

APA UT Spring 2026 Session on Well Heard Communities

ENGAGEMENT LEARNING AND RESOURCES

Start With People, Not Projects

Real engagement begins with listening, community voice should shape the vision, not react to it.

<https://www.pps.org/article/grplacefeat>

Placemaking = Shared Decision-Making

Communities aren't just stakeholders, they're co-creators. Ethical engagement redistributes decision-making power.

<https://www.pps.org/article/grplacefeat>

City Leader Guide on Civic Engagement: Designing Pathways for Participatory Problem-Solving

Bloomberg Harvard City Leadership Initiative

https://www.cityleadership.harvard.edu/wp-content/uploads/migrate/BHCLI_CivicEngagement_0000CG.pdf

WORKBOOK: City Leader Guide on Civic Engagement: Designing Pathways for Participatory Problem-Solving

Civic Engagement Self Assessment

https://www.cityleadership.harvard.edu/wp-content/uploads/migrate/BHCLI_CivicEngagement_0000WB.pdf

Salt Lake City Civic Engagement Guide

Comprehensive step by step guide

<https://www.slc.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/2022Engagement-Guide-3.0.pdf>

Long Beach Values Act

<https://www.longbeach.gov/pages/city-news/long-beach-values-act/>

Long Beach Values Act Resource Guide

Designed to provide helpful information for community members who may need assistance with immigration-related issues.

<https://www.longbeach.gov/globalassets/health/media-library/documents/healthy-living/office-of-equity/lb-values-act-resource-guide>

Johns Hopkins University Citizen Engagement Techniques

Each Citizen Engagement Technique can be used to create new city services and initiatives, or improve existing ones. They can be used individually or be combined with other Citizen Engagement Techniques.

<https://citiesofservice.jhu.edu/citizen-engagement-techniques/>

Engagement Is a Process, Not a Meeting

Iterate, test, adapt. One-time outreach is not engagement.

https://www.placeit.org/about_and_services.html

Design With, Not For

Lived experience is expertise. Communities already understand what works, your role is to uplift it!

<https://www.pps.org/article/grplacefeat>

Embedded Planning Builds Trust

Go where people are. Engagement should live in everyday spaces.

<https://c1typlann3r.blog/embeddedplanning/>

Placekeeping > Placemaking

Don't just build new, protect what exists. Culture, memory, and identity are infrastructure.

<https://www.tawarc.com/process>

Indigenous Frameworks Center Relationship

Land is not a site, it's a relative. Engagement must honor stewardship, history, and responsibility.

<https://www.tawarc.com/process>

Culture Is Not an Add-On

Language, access, and representation must be built in from the start.

<https://multicultural.utah.gov/magnify/>

Inclusion Is Not a Feature, It's the Model

Projects must generate opportunity, not just extract value, supporting residents, local businesses, and long-term wealth building.

<https://www.brookings.edu/articles/building-better-how-real-estate-developers-can-create-more-inclusive-catalytic-development-projects/>

Development Should Create, Not Displace, Community Wealth

Build economic ecosystems (jobs, ownership, and access) not just buildings.

<https://www.brookings.edu/articles/building-better-how-real-estate-developers-can-create-more-inclusive-catalytic-development-projects/>

Community + Developer = Shared Table

The future is partnership, not opposition. Co-creating long-term outcomes together.

<https://www.brookings.edu/articles/building-better-how-real-estate-developers-can-create-more-inclusive-catalytic-development-projects/>

Think Beyond the Building

True impact happens at the district level, integrating housing, jobs, culture, and public space into one ecosystem.

<https://www.brookings.edu/articles/building-better-how-real-estate-developers-can-create-more-inclusive-catalytic-development-projects/>