

Barton Institute Two-year Strategic Plan July 2020- June 2022

Mission: We work with Metro Denver community members to create safe community spaces where people can build lives with more opportunities to thrive.

Vision: Our vision is that all people in Metro Denver have the power, access, and freedom to lead the lives they want.

Focus: We focus on projects that use strategies and approaches that others can adopt and adapt.

Core Values:

The Barton Institute is...

- Community-driven
- Dedicated to inclusivity, equity, and diversity
- Committed to listening and learning
- Action-oriented and results-oriented
- Agile
- Financially prudent

Goal 1:

In partnership with Lifespan Local, help to create safe community spaces. These are places where all community members can make choices about their futures, and can advance their own lives, leadership, and personal and financial assets.

How we do this:

- We are driven by community members and we draw strengths from the private, public, and nonprofit sectors.
- We listen to people at the center of issues and draw in resources to help ideas flourish.
- We serve as an example for community asset building and community-driven work that might be adapted and adopted elsewhere.
- We publicize what we learn and help others learn from us.

What we will do:

- In partnership with Lifespan Local, open a site in Westwood that is safe and welcoming for all. Based on the listening that Lifespan Local has done in Westwood, begin to create a Dahlia-like campus in Westwood. (Note: The Dahlia Campus for Health and Well-Being was created by Lifespan Local's Lydia Prado. Located in Denver's Northeast Park Hill, it includes urban farms, a mental health center, a preschool, a gymnasium, a dental clinic, and many other programs and facilities. A Dahlia-like site will be a community space that reflects aspirations and concerns expressed by local community members. Because each neighborhood is different, the Westwood site will be meaningful to local residents and significantly different from the Dahlia Campus.)
- Continue to support the existing tiny homes village in Denver, assist in opening at least one more tiny homes village, and make measurable progress toward multiple new tiny home villages in metro Denver.
- Provide in-kind support to the Colorado Safe Parking Initiative in expanding the availability of safe parking lots in all Metro area counties for people who experience homelessness and live in their vehicles.
- Seek out and/or respond to one or two additional aligned efforts to achieve Goal 1, subject to available resources.
- Develop and use qualitative and quantitative measurements for determining the extent to which each Barton Institute project is creating activated community spaces. Use this to encourage adaptation to other neighborhoods.

Goal 2:

In partnership with Lifespan Local, help to increase access to and opportunity for wealth, health, and mental health in the communities where we work. Seek community-driven solutions to deep-seated racial disparities and inequities.

How we do this:

- Embrace equity in all the work we do.
- Help stabilize people where they live so they have the opportunity to build or rebuild their lives and livelihoods once they are stable.

What we will do:

- Partner with local community members and develop and use their expertise, connections, and abilities to address their communities' concerns.
- Work with local community members to start, build, and sustain businesses that increase community wealth and wellbeing.

- Advocate for wealth-building resources in partnerships with and on behalf of our partner communities.
- Advocate for health-building resources in partnerships with and on behalf of our partner communities.
- Seek out and/or respond to one or two additional aligned efforts to achieve Goal 2, subject to available resources.
- Develop and use qualitative and quantitative measurements for determining the extent to which each Barton Institute project is decreasing disparities. Use this to encourage adaptation to other neighborhoods.

Goal 3:

Develop the Barton Institute as a strong, sustainable, and vibrant organization.

What we will do:

- Strengthen the infrastructure of the Barton Institute, ensuring that all internal systems run according to best practices. This includes accounting, IT, database, personnel, and other policies.
- Practice and build equity—especially racial equity-- and community responsiveness in all that we do internally, including staff and Board development, vendor selection, and policies.
- Ensure a sustainable business model for the Barton Institute beyond the existing endowment.
- Be successful in fundraising for Barton Institute and Lifespan Local projects and operations.
- Have a robust communications operation to build community connections, including social media, website, and newsletters. Communicate what we do and what we don't do. Use languages and communications practices to advance our work. Be transparent, accountable, and humble in all of our communications.
- Establish a policy on fiscal sponsorships. Organizations we sponsor must align with Goal 1 and/or Goal 2 and must cover their costs.
- Strategically consider the future of the Barton Institute and Lifespan Local beyond the scope of this plan, in terms of programs, staff, board, awareness, and fundraising.