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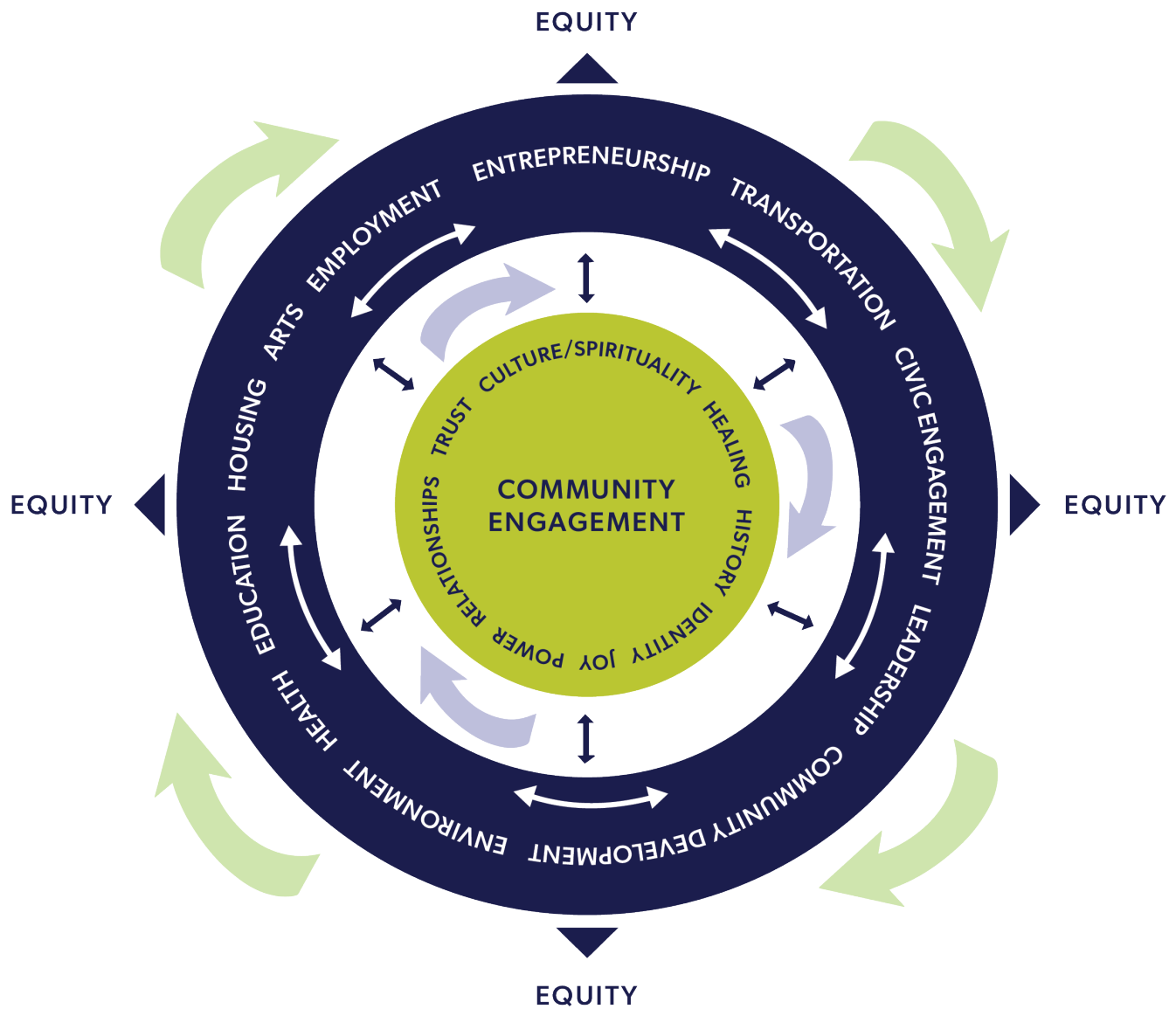
IMPACTS OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT MODEL

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We encourage you to share your feedback with us and tell us how you are using the tool or resource. Nexus Community Engagement Institute and our partners intend these documents and tools to introduce practitioners, funders, evaluators, and community members to community engagement and to give the field clarity in its language and principles. However, community engagement is not a field that can rely on written materials alone; it takes a community of practitioners to support one another in practicing community engagement effectively, meeting its challenges, and tapping the strengths within each unique context. We encourage you to seek out experienced practitioners to support you in implementing these tools, principles, and concepts.

Nexus Community Engagement Institute is available for consultation. Please contact us at www.nexuscp.org/ncei or email NCEI@nexuscp.org.

Nexus Community Engagement Institute is continuing the work of the Building the Field of Community Engagement (BTF) collaborative. The BTF collaborative was a partnership between Esperanza United (formerly Casa de Esperanza), the Cultural Wellness Center, Hope Community, Lyndale Neighborhood Association, the Native American Community Development Institute, and Nexus Community Partners.



The Impacts of Community Engagement Model describes the outcomes that result from authentic community engagement.

THE OUTER CIRCLE components are the tangible, visible goals of the world that community members do together.

THE INNER CIRCLE components are achieved in the process of doing the work and are foundational elements of a healthy community in their own right. These assets are building blocks for positive change in all the areas of the outer circle and need to be attended to and will be strengthened in a long-term process, during and beyond the process of achieving an outcome in the outer circle. The importance of these elements is often overlooked and communities' work in these areas is often under-resourced, but is vital in achieving equity.

THE WHEEL AS A WHOLE is fluid and dynamic, demonstrating the perpetual interconnectedness of the elements. The model demonstrates the power of community engagement to impact multiple levels and systems, and to create sustained change that lasts beyond a project or campaign. This sustained systems change will impact all elements of an organization, institution, or system, including culture, structures, policies, rules, programs, staffing, and the allocation of resources.

Community members and the Building the Field of Community Engagement Partners (see cover) developed the following working definitions to describe the elements of the model. Coming to a collective understanding about what these terms mean and how to center them when engaging community will help build the field of community engagement and advance equity.

EQUITY: NCEI's approach to equity is about creating fair access to resources, restoring power to the people and communities who have continued to be harmed by the legacy of colonization, enslavement, and systems that have centered whiteness and toxic patriarchy. We believe that communities, particularly those most harmed by oppressive systems, have the right to self-determination and to enjoy full participation in any society.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT: Community engagement is a process and practice of making sure all people are seen, heard, and valued. Valuing everyone, especially those who are excluded and isolated by racial and economic violence, is healing and transformative. Community engagement stewards us into right relationship with each other and all living things.

INNER CIRCLE DEFINITIONS: Outcomes that are strengthened as a result of community engagement and are an essential part of the process.

CULTURE/SPIRITUALITY

Community engagement nurtures the practices, beliefs, traditions, and ways of knowing that create cohesion and give people a vision across generations.

HEALING

Community engagement provides the space to draw meaning from a personal or collective story, and to recognize and build on strengths and resilience. It acknowledges and promotes wholeness.

HISTORY

Community engagement is a dialogue between the past, the present, and the future; acknowledging and learning from key events, sorrows, dreams, movements, influencers, victories, and aspirations that have shaped how a community expresses its own culture and interacts with people and systems. Community engagement provides a path to healing and building from that history.

IDENTITY

Community engagement supports the maintenance, development, and/or reclamation of a healthy sense of self for individuals and includes a sense of belonging to groups that give a person connection, continuity, and meaning.

JOY

Joy is our birthright, and is an embodied experience and/or practice of feeling pleasure and delight in various moments. These moments can be simple like resting or eating your favorite foods or far more complex and mysterious like welcoming new life into the world. Joy affords us the ability to dig deep and build our collective muscle and memory around abundance and liberation.

POWER

Community engagement activates and exercises the ability to act for personal and community benefit.

RELATIONSHIPS

The practice of community engagement requires the building of authentic, long-term relationships involving truth, respect, and reciprocity.

TRUST

The practice of community engagement calls for transparency, honesty, and mutual learning and understanding between individuals, groups, organizations, and institutions. It requires being vulnerable and open to deepen relationships and strengthen mutual accountability.