Networks for Integrating New Americans

Presents

Civic Engagement
through Three Lenses

WORLD EDUCATION

WELCOMING AMERICA
Building a Nation of Neighbors

IMPRINT
Immigrant Professional Integration

the national partnership for new americans

Community Science
Presenters

Andy Nash
TA Coordinator
Networks for New Americans
World Education

Kien Lee
Principal Associate & Vice President
Community Science

Homa Naficy
Chief Adult Learning Officer
Hartford Public Library
Why did we build a civic framework?

- Only 57.5% of eligible voters voted in the 2012 election.
- Immigrants are under-represented in the electorate. In 2011, only 56% of those eligible for naturalization had legalized.
- In the U.S., more than in most other countries, those with lower skills are more likely to feel that they have no influence on public decisions and the political process. (PIACC)
- Bring civics into EL/civics
Civic engagement and participation

“Civic engagement describes how an active citizen participates in the life of a community in order to improve conditions for fellow citizens or to help shape the community’s future.”

*Blueprint for the Next Chapter, Civic Ventures, 2005*

“Civic participation is the process that draws newcomers into collective problem solving to improve conditions in matters affecting their lives.”

*Craig McGarvey, “Pursuing Democracy’s Promise: Newcomer Civic Participation in America, 2004*
What is this civic framework and how did we develop it?

This civic framework is a description of the skills and knowledge that community members draw upon to effectively engage in the civic life and decisions of their communities and participate actively in a democratic society.

Building the Framework
1. How do people civically participate in U.S. daily life?
2. How can we organize/categorize these activities?
3. What skills and knowledge are needed to carry them out?
Step 1: How do people participate civically?

- Advocating for adult education funding
- Helping fire victims
- Volunteering at a soup kitchen
- Sharing information about community resources (DV, AIDS)
- Writing to/visiting/hosting decision-makers
- Organizing for public transportation
- Protesting discrimination
- Educating the local community about immigrants
- Registering voters
- Celebrating new citizens
- Doing community surveys
- Petitioning for a promised soccer field
- Writing to the newspaper about a community issue
Step 2: How can we categorize these activities?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Civic Engagement Activities</th>
<th>Forms of Civic Engagement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Helping fire victims</td>
<td>Building community</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volunteering at a soup kitchen</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Celebrating new citizens</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sharing information about community resources (DV, AIDS)</td>
<td>Expressing informed opinions and educating others</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Educating the receiving community about immigrants</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing to the newspaper about a community issue</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing to/visiting/hosting decision-makers</td>
<td>Holding decision-makers accountable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Registering voters</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Petitioning for a promised soccer field</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advocating for adult education funding</td>
<td>Organizing for change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organizing for public transportation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protesting discrimination</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doing community surveys</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Step 3: What skills and knowledge are needed?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Forms of Civic Engagement</th>
<th>Knowledge needed</th>
<th>Skills needed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Building community        | • Community needs and concerns  
                            • Community strengths and assets  
                            • History of the community | • Listening  
                            • Working across difference  
                            • Problem-solving |
| Expressing informed opinions and educating others | • What you think and why (evidence and reasoning)  
                                           • Who needs to hear you/your audience  
                                           • Belief in the value of speaking up | • Reading and writing  
                                           • Reading charts and graphs  
                                           • Digital literacy  
                                           • How to consider audience  
                                           • Persuasion & argumentation |
| Holding decision-makers accountable | • What decisions are being made and how they affect the community  
                                           • Who makes which decisions  
                                           • How democracy works  
                                           • How elections work | • Research: how to access and interpret information  
                                           • Asking effective questions  
                                           • Media literacy  
                                           • Critical thinking |
| Organizing for change     | • Community concerns  
                            • History of change/Belief that things can change  
                            • Legal, civil, human rights  
                            • Effective communication | • Leadership  
                            • Planning  
                            • Strategizing  
                            • Decision-making |
Examples from the classroom

Project-based learning

1. Identify question or concern
2. Investigate
3. Consider civic engagement options
4. Discuss transfer of learning
Examples from the classroom

- Citizenship prep
- Integration with basic skills
- Program democracy
Promising Practices for Building Civic Participation

- Build on the civic understanding and experience that people bring from their home cultures.
- Provide opportunities for students to take leadership, practice democracy, and participate in their communities.
- Build the skills to communicate respectfully and resolve conflict.
- Collaborate with community groups to participate in community efforts, campaigns, and other organized efforts.
Promising Practices for Building Civic Participation

- Critically examine the media and how it represents people and events.
- Use current events to stay informed and to analyze issues in social and historical context.
- Use the arts as a means to explore place, culture, and history.
- Provide opportunities for students to reflect on their identities and roles in a new culture and to consider how they want to participate.
Community Science

A Framework for Planning and Measuring Civic Engagement

April 10, 2015

Kien S. Lee
Principal Associate/Vice President
301-519-0722, ext. 108
kien@communityscience.com
MAINSTREAM AVENUES FOR CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

IMMIGRANT COMMUNITY
Social organization of community

**IMMIGRANT**
Knowledge and skills to:
- Hold decision-makers accountable
- Develop and express informed opinions
- Mobilize and organize for change
- Build relations

- Schools
- Labor unions
- Local government
- Professional/trade associations
- Neighborhood civic associations
- Faith institutions
- Benevolent associations
- Service providers
- Ethnic credit associations
- Recreation/sports groups
- Hometown associations
- Professional & merchant associations
- Public libraries
- Advocacy/interest groups
- Media
- Chamber of commerce
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Goal</th>
<th>Immigrant Community</th>
<th>Mainstream Avenues</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hold decision-makers accountable</td>
<td>Run for the president of the Asian American Merchant Association</td>
<td>Attend candidate forums during elections to ensure that candidate address concerns of immigrant businesses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Build relations</td>
<td>Develop and implement a cultural program for youth at the Buddhist Temple</td>
<td>Invite leaders from other communities to be presenters or mentors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Develop and express informed opinions</td>
<td>Wrote articles for <em>India News</em></td>
<td>Contribute to neighborhood website Be a guest speaker on local TV or radio station</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organize for change</td>
<td>Convene “tea chats” to discuss what to do about why the Latino youth soccer team can’t use the park for its weekly games</td>
<td>Request meeting with local council member to discuss the community’s concerns about the use of the park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Immigrant Community</td>
<td>Mainstream Avenues</td>
<td>Example of Measures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------</td>
<td>-------------------</td>
<td>---------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Run for the president of the Asian American Merchant Association</td>
<td>Attend candidate forums during elections to ensure that candidate address concerns of immigrant businesses</td>
<td>Setting of activity (within immigrant community, across communities, through mainstream avenues)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Develop and implement a cultural program for youth at the Buddhist Temple</td>
<td>Invite leaders from other communities to be presenters or mentors</td>
<td>First-time involvement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wrote articles for <em>India News</em></td>
<td>Contribute to neighborhood website Be a guest speaker on local TV or radio station</td>
<td>Frequency of participation (# of times per time period)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Convene “tea chats” to discuss what to do about the sports club’s lack of access to the park for soccer games</td>
<td>Request meeting with local council member to discuss the community’s concerns about their inability to use the park</td>
<td>Quality of participation or involvement (positive, negative)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Example of Measures**

- Setting of activity (within immigrant community, across communities, through mainstream avenues)
- First-time involvement
- Frequency of participation (# of times per time period)
- Quality of participation or involvement (positive, negative)
- Outcome of participation or involvement (Individual, organizational, relationship, systemic)
Mainstream avenues for civic engagement

Immigrant community

 IMMIGRANT
Knowledge and skills to:
• Hold decision-makers accountable
• Develop and express informed opinions
• Mobilize and organize for change
• Build relations

Respect and value civic traditions of different cultures

Provide equitable opportunities and different ways for immigrants to participate

Build bridges with immigrant organizations

Provide access to information and resources

Schools
Labor unions
Local government
Professional associations
Professional & merchant associations
Hometown associations
Cultural & language programs
Recreation/sports groups
Advocacy/interest groups
Public libraries
Ethnic credit associations
Service providers
Faith institutions
Benevolent associations
Neighborhood civic associations
Media
Chamber of commerce

Faith in institutions

IMMIGRANT COMMUNITY
Social organization of community
Immigrant

- Hold decision-makers accountable
- Build relations
- Develop and express informed opinions
- Organize for change

Mainstream Avenues for Civic Engagement

- Provide equitable opportunities and different ways for immigrants to participate
- Build bridges with immigrant organizations
- Respect and value civic traditions of different cultures
- Provide access to information and resources
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mainstream Avenues</th>
<th>Example of Activity</th>
<th>Example of Measures</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Provide equitable opportunities and different ways for immigrants to participate</td>
<td>Allow and encourage immigrants to bring friends Establish advisory committees or boards composed of immigrant leaders</td>
<td>Institutional policies that support immigrant engagement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Build bridges with immigrant organizations</td>
<td>Engage ethnic media Understand and respect the unique functions of different immigrant organizations</td>
<td>Institutional practices that support immigrant engagement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respect and value civic traditions of different cultures</td>
<td>Attend and volunteer at immigrant community events Educate immigrants about US civic traditions</td>
<td># and quality of relationships with immigrant organizations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provide access to information and resources</td>
<td>Translate information Make available interpreters at meetings Distribute announcements or information at natural gathering places for immigrants</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Example of Activity: Institutional policies that support immigrant engagement  
Example of Measures: Institutional practices that support immigrant engagement  
# and quality of relationships with immigrant organizations
MAINSTREAM
AVENUES FOR CIVIC ENGAGEMENT
STRONG, INCLUSIVE, EQUITABLE, & JUST COMMUNITIES

IMMIGRANT COMMUNITY
Social organization of community

SENSE OF COMMUNITY

Respect and value civic traditions of different cultures

Provide equitable opportunities and different ways for immigrants to participate

TRUST

Build bridges with immigrant organizations

Provide access to information and resources

IMMIGRANT
Knowledge and skills to:
• Hold decision-makers accountable
• Develop and express informed opinions
• Mobilize and organize for change
• Build relations

REPRESENTATION

Chamber of commerce

Public libraries

Advocacy/interest groups

Professional & merchant associations

Reculation/ sports groups

Professional associations

Local government

IMMIGRANT
Knowledge and skills to:

• Hold decision-makers accountable
• Develop and express informed opinions
• Mobilize and organize for change
• Build relations

SENSE OF COMMUNITY

Respect and value civic traditions of different cultures

Provide equitable opportunities and different ways for immigrants to participate

TRUST

Build bridges with immigrant organizations

Provide access to information and resources

IMMIGRANT
Knowledge and skills to:
• Hold decision-makers accountable
• Develop and express informed opinions
• Mobilize and organize for change
• Build relations

REPRESENTATION

Chamber of commerce

Public libraries

Advocacy/interest groups

Professional & merchant associations

Reculation/ sports groups

Professional associations

Local government

IMMIGRANT
Knowledge and skills to:

• Hold decision-makers accountable
• Develop and express informed opinions
• Mobilize and organize for change
• Build relations

SENSE OF COMMUNITY

Respect and value civic traditions of different cultures

Provide equitable opportunities and different ways for immigrants to participate

TRUST

Build bridges with immigrant organizations

Provide access to information and resources

IMMIGRANT
Knowledge and skills to:
• Hold decision-makers accountable
• Develop and express informed opinions
• Mobilize and organize for change
• Build relations

REPRESENTATION

Chamber of commerce

Public libraries

Advocacy/interest groups

Professional & merchant associations

Reculation/ sports groups

Professional associations

Local government

IMMIGRANT
Knowledge and skills to:

• Hold decision-makers accountable
• Develop and express informed opinions
• Mobilize and organize for change
• Build relations

SENSE OF COMMUNITY

Respect and value civic traditions of different cultures

Provide equitable opportunities and different ways for immigrants to participate

TRUST

Build bridges with immigrant organizations

Provide access to information and resources

IMMIGRANT
Knowledge and skills to:
• Hold decision-makers accountable
• Develop and express informed opinions
• Mobilize and organize for change
• Build relations

REPRESENTATION

Chamber of commerce

Public libraries

Advocacy/interest groups

Professional & merchant associations

Reculation/ sports groups

Professional associations

Local government

IMMIGRANT
Knowledge and skills to:

• Hold decision-makers accountable
• Develop and express informed opinions
• Mobilize and organize for change
• Build relations

SENSE OF COMMUNITY

Respect and value civic traditions of different cultures

Provide equitable opportunities and different ways for immigrants to participate

TRUST

Build bridges with immigrant organizations

Provide access to information and resources

IMMIGRANT
Knowledge and skills to:
• Hold decision-makers accountable
• Develop and express informed opinions
• Mobilize and organize for change
• Build relations

REPRESENTATION

Chamber of commerce

Public libraries

Advocacy/interest groups

Professional & merchant associations

Reculation/ sports groups

Professional associations

Local government

IMMIGRANT
Knowledge and skills to:

• Hold decision-makers accountable
• Develop and express informed opinions
• Mobilize and organize for change
• Build relations

SENSE OF COMMUNITY

Respect and value civic traditions of different cultures

Provide equitable opportunities and different ways for immigrants to participate

TRUST

Build bridges with immigrant organizations

Provide access to information and resources

IMMIGRANT
Knowledge and skills to:
• Hold decision-makers accountable
• Develop and express informed opinions
• Mobilize and organize for change
• Build relations

REPRESENTATION

Chamber of commerce

Public libraries

Advocacy/interest groups

Professional & merchant associations

Reculation/ sports groups

Professional associations

Local government

IMMIGRANT
Knowledge and skills to:

• Hold decision-makers accountable
• Develop and express informed opinions
• Mobilize and organize for change
• Build relations

SENSE OF COMMUNITY

Respect and value civic traditions of different cultures

Provide equitable opportunities and different ways for immigrants to participate

TRUST

Build bridges with immigrant organizations

Provide access to information and resources

IMMIGRANT
Knowledge and skills to:

• Hold decision-makers accountable
• Develop and express informed opinions
• Mobilize and organize for change
• Build relations

REPRESENTATION

Chamber of commerce

Public libraries

Advocacy/interest groups

Professional & merchant associations

Reculation/ sports groups

Professional associations

Local government

IMMIGRANT
Knowledge and skills to:

• Hold decision-makers accountable
• Develop and express informed opinions
• Mobilize and organize for change
• Build relations

SENSE OF COMMUNITY

Respect and value civic traditions of different cultures

Provide equitable opportunities and different ways for immigrants to participate

TRUST

Build bridges with immigrant organizations

Provide access to information and resources

IMMIGRANT
Knowledge and skills to:

• Hold decision-makers accountable
• Develop and express informed opinions
• Mobilize and organize for change
• Build relations

REPRESENTATION

Chamber of commerce

Public libraries

Advocacy/interest groups

Professional & merchant associations

Reculation/ sports groups

Professional associations

Local government

IMMIGRANT
Knowledge and skills to:

• Hold decision-makers accountable
• Develop and express informed opinions
• Mobilize and organize for change
• Build relations

SENSE OF COMMUNITY

Respect and value civic traditions of different cultures

Provide equitable opportunities and different ways for immigrants to participate

TRUST

Build bridges with immigrant organizations

Provide access to information and resources

IMMIGRANT
Knowledge and skills to:

• Hold decision-makers accountable
• Develop and express informed opinions
• Mobilize and organize for change
• Build relations

REPRESENTATION

Chamber of commerce

Public libraries

Advocacy/interest groups

Professional & merchant associations

Reculation/ sports groups

Professional associations

Local government

IMMIGRANT
Knowledge and skills to:

• Hold decision-makers accountable
• Develop and express informed opinions
• Mobilize and organize for change
• Build relations

SENSE OF COMMUNITY

Respect and value civic traditions of different cultures

Provide equitable opportunities and different ways for immigrants to participate

TRUST

Build bridges with immigrant organizations

Provide access to information and resources

IMMIGRANT
Knowledge and skills to:

• Hold decision-makers accountable
• Develop and express informed opinions
• Mobilize and organize for change
• Build relations

REPRESENTATION

Chamber of commerce

Public libraries

Advocacy/interest groups

Professional & merchant associations

Reculation/ sports groups

Professional associations

Local government

IMMIGRANT
Knowledge and skills to:

• Hold decision-makers accountable
• Develop and express informed opinions
• Mobilize and organize for change
• Build relations

SENSE OF COMMUNITY

Respect and value civic traditions of different cultures

Provide equitable opportunities and different ways for immigrants to participate

TRUST

Build bridges with immigrant organizations

Provide access to information and resources

IMMIGRANT
Knowledge and skills to:

• Hold decision-makers accountable
• Develop and express informed opinions
• Mobilize and organize for change
• Build relations

REPRESENTATION

Chamber of commerce

Public libraries

Advocacy/interest groups

Professional & merchant associations

Reculation/ sports groups

Professional associations

Local government

IMMIGRANT
Knowledge and skills to:

• Hold decision-makers accountable
• Develop and express informed opinions
• Mobilize and organize for change
• Build relations

SENSE OF COMMUNITY

Respect and value civic traditions of different cultures

Provide equitable opportunities and different ways for immigrants to participate

TRUST

Build bridges with immigrant organizations

Provide access to information and resources

IMMIGRANT
Knowledge and skills to:

• Hold decision-makers accountable
• Develop and express informed opinions
• Mobilize and organize for change
• Build relations

REPRESENTATION

Chamber of commerce

Public libraries

Advocacy/interest groups

Professional & merchant associations

Reculation/ sports groups

Professional associations

Local government

IMMIGRANT
Knowledge and skills to:

• Hold decision-makers accountable
• Develop and express informed opinions
• Mobilize and organize for change
• Build relations

SENSE OF COMMUNITY

Respect and value civic traditions of different cultures

Provide equitable opportunities and different ways for immigrants to participate

TRUST

Build bridges with immigrant organizations

Provide access to information and resources

IMMIGRANT
Knowledge and skills to:

• Hold decision-makers accountable
• Develop and express informed opinions
• Mobilize and organize for change
• Build relations

REPRESENTATION

Chamber of commerce

Public libraries

Advocacy/interest groups

Professional & merchant associations

Reculation/ sports groups

Professional associations

Local government

IMMIGRANT
Knowledge and skills to:

• Hold decision-makers accountable
• Develop and express informed opinions
• Mobilize and organize for change
• Build relations

SENSE OF COMMUNITY

Respect and value civic traditions of different cultures

Provide equitable opportunities and different ways for immigrants to participate

TRUST

Build bridges with immigrant organizations

Provide access to information and resources

IMMIGRANT
Knowledge and skills to:

• Hold decision-makers accountable
• Develop and express informed opinions
• Mobilize and organize for change
• Build relations

REPRESENTATION

Chamber of commerce

Public libraries

Advocacy/interest groups

Professional & merchant associations

Reculation/ sports groups

Professional associations

Local government

IMMIGRANT
Knowledge and skills to:

• Hold decision-makers accountable
• Develop and express informed opinions
• Mobilize and organize for change
• Build relations

SENSE OF COMMUNITY

Respect and value civic traditions of different cultures

Provide equitable opportunities and different ways for immigrants to participate

TRUST

Build bridges with immigrant organizations

Provide access to information and resources

IMMIGRANT
Knowledge and skills to:

• Hold decision-makers accountable
• Develop and express informed opinions
• Mobilize and organize for change
• Build relations

REPRESENTATION

Chamber of commerce

Public libraries

Advocacy/interest groups

Professional & merchant associations

Reculation/ sports groups

Professional associations

Local government

IMMIGRANT
Knowledge and skills to:

• Hold decision-makers accountable
• Develop and express informed opinions
• Mobilize and organize for change
• Build relations
Libraries: A Gateway to Immigrant Civic Engagement

Homa Naficy
Chief Adult Learning Officer
naficy@hplct.org
About The American Place (TAP)

The American Place
TAP Core Services

- ESOL Classes
- Citizenship Classes
- Guided Self-Study Program
- Online support
- Passport Services
- Legal Services
- Over the phone interpreter svc.
Need for Increased Community Involvement

1. Move by USCIS to digitize the delivery of its services
2. Increase in the proportional share of immigrants in the general population
Contextualized Learning

The Capitol
City Hall
City Council
Court System
Virtual Civic Tours
Public Libraries
Why Libraries?

Offer tax services
Serve as polling sites
Commemorate American civic holidays
Setting for Naturalization Ceremonies
Connect with community development
Serve as a catalyst for social capital
Host public forums on municipal issues
A landmark democratic institution – neutral, free and open to all
Building Relationships of Trust

• Networks of trusting relationships - both with people from like and unlike backgrounds - create one of civic participation’s most powerful contributions to immigrant integration.

• People who know each other through shared work are far less capable of stereotyping and characterizing people as ‘other’.
We Belong Here Initiative

- Cultural Navigators
- Citizenship Guides
- Community Dialogues
- Communications Campaign
Outcomes

Establishment of a neighborhood Welcoming Committee

Establishment of a City Commission of Refugee and immigrant Affairs

Increased “traffic flow” of immigrants at the library (beyond the classroom)

Increased sense of belonging
Promoting Immigrant Civic Engagement
WE BELONG HERE HARTFORD

http://hpl.discovervideo.com/show/watch?id=e478f962&t=1
These initiatives have been made possible through funding from IMLS and USCIS.
It's QUESTION TIME!!
Resources

Hartford Public Library citizenship and civic engagement activities: http://www.hplct.org/library-services/immigration-citizenship/community-civic-participation

Voter Education, Registration, and Action: www.nelrc.org/VERA

Civic Participation and Community Action Sourcebook: http://tech.worlded.org/docs/vera/index1.htm

The Change Agent: http://changeagent.nelrc.org
Networks for Integrating New Americans

Thank you!

A recording of this webinar and the follow-up discussion will be available on the VCoP. To join the VCoP, please contact Araceli Mendez at amendez@worlded.org