

SAFEGROWTH

Creating Safe Neighborhoods

The “To, For, With” Principle



Over the years, when addressing crime in the neighborhoods, we have gone through a transition in thinking.

TO

First, was the logic that we could reduce crime by doing something “To” the community. This idea arose from the thinking that only **physical** actions, such as the use of police and prisons would solve the problem.

FOR

Next, was the idea of introducing programs, community organizations, block watches, etc. “For” the community. This philosophy was all about creating and delivering programs that the community should use to help in reducing crime.

WITH

Up to this point, it had not been conceived that for a community to make optimal use of a program, it needed to **be their idea**. They needed to **own** it. The “With” principle takes into consideration the need for the first two principles, but adds that only by **working with the community**, will true success occur.

EXAMPLE

An excellent example of *engaging people where they live* is a blog by criminologist, Greg Saville, on creating safe neighborhoods. To read the blog and watch the video, go to:

<http://safe-growth.blogspot.com/2009/07/safety-with-potluck-transforming-space.html>

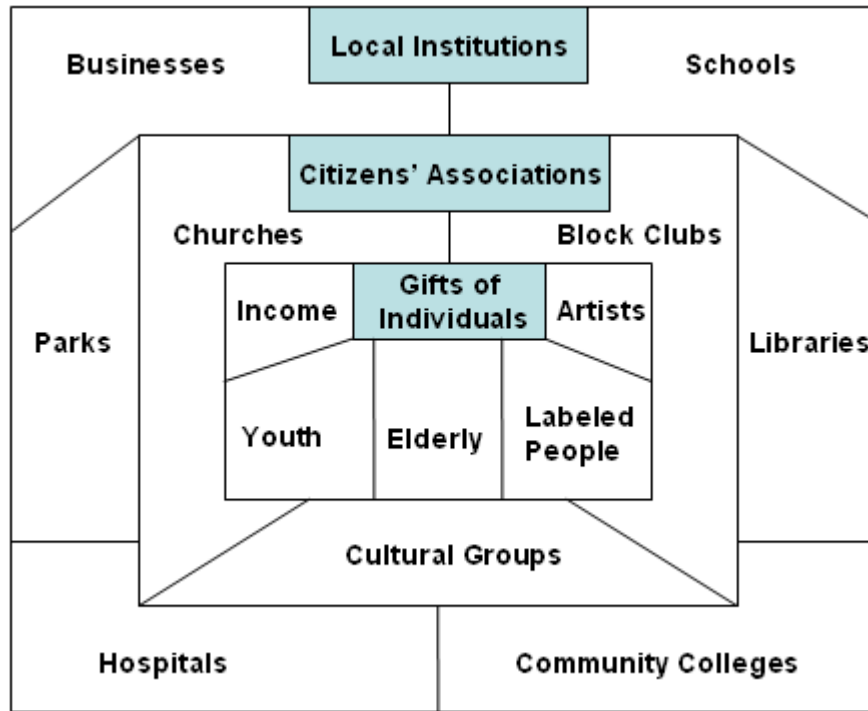
Within the article, find the hyperlink and select “click to view video of Mark describing city repair”.



This nine-minute video showcases Portland’s City Repair movement, pioneered a decade ago by innovator and architect Mark Lakeman. The goal was to reconnect people and to create neighborhood pride through the creation of public space. Residents came together to design the look and function of their neighborhood intersections. The idea of “placemaking” was evident when neighbors and local skilled artisans joined to transform the tired urban grid (road intersections) into public squares, which became attractive gathering places for residents. Each community determined their own goals: slower traffic? more foot traffic? public art? Although created on street intersections, these places didn’t hinder local traffic, but rather provide a natural traffic calmer, an additional benefit!

By working *with* the community, not *to* or *for* the community, the communities took ownership and provided natural sustainability that otherwise, would not have taken place. Portland’s community builders took responsibility for maintaining their artwork year after year and it has become a source of great pride, and community strength. Success of this city repair movement has been proven through the dozens of cities across the U.S. that have now implemented it.

Community Assets Map



Each community boasts a unique combination of assets upon which to build its future. A thorough map of those assets would begin with an inventory of the gifts, skills and capacities of the community's residents. Household by household, building by building, block by block, the capacity mapmakers will discover a vast and often surprising array of individual talents and productive skills.

In addition to mapping the gifts and skills of individuals, and of households and families, the committed community builder will compile an inventory of citizens' associations, and more formal institutions within the community. Individuals, associations, and institutions – these three major categories contain within them much of the asset base of every community. They will also provide the framework for organizing your community.

For more information on SafeGrowth, please request the booklet *SafeGrowth, Creating Safety & Sustainability through Community Building and Urban Design* which is available online at the LISC Online resource Library: www.lisc.org/resources