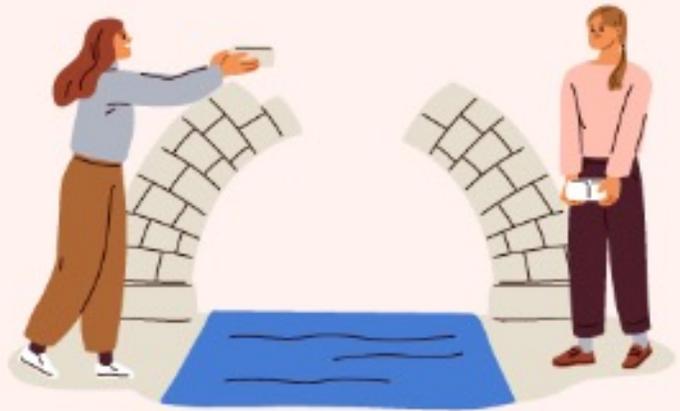


Welcome, this web conference will begin soon



# Cultivating Community **LEADERSHIP & POWER WITHIN ECOSYSTEMS FOR SAFETY**

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Wednesday, January 18, 2023 | 11:00 AM PT/2:00 PM ET



## Meet the PreventConnect Team



**Ashleigh Klein-Jimenez**  
Director of Prevention  
she/her/hers



**Janae Sargent**  
Project Coordinator  
they/them



prevent  
connect

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PreventConnect.org/email – email group

Learn.PreventConnect.org – eLearning

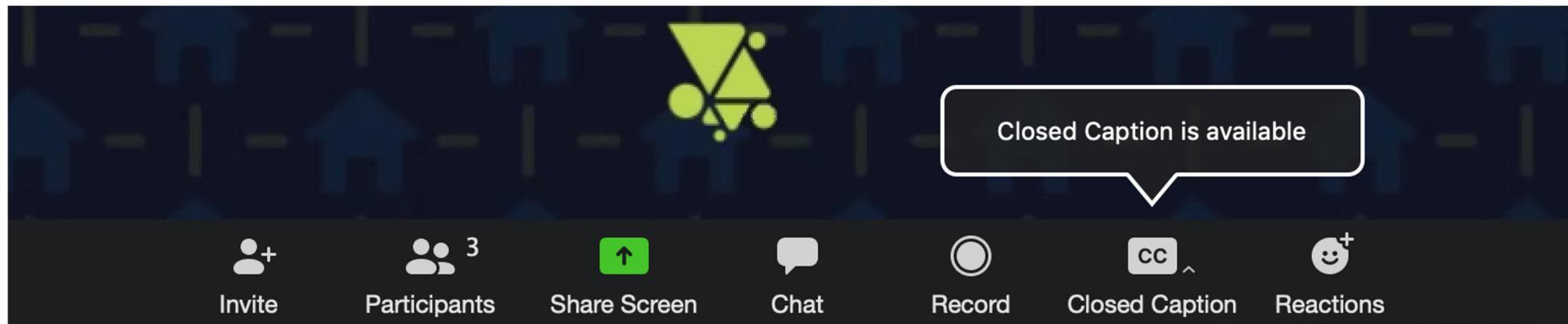
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## How to use Zoom

- ▶ Text chat
- ▶ PowerPoint Slides
- ▶ Polling Questions
- ▶ Phone
- ▶ Closed Captioning
- ▶ Web Conference Guidelines



# PreventConnect

- ▶ Domestic violence/intimate partner violence
- ▶ Sexual violence
- ▶ Violence across the lifespan, including child sexual abuse
- ▶ Prevent before violence starts
- ▶ Connect to other forms of violence and oppression
- ▶ Connect to other prevention practitioners

# Cultivating Community **LEADERSHIP & POWER WITHIN ECOSYSTEMS FOR SAFETY**

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Wednesday, January 18, 2023 | 11:00 AM PT/2:00 PM ET



PreventConnect is a national project of ValorUS sponsored by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The views and information provided in this web conference do not necessarily represent the official views of the U.S. government, CDC or ValorUS.



# Meet the Prevention Institute Team



**Wil Crary**

Associate Program Manager  
he/him/his



**Lisa Fujie Parks**

Associate Program Director  
she/her/hers



**Zachary Tarro**

Program Coordinator  
he/him/his

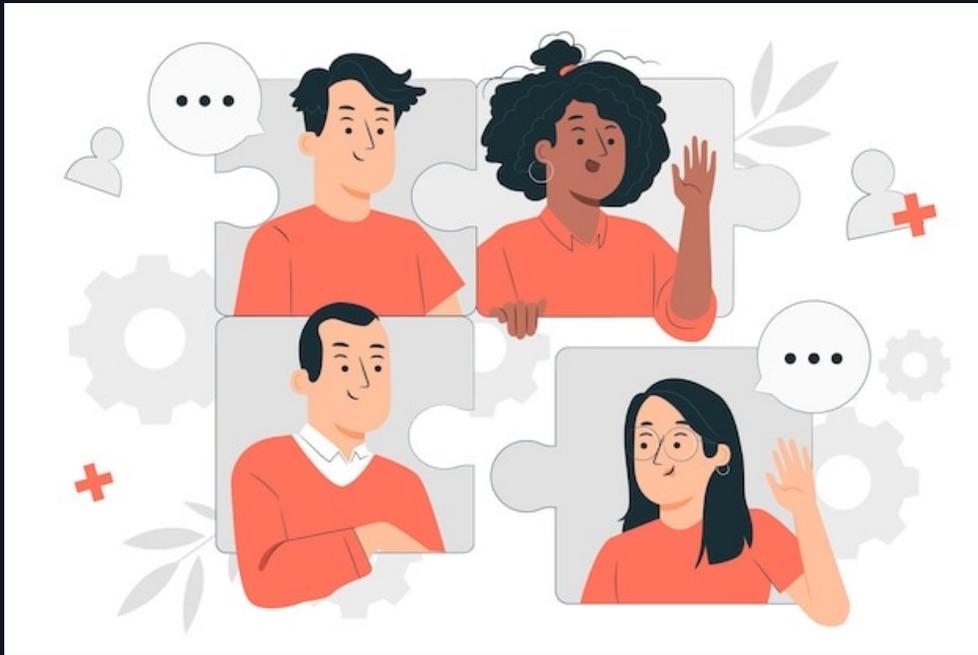
# Objectives

- ▶ Describe the value of an ecosystem approach for improving and sustaining collaborative, upstream efforts.
- ▶ Explore the need for community leadership and addressing power dynamics in ecosystems for safety.
- ▶ Hear from non-profit and government practitioners working within ecosystems for safety that lift up community leadership and power-sharing.
- ▶ Learn about important skills and experiences to support participation in a thriving ecosystem for safety.

# Agenda

- ▶ Grounding exercise
- ▶ Framing the value of an ecosystem approach
- ▶ Presentation: Dr. Eona Harrison at Urban Institute
  - ▶ PASS overview
  - ▶ Partnering with community
  - ▶ Lessons learned
- ▶ Q&A and resources

# Grounding exercise: *guided ecosystem mapping*



# Poll Question



**To what extent do you use a social ecological lens in your work?**

- ▶ Not at all
- ▶ A little
- ▶ A fair amount
- ▶ It informs everything we do

## Text Chat Question

How does the  
social  
ecological  
model inform  
your  
organization's  
actions?



Chat

From Me to **Everyone**:

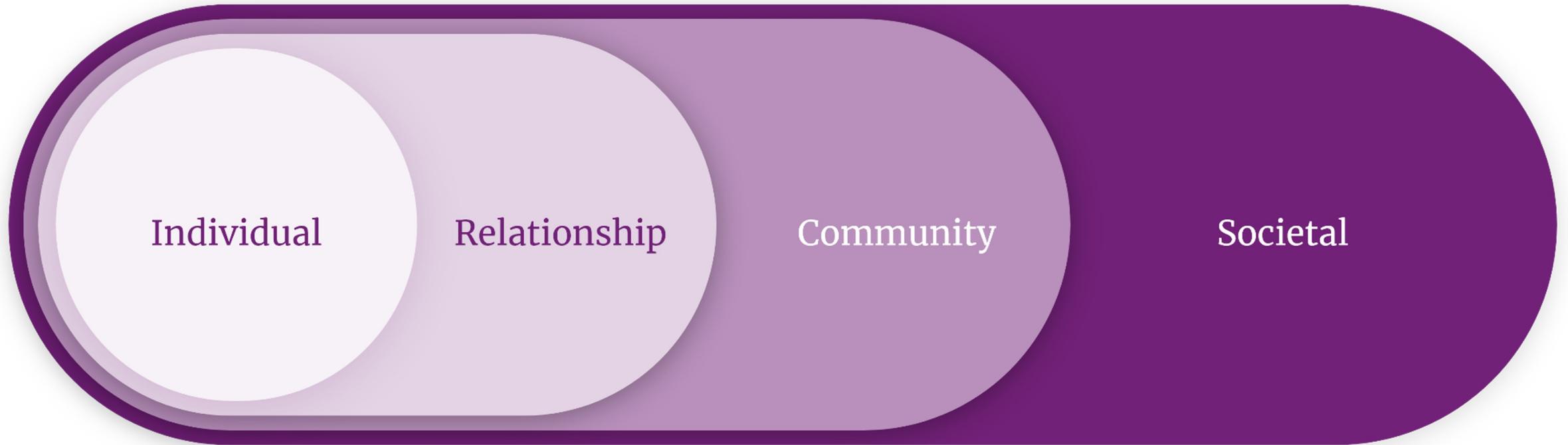
Use this text chat box to respond to our questions, ask your own, and connect with others!

To: **Everyone** ▼

Type message here...

# Framing the value of an ecosystem approach

# Social ecological model



This model considers the complex interplay between individual, relationship, community, and societal factors. It allows us to understand the range of factors that put people at risk for violence or protect them from experiencing or perpetrating violence. The overlapping rings in the model illustrate how factors at one level influence factors at another level.



**In nature, we see so clearly how the healthiest ecosystems thrive in biodiversity. There are as many ways of being, growing, processing sunlight and rain into life as there are species.**

**No creature or plant in that healthy ecosystem functions as a monopoly, or as an individual. They make it as long and as far as they can grow together.**

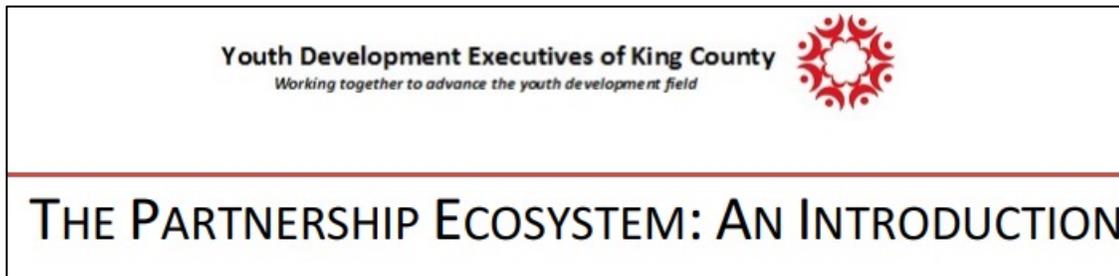


**adrienne marie brown, *Disrupting the Pattern: A Call for Love and Solidarity***

(image by Freepik)



# Ecosystem: it's everywhere!



<https://policy-practice.oxfam.org/resources/an-ecological-approach-to-partnership-611652/>

<https://2022.baltimoreinnovationweek.com/session/ecosystem-approach>

<https://buildingimpact.co/blog/an-ecosystem-approach-to-social-change-blog/>

<https://horizonsproject.us/bridge-building-and-power-building-an-ecosystem-approach-to-social-change/>

<https://ydekc.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Partnership-Ecosystem-Introduction.pdf>

# Cultivating an ecosystem

- Move from understanding to altering systems.
- Borrow insights from ecology and use an ecosystems framework.
- Proponents of an ecosystems framework stress the value of understanding the complexity and dynamics of the wide-ranging forces shaping individuals and organizations.
- Orients us to the complexities of rapidly evolving political, economic, physical, and cultural environments.

# Empire-Organization Approach vs. Ecosystem Approach

Empire-Organization approach:

- Organization orientation
- Navigates power dynamics
- *Who should we partner with?*

Ecosystem approach:

- Purpose orientation
- Addresses power dynamics
- *How can we create value within the ecosystem?*

# Navigating and breaking down silos



## Text Chat Question

What components of this ecosystem orientation resonate?  
What elements feel present in the partnerships you already have?



Chat

From Me to **Everyone**:

Use this text chat box to respond to our questions, ask your own, and connect with others!

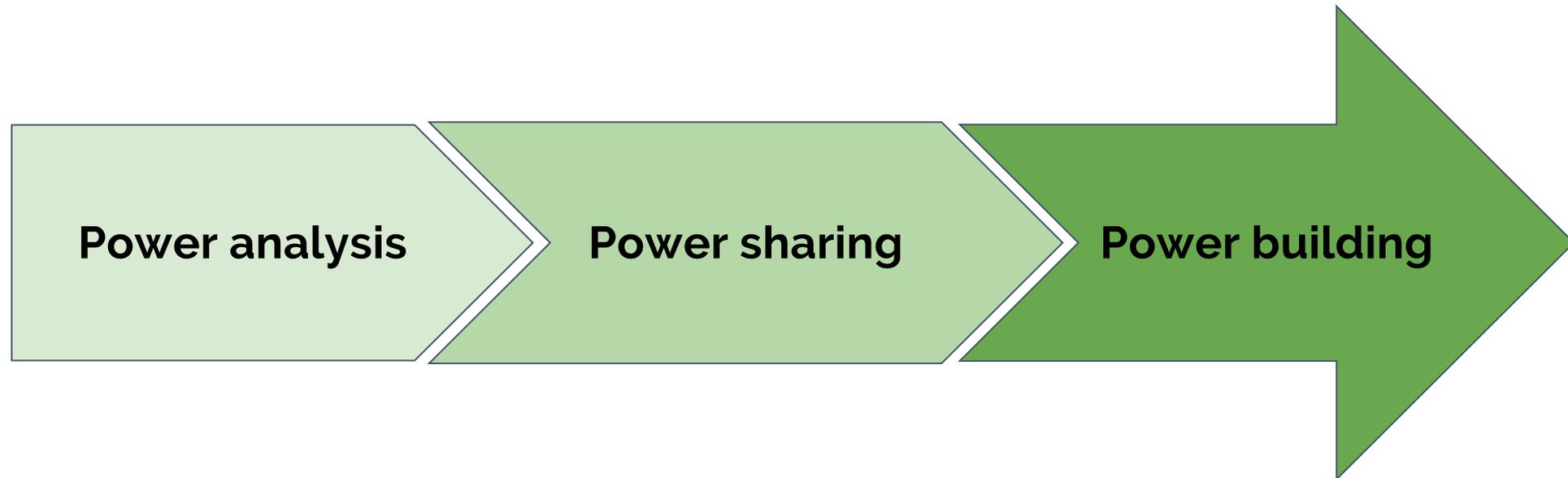
To: **Everyone** ▼

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# Understanding and activating power

Analyzing, mapping, and  
mobilizing power

# Understanding & Activating Power

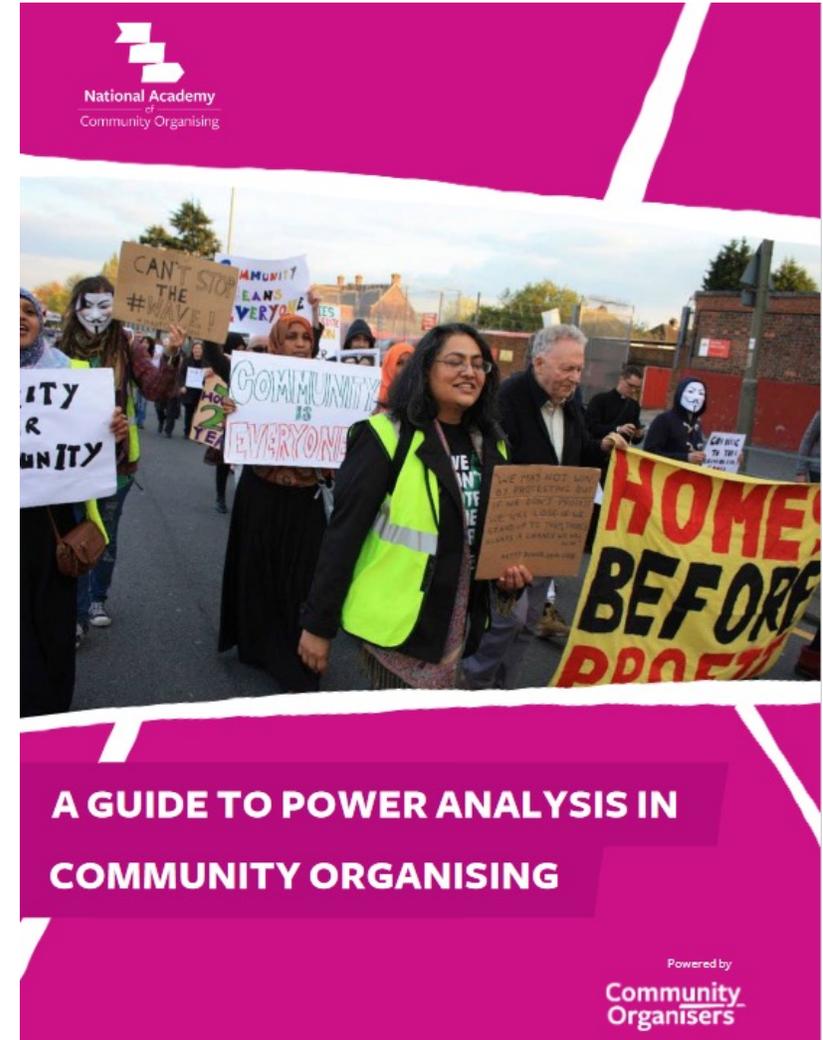


# Power analysis

*a tool and process for understanding where power sits which positions action for shifting power*

## Steps

1. Identify your community
2. Create a list of orgs and individuals
3. Categorize your list
4. Fill in the gaps
5. Put names to positions
6. Research key individuals
7. Investigate organizations
8. Identify potential allies
9. Analyze potential opponents
10. Update and protect your power analysis





[Community power building] organizations **work within an ecosystem** of other community organizing groups and actors who offer a range of assets including research, advocacy, policy, and legal support **to build power** along multiple sectors and use diverse methods. For the ecosystem to be effective, ...experiences show that building and organizing a base or constituency is the heart of the work and therefore must be at the center.

Why Community Power Is Fundamental to Advancing Racial and Health Equity (Vaidya, Poo, Brown, 2022)



# An Ecosystem to Build Power and Advance Health & Racial Equity

**Power Ecosystem**- the network of organizations, relationships, and infrastructure necessary to ensure that people who have been historically marginalized have voice and agency to create an inclusive democracy and close health equity gaps.

## 6 elements of a power ecosystem framework

**Community &  
Grassroots  
Organizing**

**Shared Values &  
Analysis**

**Relationships**

**Infrastructure**

**Composition**

**Capacities**

# 6 elements of a power ecosystem framework

## Community & Grassroots Organizing

Centering community-led and grassroots organizing entities as deeply rooted hubs of trusted community members. These entities uplift power sharing and community led leadership.

## Shared Values & Analysis

Shared beliefs grounded in equity and racial justice that allow for coalescence around issues and shared action

## Relationships

The individual and social ties within and between organizations or partners.

## 6 elements of a power ecosystem framework

### Infrastructure

The forums, coalitions, alliances, and communications channels that facilitate information sharing, collaboration, and joint action.

### Composition

Organizational makeup, diversity, and population makeup of an ecosystem

### Capacities

The skills, knowledge, and resources needing in the power ecosystem to develop and implement electoral, legislative, and systems change strategies to ultimately build power.

# Maintaining a thriving power ecosystem

- **Shared values and analysis** often bring organizations together around a shared purpose.
- **Transformational relationships** rather than transactional ones form around shared interest, collaboration, and trust in addressing community priorities. Transformational relationships are more successful in keeping organizations within the ecosystem together.
- **Grassroots organizing groups** are a critical component of ecosystems as they are often hubs for multi-issue and multi-racial community-based networks. These groups help create advocates out of those most impacted within systems of oppression and create greater opportunities for policy and systems change work.
- **Adaptive capacity**—the ecosystem's ability to anticipate, absorb, and respond to external conditions and exogenous shocks—was critical to its ability to leverage and build on losses.

# Power Flower- Participants in a Power Ecosystem



## Text Chat Question

How do you relate to this image?

Feel free to share an example of how you've navigated this challenging dynamic.



# Meet the Speaker



## **Eona Harrison, PhD**

Senior Research Associate  
Metropolitan Housing and Communities  
Policy Center, Urban Institute  
*She/her/hers*



# Promoting Adolescent Sexual Health and Safety (PASS): **A** Community-Based Collaboration

# About the Presenter



[Eona Harrison](#) (she/her)  
Senior Research Associate

Community-engaged research  
Sexual/reproductive health and well-being  
Community resilience strategies



# Agenda

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## Community Partnerships and Power Sharing

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PASS Overview

Partnering with Community

*Laying groundwork, buy-in, impact, sustainability*

Lessons Learned

# PASS Overview

# PASS: Overview

- A community-based teen sexual health and safety program in Washington, DC
- Designed with and for Black young people ages 13 – 19 living in or near public housing communities
- Facilitated by local professionals and trusted resident co-facilitators from the participants' neighborhood
  - Curriculum created with the piloted community



## Partnership

The Urban Institute begins a partnership with the District of Columbia Housing Authority (DCHA) on a two-generation supportive service model at the Benning Terrace community in Washington, DC. Funders: Open Society Foundations, W.K. Kellogg Foundation, Kresge Foundation

2011



2012



## Framing

Urban and DCHA launch an effort with teens at Benning Terrace focused on sexual health and safety. Funder: National Institutes of Health

## Development

The research team creates a steering committee and youth and adult community advisory boards for the Promoting Adolescent Sexual Health and Safety program (PASS). The PASS curriculum is created with community and reproductive health experts.

2013

2014



2015

## Piloting

The program and community-engaged evaluation begin.

## Sustainability

Urban and the PASS community partners jointly apply for grants to continue PASS at Benning Terrace. The program is sustained with community partners as the program leads, Urban as the administrative lead, and Unity Health Care and Sasha Bruce Youthwork as health care partners. Funder: District of Columbia Department of Health

2016

2017  
-  
2021



# Partnering w/ Community

# Laying the Groundwork for Community Partnerships



**Consider how you will work to achieve equity** around decision making, resource allocation, and other power dynamics.

**Build in mechanisms and processes for transparency and accountability** so that information sharing and feedback happens regularly.

**Do your homework on community history, context, and stakeholders** prior to project partnership.

**Meet community leaders** to connect with potential partners and gauge which parts of the community may not be represented

# Buy-In



INFORM



CONSULT



INVOLVE



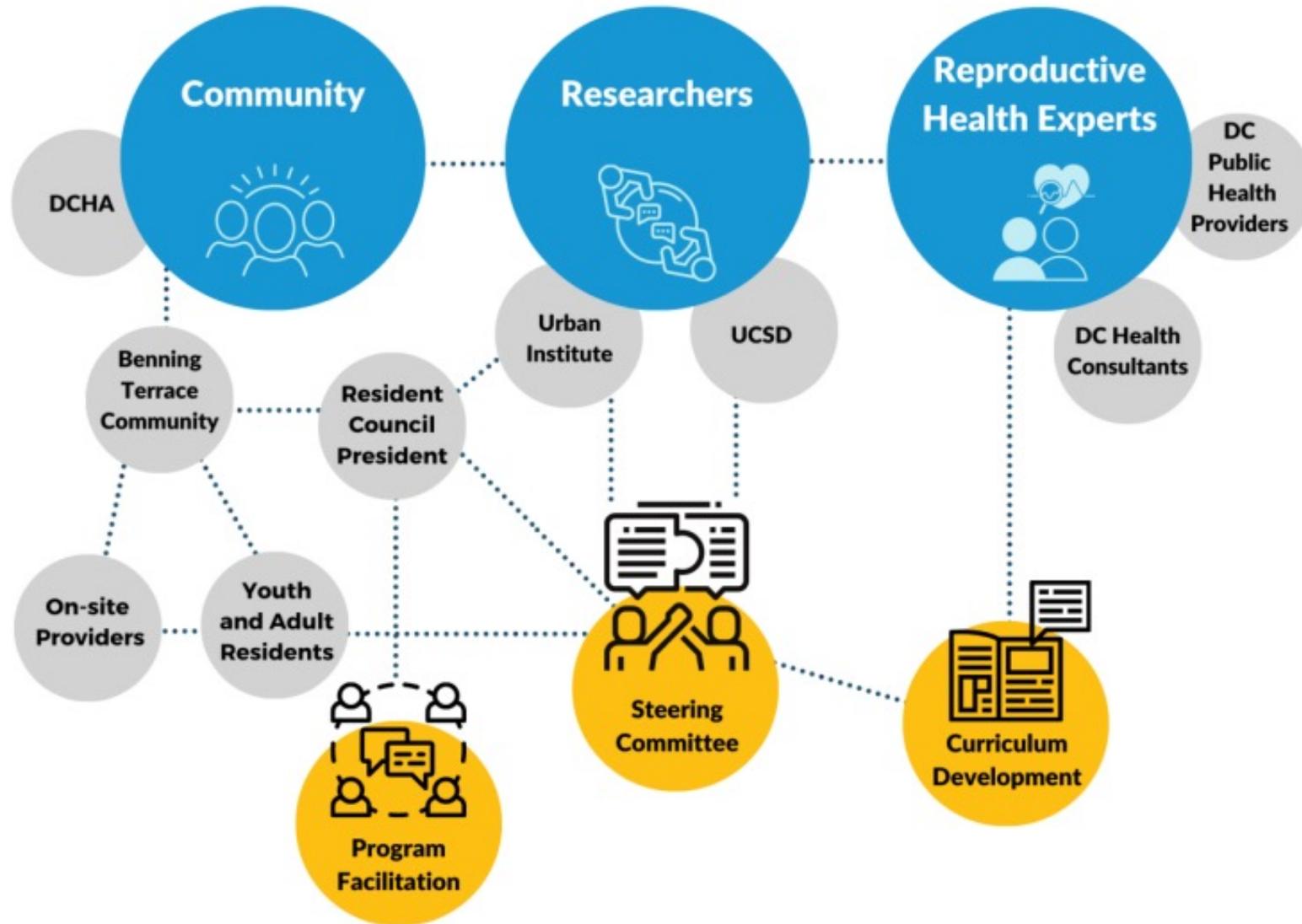
COLLABORATE



EMPOWER

*Based on Sherry Arnstein's Ladder of Citizen Participation –  
Developed while at HUD in 1968.*

# Multisectoral Partnerships

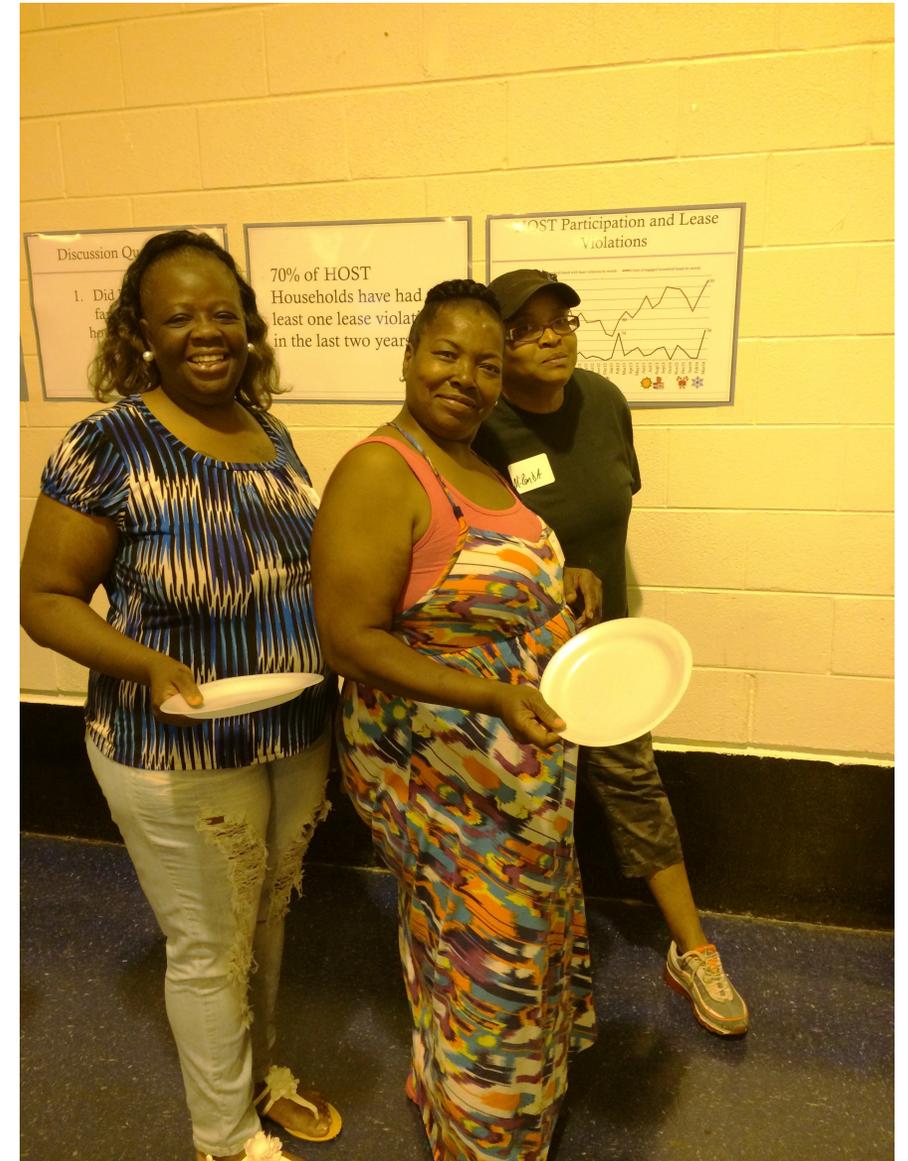


# Impact



# Sustainability

## Why Investing in Trusted Community-Based Organizations is Crucial to Sustainability



# Key Considerations and Lessons Learned

# Key Considerations from a Researcher's Standpoint

Ask yourself...

- What's the motivation for seeking community partnership?
- Is there a benefit to community members? If so, how can that be uplifted?
- How much time and how many resources do you have?
- How flexible and open is your survey question development? Are certain questions non-negotiable?
- What infrastructure is needed for sharing back data?
- Does the budget support additional deliverables?

# Key Lessons Learned

- Context: neighborhood or larger events shaped youth experience with PASS
- Value of employing community facilitators
- Allow for curriculum flexibility and trainings
- Provide TA around data collection and evaluation activities
- Invest time in creating meaningful partnerships beyond the task at hand



# Next Steps and Sustainability

- Sasha Bruce will train other community leaders in the curriculum and facilitation, and explore ways to revise and improve the survey for future evaluation.
- Comparison partners are interested in securing funding to implement PASS, now that the evaluation is over
- Adapt the PASS curriculum so each session can be a module that other youth service programs and agencies can incorporate into their work with teens.
- Urban will serve as the lead in future evaluation efforts to investigate the feasibility and effectiveness of the PASS program implemented in new formats and with new survey instrument, and approach to surveying.

**Thank You!**

## Q&A

- ▶ What individual and organizational skills supported you in being an effective part of your community's ecosystem for safety? How were these skills developed and strengthened?
- ▶ Where do you see your work within the power flower? Where do you see your key partners in the power ecosystem?



# Audience Q&A

Please share your questions in the chat



Chat

From Me to **Everyone**:

Use this text chat box to respond to our questions, ask your own, and connect with others!

To: **Everyone** ▼

Type message here...

# Tools & Resources

- ▶ **Centers for Disease Control & Prevention-** [The Social-Ecological Model](#)
- ▶ **Bay Area Regional Health Inequities Initiative-** [Conceptual Framework](#)
- ▶ **Incite!-** [Beyond the Non-Profit Industrial Complex](#)
- ▶ **Stanford Social Innovation Review-** [Cultivate Your Ecosystem](#)
- ▶ **National Academy of Medicine-** [Why Community Power is Fundamental to Advancing Racial and Health Equity](#)
- ▶ **Community Organisers-** [A Guide to Power Analysis in Community Organising](#)
- ▶ **Restorative Justice Project-** [Resource Guide to Power](#)
- ▶ **adrienne maree brown-** [Disrupting the Pattern: A Call for Love and Solidarity](#)

## Tools & Resources, continued

- ▶ **NetworkWeaver-** [Mapping System Shifting Networks](#)
- ▶ **Center for the Study of Social Policy & The California Endowment-** [An Ecosystem to Build Power and Advance Health and Racial Equity](#)
- ▶ **USC Program for Environmental and Regional Equity-** [California Health and Justice for All Power-Building Landscape: Defining the Ecosystem](#)
- ▶ **Race Forward-** [An Introduction to Racial Equity Assessment Tools](#)
- ▶ **Robert Wood Johnson Foundation-** [Lead Local Initiative](#)



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