



# Successfully Connecting With Community Collaboration

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# Puzzle Pieces Everywhere!

“If you want to travel quickly, go alone.  
If you want to travel far, go together.”

# What is Collaboration?

**Collaboration** occurs when a number of community organizations, agencies, and individuals make a **commitment** to work together and contribute resources to obtain a common, long-term **goal**.





# Self Assessment

**How would the community define us?**

**Are we known beyond our circle of connections?**

**What do we do well? What do we need work on?**

**Does everyone feel validated and « in the know » amongst our volunteers/staff?**

**What are our limitations? Ie. Not enough volunteers? Not enough of certain skill sets?**

**What are our challenges?**

**What are our fears?**

**What do we need?**

**What could we be doing better?**

**What would help our mandate?**





# How to Collaborate?

***Define the community.*** It is essential that collaborators find a sense of shared identity.

***Clear vision and goal:*** What do you hope to build? Create? Share?

***Be honest:*** Be upfront with your organization limitations, challenges, fears, and weaknesses.

***Identify the Navigator:*** Be upfront with your organization limitations, challenges, fears, and weaknesses.

***Make explicit the implicit division of labor.***

***Design collective systems***



# How to Collaborate (con't)?

Do we have a common understanding of the issues, problems, opportunities?

How do we define success and how do we measure it?

Have we created a culture where mistakes and failures are allowed and do we learn from it?

Who does what, when, where? Do we have MOUs?



# Learned Wisdom to Consider:

- ☞ Be honest, but gentle
- ☞ Do no harm, and protect each other from making mistakes
- ☞ Keep your agreements
- ☞ Respect each other's boundaries and professional knowledge
- ☞ Don't take your partners for granted