Community Voice

Getting Started

CHECKLIST:

Before starting the City Voice process:

EDUCATE KEY DECISION-MAKERS
- Build a community-wide coalition of key decision-makers interested in the City Voice process (include local philanthropic foundations, government, collective impact organizations, regional nonprofits, faith groups, businesses, etc.)
- Educate this coalition on the City Voice process and intended outcomes

SECURE FUNDING & A FISCAL HOME
- Secure start-up funding for the City Voice process (see example budget)
- Determine who will manage City Voice staff and finances, i.e. find a fiscal sponsor

DETERMINE THE GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE
- Determine which neighborhood(s) will be the focus of your efforts
- Research the history and current state of the neighborhood(s) as it relates to population change, demographics, economics, the environment, education, arts/culture, the justice system, religion and ethics (see data sweet spot)
- Identify neighborhood groups and leaders such as civic associations, faith groups, tenant councils, businesses, etc.
- Form a group of neighbors at the local, community level and educate them on the City Voice process and intended outcomes

HIRE STAFF
- Hire a community organizer, ideally from the target neighborhood(s)
- Hire a collaboration coordinator ideally from the target neighborhood(s)
- Hire community advocates, from the target neighborhood(s)
- Hire a data analyst who understands the “data sweet spot”