

The 6 Principles for Civic Engagement Inclusive and Equitable

Civic engagement refers to the ways in which individuals participate in the life of their communities and the broader society, with the aim of addressing issues of public concern and contributing to the common good

1. Embracing Diversity

Main Idea: Everyone in a community has unique skills and talents that help create an inclusive environment.

- **Key Points:** a set of shared values or resources that allows individuals to work together in a group
 - **Social Capital:** This is about the relationships and networks that help people work together. When diverse individuals connect, they strengthen the community.
 - **Bridging Social Capital:** This refers to connections between different community members, making resources and opportunities more accessible.
- **Characteristics:**
 - Focus on what each person brings to the table.
 - Leadership roles should be shared among different individuals.
 - Diverse interactions build social capital and encourage community engagement.

2. Understanding Race, Power, and Injustice

Main Idea: It's important to address issues like racism and classism to create a fair environment for civic engagement.

- **Key Points:**
 - Ignoring these injustices can push away affected individuals and limit community insights.
 - Power dynamics shaped by race and class create inequalities that need to be challenged.
- **Characteristics:**
 - Recognizing power imbalances is crucial for change.
 - Confronting these power structures can be tough, especially with pushback from privileged groups.
 - Validating marginalized voices is essential for true inclusion.

3. Radical Hospitality

Main Idea: True inclusion means inviting and listening to marginalized voices, like youth and immigrants.

- **Key Points:**
 - **Radical Hospitality:** More than just inviting people, it's about listening to their concerns and aligning discussions with community values.

- Building a sense of belonging is key to fostering trust in institutions.
- **Characteristics:**
 - Aim to include everyone, especially vulnerable groups.
 - Engagements should respect and address specific concerns.
 - Create spaces where people feel heard and valued, so they participate as well

4. Building Trust and Commitment

Main Idea: Trust is essential for civic engagement, especially in communities with a history of distrust toward institutions.

- **Key Points:**
 - Mistrust often comes from broken promises or mistreatment, leading to disengagement.
 - Key strategies for building trust include shared leadership and accountability.
- **Characteristics:**
 - Successful programs lead to ongoing community engagement.
 - Trust grows when everyone, especially the less privileged, has a meaningful role.
 - Mutual accountability ensures that agreements are upheld over time.

5. Valuing Dissent and Protest

Main Idea: Civic engagement should allow for differences in opinion and respect protests as part of community dialogue.

- **Key Points:**
 - Disagreements can bring valuable ideas and perspectives to light.
 - Avoiding controversial topics can worsen community issues.
 - Recognizing legitimate forms of dissent, like protests, is important.
- **Characteristics:**
 - Embrace diverse opinions and viewpoints.
 - Ignoring conflict leads to unresolved issues that may escalate later.
 - Protests can highlight important issues and lead to meaningful discussions.

6. Adapting to Change

Main Idea: Communities are always changing, and civic engagement must be flexible to keep up.

- **Key Points:**
 - Changes in community makeup and technology require adaptable engagement strategies to remain relevant like using social media
 - Focusing on principles rather than strict tactics helps create inclusive discussions.
- **Characteristics:**
 - A healthy engagement environment allows for negotiation and adaptation to changes.

- Community members should engage in honest discussions about power and its potential misuse.
- Flexible engagement approaches help ensure that changes benefit everyone fairly.