

Two Ears and One Mouth

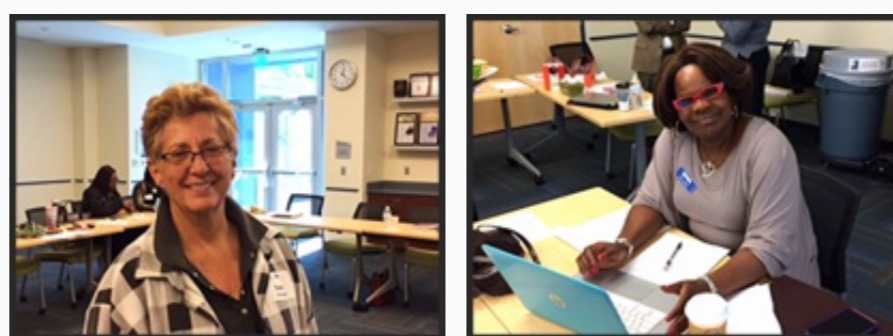
To paraphrase the wise, old saying "we have two ears and one mouth" -- a gentle nod for us to listen more and talk less -- set the tone of the day when 25 [Aspirations to Actions](#) Public Innovators and Team members convened on Monday, January 11th to kickoff the new year in aspirational style! Innovation Space Session #2, led by our [Harwood](#) guru Bill Booth, gave Teams the opportunity to learn together. While there was plenty of talking going on, there was even more listening. Teams connected, discussed how to share public knowledge, and began the next steps of moving toward action.



SAVE Grant's Team of Paul Sutton, Sherri Reynolds and Liz Bumpus



The "A" Teams -- Asya Shine (Drug-free DeSoto Team), Ashley Coone (DeSoto Smith Brown Gym Team) and Anna Rodriguez of United Sarasota (MHI) Team



Dale Orlando and Mary Butler

Our Harwood training embeds in each of us intentionality and the practice of turning outward, and because of this, it reminds us that we are now different. We are about community change -- positive community change.

Through our work with others, we help identify what that "change" is. We listen deeply. Our job is to name it and mobilize it. We are inspired by new ways to engage and collaborate with partners who come together with trust and shared aspirations. But, we are also reminded that all this takes time. If you move too fast, you'll leave people behind. Gaining public knowledge -- what the community wants and needs -- is the key to understanding how change can happen.



SCOPE Team's John McCarthy, Vickie French, Juliana Musheyev and Mary Butler prepare for their Team presentation.



Guide Bill Little and the Sarasota Library Team's Ellen India and Ann Hardy. Harwood Consultant Bill Booth facilitates the session.



United Sarasota's Mary Mack, and United Way's Trish McConnell (Suncoast) and Phillip Brown (Manatee)

Sharing public knowledge validates and affirms that the community's opinions and aspirations are heard and valued. A shared vision for positive change encourages community ownership and mobilization. It offers hope. It empowers, and it is sustainable.

The Aspirations to Actions Teams recognize that this journey is both simple and complex -- a dichotomy. Yet, we all know we're in it together, each of us with "two ears and one mouth," and we're ready to happily carry on.

WORD!

Keeping up with Harwood ...

Boundary Spanning Organizations

Boundary Spanning Organizations are networks, Teams, and/or institutions that help engage people in public life; spur discussion on community aspirations and challenges.

These organizations help lay the foundation for community action and marshal a community's resources to move ahead. In some cases they also act as the driving force for community-wide and systems-level change.

They are conveners and storytellers -- bringing people together across dividing lines and paying special attention to the community's narrative by "holding a mirror up to the community" to show change over time.

In all cases, Boundary Spanning Organizations calibrate their strategies and actions to match Public Knowledge and Community Rhythms -- the stage of community life.

Public Innovators

Public Innovators are individuals -- pragmatic idealists and calculated risk-takers -- that work to achieve meaningful change in their communities.

Like Boundary Spanning Organizations, these people are focused on helping their community achieve its aspirations and address issues while developing the conditions for working more effectively together.

While Public Innovators are likely to be working on a more modest scale than Boundary Spanning Organizations, they use the same approach to calibrating their strategies and actions.

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Blogs & YouTube

In case you have missed these ...

The [Aspirations to Actions Initiative blog](#) has a couple of new postings. We invite you to take a look.

Realize Bradenton's Johnette Isham and United Sarasota's Mary Mack complete the 5-part vlog series with [Getting It Done](#)

Guest Blogger John McCarthy, Executive Director of SCOPE, shares his reflections on [Catalyzing Action in the Community](#)

Speaking of John McCarthy, we'd like to do a shoutout to him and SCOPE for sharing Harwood Principles with the Sarasota Libraries staff. Check it out on [YouTube](#)

Off the Wall @ TPF

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

"Be the architect of change or the tenant of the result."

Save the Dates

Upcoming Innovation Space Learning Sessions ...

Session #3 -Tues., March 8 - 8:45AM - 12:30PM

Session #4 -Mon., April 25 - 8:45AM - 12:30PM

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