Sustainable Community Engagement
Understanding Asset Based Community Development

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People with Deficiencies and Needs
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Individuals with Assets and Capacities
Asset Based Community Development
John McKnight
&
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ABCD Building Blocks

• The skills of local residents
• The power of local social networks
• The resources of public, private and non-profit institutions
• The physical and economic resources of local places
• The stories of shared lives
ABCD Building Blocks

- Individuals
- Associations
- Institutions
- Physical Assets
- Connections
- Culture/Stories/History
Citizen Power Progression

- CULTIVATOR
- MAKER
- PRODUCER
  - Vision
  - Outcomes
- ADVOCATE
- ADVISOR
- CLIENT
- VICTIM
How do you begin to unlock the assets in a community?
Asset Mapping
Key Questions

1. As neighbors, what can we achieve by using our own assets?

2. What can we achieve with our own assets if we get some outside help?

3. What can’t we do with our assets that must be done by outsiders?
Capacity Inventory

https://resources.depaul.edu/abcd-institute/resources/Pages/tool-kit.aspx
Results of Asset Mapping

1. Relationships
2. Empowerment
3. Action
Basic Findings

1. In every community, neighbors know about the local assets.

2. Successful neighborhood action is the result of assets that were not connected, being connected.

3. To connect assets there must be a *connector*, i.e. individuals, associations, or local institutions.
Be a **connector**