

Accelerating Connections & Sharing Information

[Aspirations to Actions](#) Teams came together on a very rainy August 3rd to participate in [The Patterson Foundation's Accelerate to Action](#) workshop.

Public Innovators from United Sarasota, [Sarasota County Library System](#), [Realize Bradenton](#), the [United Way of Manatee County](#), the [United Way of Charlotte County](#), the [United Way Suncoast](#), [SCOPE](#), and the [Campaign for Grade-level Reading](#) spent a half day connecting and sharing information of what they have learned from their [Harwood](#) practice including [turning outward](#), public knowledge formed from community conversations, theming, and how to create narratives and Mad Libs. Listening and learning from each other was the bright spot of the dreary day.



The Sarasota County Library Team was well-represented with Ellen India, Ann Hardy, Andrea Dictor, Joan Haber, Michelle Kapreilian, Nancy Roucher and Karen Bogues in attendance. [The Harwood Institute](#) has been involved with the American Library Association for many years, and Ann Hardy shared some of the [ALA's resources](#).



Guide Pam Truitt listens to United Sarasota's Mary Mack, while Guide Mike Mansfield and TPF Consultant Alicia Chalmers, representing the Campaign for Grade-level Reading, (foreground) and the United Way of Manatee County's Bronwyn Beightol and Philip Brown discuss emerging themes of the day: common connections and alignment, reaching past borders, empowering others, developing community capacity and leaders, and using "turn outward" as a way of life and to leverage connections.



Realize Bradenton's Johnette Isham and Guide Pam Truitt share a hug at the end of the workshop. Johnette shared how they used the Harwood practice to engage millennials and won a Knight Cities grant.

At the end of the workshop, the Teams agreed that moving toward action includes convening and sharing information more often ... continuing to include others in our discussions .. demonstrating the shift taking place ... celebrating small successes ... and that this belongs to all of us.

Happy day! Is it a coincidence that the sun was shining when we walked outside?

WORD!

Keeping up with Harwood ...

The Sweet Spot

Working in the The Sweet Spot of Public Life requires a focus on Public Capital -- the conditions for change that enable communities to move forward.

These are the factors that shape the ability and capacity of a community to work together and create change.

- An Abundance of Social Gatherings
- Organized Spaces for Interaction
- Boundary-Spanning Organizations
- Safe Havens for Decision Makers
- Strong, Diverse Leadership
- Informal Networks and Links
- Conscious Community Discussion
- Community Norms for Public Life
- A Shared Purpose for the Community

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Off the Wall @ TPF

A special quote as seen on the wall at The Patterson Foundation...

"We sit in the shade of a tree today because someone planted a seedling years ago."

Blogsphere

In case you missed these ...

Beth Doyle's Storify Blog - [Public Innovators come together to accelerate aspirations to actions](#)

Pam Truitt's Blog - [Turning outward changes perspectives](#)

People Talk

And we listen ...

"You may do it differently than I do, and you may do it better than I do, but you will never do it the way I do."

-Mary Mack

"Change happens at the speed of trust. Trust cannot happen without respect."

-Bronwyn Beightol Tweet



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