

Building Communities for a New Nation  
Raleigh Workshop – Report  
April 23, 2010

- Whole Communities Exchange
  - People - Have Nots
    - 1. What does our quadrant need – materially, in new knowledge, in constituency, in values?
      - Money (funding, living wages)
      - Facilities (infrastructure)
      - Natural resources (access to land, etc.)
      - Training/Education
      - Allies/Network
      - New information/Knowledge/Awareness
      - Technology –Internet access
      - Power
      - Health
      - Awareness of existing resources (self-knowledge)
      - Dream/Hope/Vision
      - Equity/Wealth/Savings (ownership)
      - Management skills
    - 2. What does our quadrant have to offer the other quadrants – materially, knowledge, constituency, values?
      - Culture/Wisdom
      - Numbers/Consumers
      - Worker bees/Sweat equity
      - Experiences/Story (history)
      - Faith
      - Diversity
      - Community/Social network
      - Forgotten places/spaces
      - Leaders of community – access
    - 3. What does our quadrant have the courage to do differently?
      - Engage youth/seniors
      - Communicate
      - Retrain our thought process
      - Inclusion
      - Embrace alternative leadership models
      - Cooperate

- Blend economic empowerment with communal values
  - Foster equitable sharing of resources
  - Accountability
- 4. Challenges/Invitations from other quadrants
    - Be more tolerant of those with different beliefs
    - Challenge the negative public portrayal in our society
    - Share community with others
    - Remember voice we have
    - Participate in decision-making process
    - Redefine our “wealth”
    - Seek bridges to other groups
    - Find land
- Nature-Haves
    - 1. What does our quadrant need – materially, in new knowledge, in constituency, in values?
      - People and partnerships
        - Diversity and Inclusiveness
        - Interconnectivity/Less-fractured
        - Relating/Linked Factors
        - Communication
      - Compelling arguments/education for ourselves and others
      - Money
      - Portray nature as a fundamental need
        - Not a luxury
        - Quality/Foundation of Life
      - Understanding of different perspectives
      - Buy-in from government and corporate entities
      - Spiritual component/faith
      - Language/culture
        - Ability to relate to/resonate with communities
      - Connect children to nature
      - Joint vision
      - Community support
    - 2. What does our quadrant have to offer the other quadrants – materially, knowledge, constituency, values?
      - Access
        - Decision-makers and government
        - Soils and lands

- Information and data
  - Youth education → stewardship
  - Tools/Grants/Networking/Money
  - Passion and history
  - Quality of life – intersection of nature and science
  - Comfort to have a vision
  - Influence and voice
  
- 3. What does our quadrant have the courage to do differently?
  - Collaboration with other quadrants
  - Redefine conservation and how we measure success
  - Admit our weaknesses and dependency on others
  - Take down the blinders
    - Think out of the box/quadrant to see interconnectivity
    - Listen to others with different views
  - Be creative and optimistic
  - Focus on the ends not the means
  - Get rid of assumptions
  - Take baby steps
  
- 4. Challenges/Invitations from other quadrants
  - Create opportunities to share land with community
  - Identify ways to change perspective
  - Leadership to be more inclusive and reflect community
  - Include people
  - Share what we have with have nots
  - Have nots can offer knowledge and value
  - Lift up realities of have nots, fully aware of their voice
  - Work with agriculture – use land for multipurpose
  - Educate – interdependency with natural world
  - Engagement/Accountability
    - Not just pamphlets
  - Work to be involved with other efforts
  
- Nature-Have Nots
  - 1. What does our quadrant need – materially, in new knowledge, in constituency, in values?
    - Money
    - Support
      - Community

- Political
    - Ideals
  - Community education
    - Empowerment → Action
    - Elimination of predatory practices
    - Available resources
  - Civic engagement
    - Political organizing
    - Community organizing
    - Use power and knowledge
- 2. What does our quadrant have to offer the other quadrants – materially, knowledge, constituency, values?
    - Understanding and vision
    - People connected to the land – love their land
    - Local people’s wisdom/experience
    - The land itself – resource
    - Connection to community
    - Cultural heritage
  - 3. What does our quadrant have the courage to do differently?
    - Get up and be involved
    - Be engaged
    - Reach out and collaborate
    - Talk with other “side”
    - Be brave and talk
    - Self-esteem and expression
    - Tell our story and listen to others
  - 4. Challenges/Invitations from other quadrants
    - Keep other well-meaning groups on their toes
    - Understand “city cousins” connection to land
    - Dream big – find new models – innovate
    - Be first to reach out and trust
    - Recognize that open access and bridges are there
    - Point out barricades that may not be seen
    - Reach why other should care
    - We all need each other and can empower each other
    - Invite to homecomings
    - Invite other have nots to land

- People-Haves
  - 1. What does our quadrant need – materially, in new knowledge, in constituency, in values?
    - Participatory skills
      - To hold a space for whatever shows up
    - Community-building skills
    - Collaboration
    - Greater understanding of cultural differences
    - Knowledge of “have not” community
    - People
    - Land and connection to land
    - How to build relationships
      - Ability to be uncomfortable/listening skills
    - To support/communicate with people suffering from pollution
    - To support those who don’t “have”
  - 2. What does our quadrant have to offer the other quadrants – materially, knowledge, constituency, values?
    - Vision
    - Systems thinking
    - Credibility
    - Land and resources
    - Meeting space
    - Time
    - Money – how to get it/access/find it
    - Access
    - Education
    - Training/Skills/Knowledge
    - Networks (database)
    - Political clout/Bipartisan connections
    - Certifications/Professional recognition/Project management
    - Natural step and transition models
    - Green map
    - Discipline
    - Experience in leadership, media, and design
    - Information from local government
    - Authority
    - Agriculture (information on crops and livestock)
  - 3. What does our quadrant have the courage to do differently?

- Be bridge-builders
  - Make connections → to build trust → to share power and resources
  - Do diversity work
  - Teach
  - Learn new skills and apply them
- Be uncomfortable
  - Take risks
  - Be open
  - Step back/forward
- 4. Challenges/Invitations from other quadrants
  - Push more people and have conversations
  - Be uncomfortable to build trust
  - Don't give up
  - Work with the "have not" groups to understand the culture of their communities
  - Don't come in with answers
    - Listen and learn
  - Commit to being a bridge-builder
  - Think about what we all have to share with one another
  - Be willing to admit mistakes and take responsibility for unintended consequences
- Project Identification Exercise: Identifying game-changing projects and initiatives for NC
  - Near (Now – 1 year)
    - Farmland protection – policy advancement and actual protection of projects
      - Margaret Lillard
    - Frequent and varied community re-skilling workshops and projects (plumbing, gardening, repair of furniture, clothing, childbirth, and emergency medicine)
      - Liane Salgado
    - Teach individuals food production and preservation for application in their own interest
      - Alice Loyd
    - Put myself in places to hear stories from people and groups outside land conservation
      - John Ann Shearer
    - Incorporating Whole Communities ideas in watershed restoration plan I am helping write
      - Randy Dodd

- Continue to work with land trusts and community development organizations on conservation-based affordable housing
  - Sarah Wilson
- Continue to work on community gardens and with local farmers
  - Sarah Wilson
- Create alliance of organizations working to build Whole Communities initiative in Triangle. Collaborate and accelerate existing work, and take it to a whole new level.
  - Jane Norton
- Develop the story or stories that explain relevance of land conservation throughout NC
  - Reid Wilson
- Mentor others in project management, gardening, and team skills
  - Ken Boggs
- Community clean-up
  - HC
- Re-engage youth. Have broader community conservation on the Conservation and Diversity Project → Bridge-building focus
  - Christina Davis-McCoy
- Afterschool program in neighborhood near Bunn Level
  - Goldie Pryor
- Educate low-wealth citizens on ways of obtaining and maintaining sustainable and renewable energy.
  - Asa Fleming
- Outreach to young people ages 14-35
  - Sandhills Family Heritage Association
- Focus on environmental education in Chatham County Schools by offering resources to teachers.
  - Gretchen Smith
- Helping Nashville, TN become a more sustainable whole community
  - Jazmin Varela
- Voice unheard stories from the Muslim-American/Iranian-American world through my website blog, [www.mysticsforpeace.com](http://www.mysticsforpeace.com).
  - Gloria Mahin
- Recycled glass products to market locally-made, local employment
  - June Mabry
- Network and connect people from workshop to decision makers I know in planning.
  - Unknown
- As a local government planner, in the next year I can identify available/vacant properties in each neighborhood that can be used for open space/green

space/community garden. I can work with property owners to gain permission for access.

- Melissa Lockamy
- Start community garden in Pittsboro.
  - Mary Lucas
- Passage of climate energy legislation
  - June Mabry
- The western part of Harnett County needs an afterschool program.
  - Betty McMillan
- Launch Triangle Community Green Guide online for resources, connection of collaboration – find partners to expand its capacity and reach.
  - Jane Norton
- Launch and refine “State of Triangle’s Environment” to redefine what we measure, who measures it, and how we share it.
  - George Hess
- Building trust/developing relationships with non-traditional allies to determine how we can help one another’s goals
  - Nicole Stewart
- Continue building and expanding these relationships – Whole Communities gatherings on a regular basis.
  - Margaret Newbold
- Create a listserv and host annual convening of the four quadrants to continue working towards Whole Communities.
  - Barry L. Williams
- Organize community “boot camps” to elicit ideas/wisdom and impart knowledge regarding the “whole community” undertaking – empowering people to take the first step toward personal involvement.
  - Aimee Schmidt
- Form regional whole community group.
  - Tandy Jones
- Advocate for cohousing (communities designed by residents to create a functioning neighborhood that brings people together.)
  - Becky Bascom
- Invite, establish, build, celebrate community for healthy, diverse, sustainable – education and healing on the land, on my farm or in the context of a land-based community.
  - Zahra Love
- Partner with environmental educators to make Triangle Land Conservancy’s lands a resource for education and health.
  - Kevin Brice
- Relationship building (cross-sector + generation + race) around food justice

- Claudia Horwitz
  - Have minority/diverse interns working across our organizations to X-fertilize/share work and resources.
    - Margaret Newbold
  - Begin development of intergenerational, diversified farm site for crops, animal, communities, and wildlife – self-supporting economically
    - Sue Ellen Johnson (agro-ecologist)
- Mid (1-3 years)
  - Explore, develop, disseminate models for paradigm shifting, transformation of consciousness, waking people up to dream a new story
    - Zahra Love
  - Conservation-based affordable housing – getting some occupants in homes, seeing some more projects planned
    - Margaret Lillard
  - Participatory research and development of new models of working land → expansion and replication
    - Sue Ellen Jones
  - Participatory research focused on food systems and food justice research – community-based and community-led
    - Claudia Horwitz
  - Gather community members to practice food protection and preservation skills for benefit of themselves and the community
    - Alice Loyd
  - Capital campaign for building restoration for valued-added
    - Sandhills Family Heritage Association
  - Urban gardens plus water/energy decentralized production facilities with modular process for spreading to anyone interested
    - Liane Salgado
  - Community garden in downtown Raleigh (connecting multiple existing environmental/social justice/service organizations)
    - Nicole Stewart
  - Work with various community organizations (community colleges, schools, farmers) to increase awareness and take care of garden.
    - Mary Lucas
  - Teach children (7-10 years) gardening, land use, and stewardship.
    - Ken Boggs
  - Start sustainable communities in SE Raleigh that use renewable energy
    - Asa Fleming
  - Develop a vision for regional environmental education, and reach out to collaborators to implement vision.

- Kevin Brice
- A program that would begin engaging youth with the earth
  - HC
- Training people who have little access and resources to use tools like GIS for capacity building
  - Jazmin Varela
- Legislation to reward consumers buying 50%+ recycled products
  - June Mabry
- Re-embrace the “story.” Expand the communal story with focus on “teaching/sharing” other truths.
  - Christina Davis-McCoy
- Make tremendous strides in broadening the makeup of land conservation staff, board, and donors to include more people of color and youth, thereby bringing diverse ideas/ voices and increased resources to land protection efforts. (Demographically, our staff, board, and donors should look like our state.)
  - Barry L. Williams
- Collaborate to engage underserved urban youth in Raleigh in sustainable agriculture projects.
  - Gloria Mahin
- Develop and launch sustainable and social entrepreneurs’ program for youth – introducing them to career options, internships, and pathways to careers that make a difference.
  - Jane Norton
- Identify regional Whole Communities project.
  - Tandy Jones
- Broaden base of partners and collaborate with diverse breadth of groups. More conservation-based affordable housing and community gardens. Establish continued funding source (government/corporate) for conservation-based affordable housing and community gardens.
  - Sarah Wilson
- Expanding environmental education by persuading school system to designate one teach workday to environmental education staff development.
  - Gretchen Smith
- Majority of NC land trust working with local communities to create and sustain community gardens
  - Reid Wilson
- Figure out my story and where it is heading. My goal
  - Unknown
- Community building in Anderson Creek area of Harnett County
  - Betty McMillan

- Design cohousing communities with groups and incorporate sustainable and energy-efficient ideas.
    - Becky Bascom
  - Work with Carrboro's Greenway Commission to go beyond transportation, recreational, and environmental values to include community-building events like this.
    - Randy Dodd
  - As a local government planner, over next 1-3 years, I can focus on community areas with the least amount of existing resources. I can help bring more people together to help see the big picture (i.e. share more stories). Most importantly – create opportunities with land to allow people to realize their self worth/what they can do/offer.
    - Melissa Lockamy
  - Community building for district (Stewart's Creek)
    - Goldie Pryor
  - Work with youth to understand their hopes and dreams for personal development.
    - Aimee Schmidt
  - Development: public/private cooperatives, biofuel, and locally-grown and distributed agriculture
    - June Mabry
  - Establish a unified nature preserve network in Wake County.
    - [wakenature.wikispaces.com](http://wakenature.wikispaces.com)
    - George Hess
- Far (3-5 years)
- Permaculture installation and education facility with interns + market garden
    - Liane Salgado
  - Community garden outreach to entire community of farmers, school kids, elders, and town folk
    - Mary Lucas
  - Implement statewide program to bring children to streams/farms/parks/wilderness – to connect them with nature. Broad group of organizations doing this together.
    - Reid Wilson
  - Take Wake Nature concept from county to regional (Triangle) level.
    - George Hess
  - Develop a program to provide opportunities of passionate experiences of unity with a context to channel that awareness into effective action in multiple domains.
    - Gloria Mahin

- Youth education – vesting teens in our work through hands-on program participation, perhaps with youth living in conservation-based affordable housing communities.
  - Margaret Lillard
- Infrastructure for statewide farm-to-school for all NC public schools that builds local economy and supports farmers
  - Claudia Horwitz
- Sustain and adapt the models developed in years one to four (diversified, inter-generational farm sites)
  - Sue Ellen Johnson
- Roll out collaborative, regional plan for environmental education opportunities for all of Triangle’s middle schoolers.
  - Kevin Brice
- Complete regional Whole Community project.
  - Tandy Jones
- I would like to equip community residents with the knowledge to become Green.
  - HC
- Multiple community-based recycled glass production, manufacturing, and distribution
  - June Mabry
- Have environmental education programs active in all grades in all schools in Chatham.
  - Gretchen Smith
- Operate a community facility to support farmers, landowners, and small businesses.
  - Sandhills Family Heritage Association
- Create public, state, and private funding sources to support Building Bridges – Whole Communities work.
  - Margaret Newbold
- Continue to help communities “map” their whole communities.
  - Jazmin Varela
- Position food production and preservation by individuals and communities in the culture as a key to protection and restoration of natural systems and social justice values.
  - Alice Loyd
- Sustainability – Cultivate inner/outer story of healthy/well-being with everyone waking up. Create a system/model/effective technology or innovation to accomplish it.
  - Zahra Love

- Work with others to plant fruit/nut trees/forest gardens in Orange/Durham/Chatham.
  - Randy Dodd
- Check on the progress of workshop members – hold them accountable.
  - Unknown
- As a local government planner, I can work to improve development standards to regularly include preservation, open space, and smart, sustainable development.
  - Melissa Lockamy
- Harnett County multipurpose complex
  - Goldie Pryor
- Diversified environmental organizations throughout NC
  - Nicole Stewart
- Fund other organizations or nonprofits that concentrate and focus on economic development and sustainability of low-wealth communities.
  - Asa Fleming
- With land resources, parks, conservation-based affordable housing, and community gardens, bring a diverse group of people and children to a connection with the land.
  - Sarah Wilson
- Implement statewide changes to stated and fundable conservation values for land protection projects. Additional values will include social justice, environmental justice, food security, connecting youth to land, and health improvement.
  - Barry L. Williams
- Implement community ecological/environmental education center at the community development corporation. Focus on renewable production and marketing as job-creating perspective.
  - Christina Davis-McCoy
- Modify GDP measurement to include as assessment of societal health and happiness to gauge the growth of our national well-being.
  - Aimee Schmidt