

The Northeast Central Durham (NECD) Livability Initiative - Partnership for Sustainable Communities

How the Magic Can Happen

HOW we actuated our community driven collaborative

Contract with an outside entity to facilitate stakeholder workshops.

This leaves all stakeholders free to participate in the **content** and not have to be concerned about the **process** or leadership roles.

Utilize ToP[®] Facilitation Methods as the group “operating system”

These methods promote participation, blending rational and intuitive thinking.

Design workshops to produce community driven emerging arenas/schemes

These schemes are identified by the participants, integrating various vision elements.

Include the existing leadership core in the process design work

The existing community leadership participates in the process design from the start

Recall the community’s past significant events, decisions and accomplishments

Affirm the past and identity of the community before planning the next chapter

Encourage dialogue between community leaders and service providers

Face to face conversations align the vision elements with available resources to establish linkages and partnerships.

Establish non-traditional, lateral partnerships between various sectors

People who are at similar levels, but hold different perspectives can more readily spur creativity and innovation

Keep the process community driven

Honor the special knowledge that each person brings. Local knowledge is valuable because it is appropriate.

Designate staff to support the schemes and provide technical assistance

Community and staff relationships develop and blossom

Reconvene the whole group quarterly to report, interchange and celebrate

Repeatedly and frequently retell the story and elaborate on the vision



This piece was written by Elaine Stover, Principal of greenschemes™, based on material written by members of the Neighborhood Improvement Services Division of the City of Durham after completing the one year anniversary of the NECD Livability Initiative, August, 2011. Complete report at <http://www.greenschemesnc.com/magichappens.html>