

COMMUNITY ORGANIZING for STORMWATER SOLUTIONS

- Please add to the chat your name, municipality, and role within your municipality
- Please also add to the chat the name of one or two community institutions in which you participate (e.g. school, block club, Greek letter organization, sports team, etc.)



The Civic Innovation Hub

Facilitated by

Maggie Catania, Executive Director, Calumet Collaborative

Rachel Scarlett, Ph.D., Keller Science Action Center, Field Museum

May 24th, 2023

Brief Introductions

Zoom Basics

- Use the chat feature to ask questions or make comments during presentations
- Change your name
- Mute and unmute

Commitments

Basic commitments:

- As facilitators, we will
 - Respectfully listen to you
 - Move at a deliberate pace
 - Ask you to place questions in the chat “parking lot”
 - Keep jargon to a minimum
- We expect everyone to
 - Step up, step back
 - Actively listen
 - Mutual Respect
 - Respectfully disagree

Agenda

- Civic Innovation Hub Overview
- Breakout 1:
 - What have we organized in our communities?
- Community Organizing 101 + **Olga Bautista**
- Breakout 2:
 - Community institution assets and gaps
- Planning for June Session (Asset Mapping)
- Wrap-up

A photograph of a landscaped road intersection. In the center, there is a circular flower bed with a concrete curb, containing various green plants, tall grasses, pink flowers, and yellow flowers. The road is paved asphalt. In the background, there are lush green trees and a building partially visible. A semi-transparent grey banner is at the top, and a semi-transparent grey box with text is in the middle.

Vision

The Calumet Region is a region in which **infrastructure solutions** are planned and built with **resident and community leadership**.

Mission

Organize residents in the Calumet Region, *in partnership* with local governments, to get results on *social, economic, and environmental infrastructure*, such as resilient stormwater management, by providing education, data analysis and tools, community advocacy and knowledge-building resources, and networking opportunities.

The Civic Innovation Hub will prepare municipalities to make use of the RainReady funds, which Cook County has earmarked to implement the 2017 RainReady plans.

Organizations



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introduce ourselves

The time is now!

- Municipalities have opportunities to receive funding from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, EJ grants, etc.
- But, often difficult to get the money where it's most needed - we aim to have your community well poised to get money and use it for best impact

What? Green Infrastructure and other Solutions

Green infrastructure refers to natural systems including forests, floodplains, wetlands and soils that provide additional benefits for human well-being, such as flood protection and climate regulation.

Gray infrastructure refers to structures such as sewers, pipes, roads, water treatment plants, dams, seawalls, or roads.

Who? Residents and Local Government in Municipalities

- Blue Island
- Calumet City
- Calumet Park
- Dolton
- Riverdale
- Robbins

Cohort Experience

The purpose of the cohort experience is to have participants learn how to plan, implement, and sustain stormwater management solutions through facilitated educational workshops and networking sessions.

When: April - December, Once per month, 1.5-2.5 hour sessions.

What: Workshop sessions, field trips, networking opportunities, and capstone working sessions

Where: Mix. Workshops offered virtually. In-person field trips in the fall.

Who: 2+ residents and a municipal staff or elected official to join per community.



Briefly share about something great that happens in your community because residents organized.



OLGA BAUTISTA



Olga Bautista is the Executive Director of the Southeast Environmental Task Force. She has dedicated her personal and professional career to improving the lives of her fellow community members. Before her role as Executive Director, she was a Local School Council Parent Representative at John L. Marsh School, a YWCA Crisis Intervention Specialist, a board member of the Immigrant Defense Alliance, and a board member of the Southeast Environmental Task Force (SETF) and a member of the Caucus of Rank and File Educators (CORE).

So excited that she is joining us today!!!



Community Organizing in the Calumet 101

- Community members working together to make change within their communities.
- There are multiple ways that change happens. We always have to figure out the path forward and then move. It always looks different, it's always locally defined, and the approach you take is the best one given your circumstances.



- start with not just an understanding of Challenges but also **Assets and Existing Networks of POWER** - (intro to Field Museum approach and mapping tools; SIGNAL NEXT WORKSHOP)
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- Building Power to
 - Community specific and appropriate solutions; ensuring multiple community benefits (share about weeds)
 - Influence Policy (across government scales); not always adversarial. In many South Suburban communities there is generally alignment between residents, electeds, and municipal staff about stormwater policies. Capacity is often an issue.
 - Develop Systems of Mutual Aid (e.g. social support systems during/post disaster events). These can operate independent of government policies/ actions or in concert.
- Building a Platform // Campaign Strategies and Actions
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- Roles of various institutions
 - Research institutions (e.g. Calumet Data Book)
 - Local + Social Media (e.g. Harvey World Harold)
 - Government (Inside/Outside Strategies) - but there is often alignment in this context
 - Churches, schools, block clubs, other social organizations

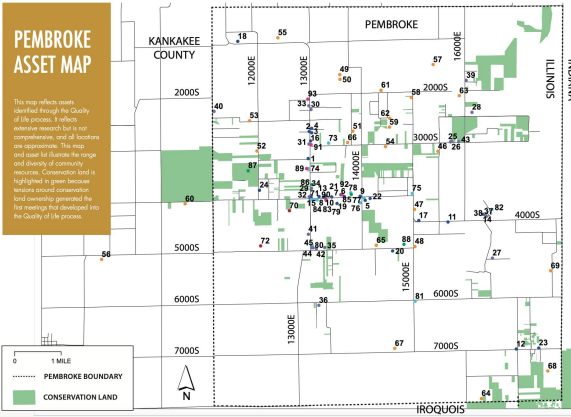


Discussion

What are important community institutions associated with some of the community wins you shared before? Could they help with stormwater solutions? Are there community institutions that we are missing when we think about stormwater solutions?

Reflection

Asset Mapping with the Field Museum



Preview into next session

Parking Lot

- What is the difference between weeds and native plants?
- Has any community ever successfully addressed stormwater issues?
- Are rain gardens ever a good idea?