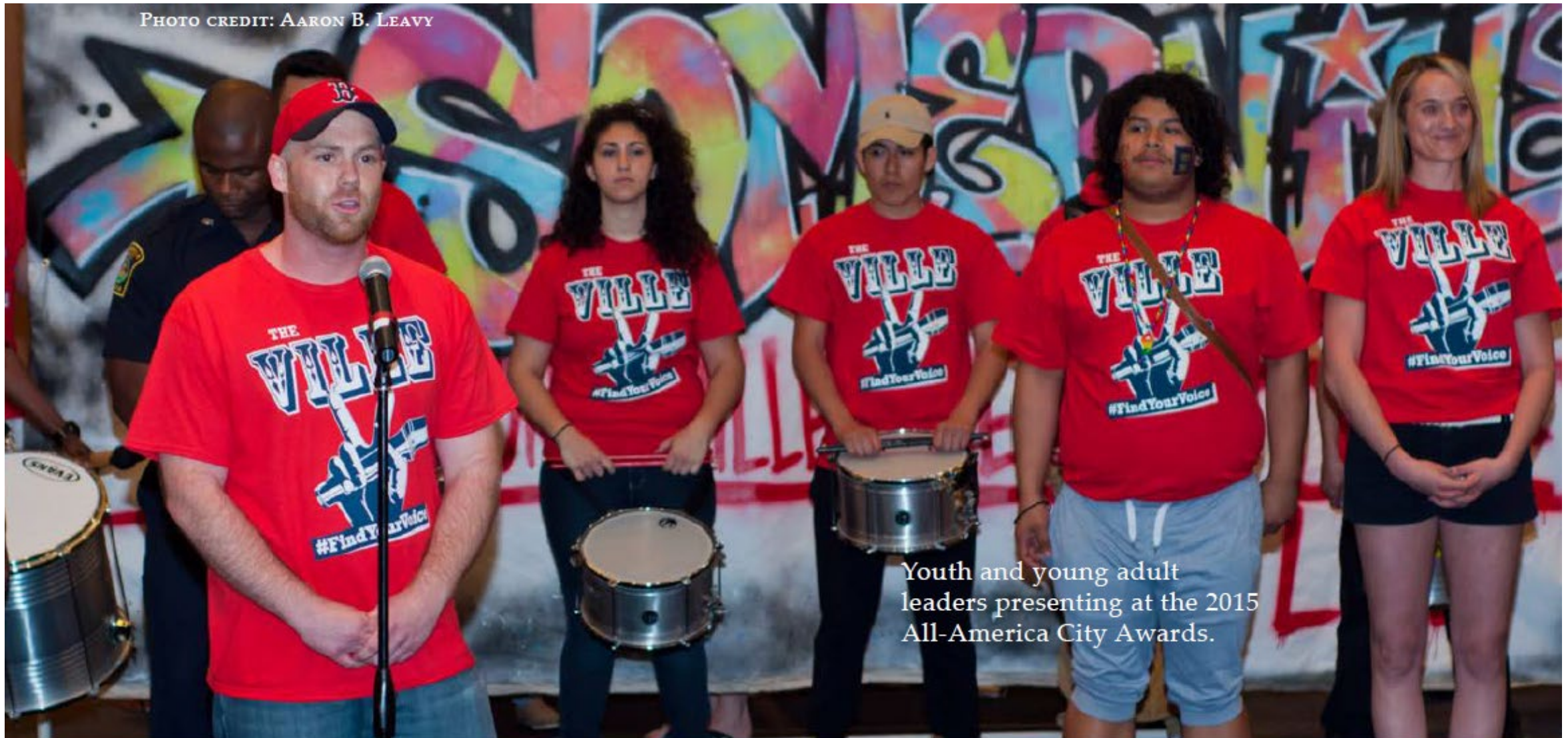




Residents come together to tend a community garden


Engaged Residents

PHOTO CREDIT: AARON B. LEAVY



Youth and young adult
leaders presenting at the 2015
All-America City Awards.


Inclusive Community Leadership



Yakima's 2015 All-America City presentation focused on cross-sector collaboration and partnerships.

PHOTO CREDIT: AARON B. LEAVY

Collaborative Institutions

A photograph of an elderly Black man with white hair and glasses, wearing a light-colored suit jacket and a colorful patterned bow tie. He is seated at a table, looking towards a woman whose back is to the camera. The woman is wearing a bright pink hijab and a grey long-sleeved shirt. They appear to be engaged in a conversation. In the background, there are blurred figures of other people and what looks like an outdoor setting with greenery. A white disposable cup is visible on the table to the right.

Community conversation
in Decatur, Georgia as
part of the community's
Better Together Initiative

Embracing Diversity, Equity



Authentic Communication

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PHOTO CREDIT: AARON B. LEAVY

Gladstone,
Missouri residents
discuss their
community's future

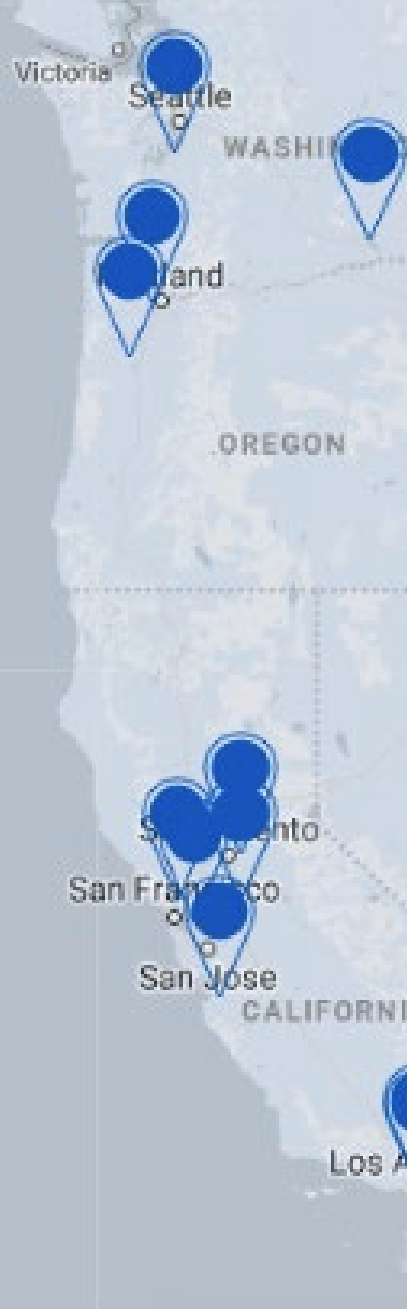
Culture of Engagement

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San Antonio's 2018 All-America City presentation told the story of progress generated by SA2020.

Shared Vision and Values



Promising Practices Database

Issue Areas

- ❖ Community-police relations
- ❖ Community vision and values
- ❖ Economic development
- ❖ Education and youth
- ❖ Fiscal sustainability
- ❖ Health equity
- ❖ Housing
- ❖ Immigrant integration
- ❖ Natural disaster/resiliency
- ❖ Neighborhood improvement
- ❖ Racial equity and healing
- ❖ Social services
- ❖ Sustainability and conservation
- ❖ Workforce development/Adult education

Engagement Approaches

- ❖ Commissions/taskforces
- ❖ Community conversations/dialogues
- ❖ Community meetings (townhalls, forums, etc)
- ❖ Digital engagement
- ❖ Door-to-door
- ❖ Embedding a culture of engagement
- ❖ Engagement through art
- ❖ Engaging non-English speakers
- ❖ Engaging traditionally marginalized groups
- ❖ Leadership programs
- ❖ Neighborhood events/ activities
- ❖ Participatory budgeting
- ❖ Partnering with residents
- ❖ Racial healing
- ❖ Surveys and data
- ❖ Trust building
- ❖ Visioning/ strategic planning
- ❖ Youth Engagement

Nearly 100 successful models of civic engagement, sorted by state, engagement approach and issue area



DEMOCRACY INNOVATIONS FOR

BETTER PUBLIC MEETINGS

The sponsors:



By “official public meeting,” we mean meetings that are open to the public, where elected or appointed officials are present, and where policy decisions are being made.

THE PROBLEM



Residents get three minutes
to speak to their officials



These meetings reduce public
trust in government and make
it harder to make decisions



They reduce public trust in
government and make it
harder to make decisions



They increase inequities:
People most affected by
decisions aren't there

LESSON

Many people at public meetings are "performing" for one another, not expecting to be heard by officials

Open meeting laws allow more innovation than people realize

Can't just change format: need to engage more people and a wider variety of people

Most people want change; a small, vocal minority does not

Public Meetings help to understand:
What are the civic opportunities available?

SOLUTIONS

01 Introduce more small-group deliberation

02 Engage people digitally before, during, and after meetings
(using strategies like texting-enabled deliberation)

03 Give young people leadership roles
(through processes like Hacktivate Mesa)

04 Go to where the people are

05 Consider other processes and tools:

- Survey panels
- Citizens' assemblies
- Participatory budgeting
- Participatory theater

What does it take for people to feel/be heard?

- When they are face-to-face in a small-group setting with peers
- When people can see their input displayed
- When diverse groups are present and reflect the community
- When people can participate digitally if they're not in-person
- When it's not just a one-way conversation
- When there is some sort of response from officials/institutions



Questions?

Doug Linkhart

President of the National Civic League

Office — +1 (303) 571-4343

Website — www.NationalCivicLeague.org

Email — DougL@ncl.org

