

Hubs Convening Project United Way Halifax

As of May 20th, 2016 N=17

Final Project Evaluation, May 5th

1. What top 3 things worked well about this project?

- Open discussions, bringing people together
- Group size / diversity of orgs (could be more diversity always!), United Way's involvement is assuring, know they're committing a lot of time to this initiative moving forward.
- Lots of brainstorming
- Networking, information sharing, building knowledge about community resources
- Networking, learning about various initiatives, contemplating various ideas
- Networking, moving around the region, no wrong questions.
- Hearing others' ideas, monthly schedule
- Mapping, engagement, networking
- The project was well-organized, the open communication, the opportunity to be part of such an important venture.
- Meeting people in the same work, learning about effective ways to have a hub
- Keeping the groups open, meeting regularly, a diverse group of people with similar goals.
- Great orientation for new hub staff
- Mapping, online recap of meetings to stay in touch with movement when presence not possible, opportunities for a range of different scaled projects.
- Networking, facilitation process.
- Networking, discussion, facilitation.
- Meeting other hub participants, safe environment for expression, networking
- Bringing a diverse group of people together, building momentum for an important shared goal, creating a liaison for centralized contact

2. What was most valuable for you?

- Having students engaged, connecting hubs
- Connection, solidarity.'
- Connections
- Networking and familiarization with what is going on in Halifax
- Connections
- Learning about Hubs – a new concept for the region and mapping.
- Sharing the work we do
- The interactions, the knowledge shared.
- Learning about others in the same stage, feeling supported, I'm not alone.
- The information sharing and mapping was nice.
- Exposure to a variety of other hubs to listen to and reflect on my own organization in relation too.
- Networking
- Networking / discussion
- Meeting other participants, discussion sessions
- Meeting new people, knowing the definition and shapes that hubs can be, working together to listen to good, local innovative ideas

3. Did you know many of the people participating before you joined this project? If so, how many – generally...

- Low; 3-5
- Not really, two tops.
- No, 10%
- I knew surprisingly few, perhaps had some familiarity with half a dozen.
- Some – 7/8
- No – 4
- Less than 40%
- 50%
- a few but not many
- 25%
- I knew some, maybe 10-15
- Yes, chance to re-meet people I'd met elsewhere

- Generally, I knew 4-5 people at each session (attended 3)
- No
- Not many, 1-2
- Three
- About 50%

4. How many new people did you meet as a result of this project? Approximately...

- 30-40
- 20!
- Lots, 90%
- I got to know about a dozen.
- 5/6
- 20
- 20
- 35 people
- probably 45
- 15?
- Quite a few, 40-50
- 5
- 15-20 people
- 10-15
- 15
- approx.. 30
- formed a lot of new relationships, maybe 5 solid ones

5. Did this project change your thinking about neighbourhood hubs? If so, how?

- Absolutely! Brought more attention to diversity among hubs.
- Somewhat
- Starting to think hubs as geographic coming together of agencies to solve common problems; establish collective. Resources to needed to facilitate processes not staff agencies. Bring core together on as need basis – bring in subject matter experts depending on issue at hand.
- Yes, I knew little about the UW initiative.

- Not really – just enhanced my thinking.
- Yes – creation is possible
- No
- Absolutely, there are so many people out there that are doing the same work, experiencing the same challenges & successes
- Reinforced... strong hubs, strong neighbourhoods.
- Yes, different form of hubs and how to make them effective and inviting.
- Not about how I thought of them, but opened my eyes to how many there can be.
- No, but didn't participate a lot.
- I appreciated thinking in a broad range about intentional, evolving and accidental hubs and the importance of each.
- Yes, each one is unique to community it serves (diverse), hubs are diverse in nature, no one size fits all.
- Has helped me see beyond our hubs goals / work / mission
- Yes, identified a variety of different models for a hub, gained an expanded view of what a hub could be
- The lexicon around describing / defining and talking about temporal and spatial differences was important

6. What – if anything – significant happened for you during the course of this project? (ie. a new partnership, introduction to new resources, changed thinking about...)

- 2 new potential collaborations likely to emerge from new partnerships & connections
- More feelings of support & solidarity, introduced to working models of things that might or might not work on my end (either way, now I have a better idea because I've seen it)
- Got to know people well
- Yes, I formed a partnership with a group member for a short term project.
- Strengthened connections.
- All of the above & a new roundtable in Mainland North; infancy
- Hearing about what others are doing
- I was able to form a couple connections that I hope to enhance upon (the ECHO Hub)

- New ideas, community calendar, mapping for our needs.
- Seeing the same sort of challenges other hubs are facing.
- Lots of new partnerships, a community calendar in our area.
- Met Ryan Veltmeyer – finally, Art Hive & Hubs finally met.
- Meet people that have a new variety of resources available – community developers, planners, ED's and volunteers with more experience, funders.
- Building new relationships.
- Introduction to new resources, provide inter-organizational support
- Made a number of new contacts, changed way of thinking about hubs in general and generated ideas for moving forward with our concept of a hub

7. Was the project website useful? If so, what was most useful?

- Yes, central depository for info
- It probably will be in the future, but honestly I never felt like I had enough time to spend on it (I work two jobs, and this one is paid for 20hrs/week but could involved 3 full-time positions really)
- So so
- Yes! The map and resources (I still feel I don't know much about the specifics of each Hub).
- Yes, great place to go for resources.
- Reminders about resources – keep it there and keep adding to it. Best practices – case studies.
- I barely looked at it
- Yes, was able to keep up to date when I could not attend
- Yes, I reviewed it several times and learnt so much about other hubs and United Way.
- No, don't feel I have the time to navigate it. Feel like at less of a learning stage and more doing.
- Yes, lots of useful information.
- No, haven't tapped into it yet.
- Yes – a chance to follow through all of the discussions from start to finish, catch up on events and pool resources.
- Yes, information sharing.
- A good reference to follow progress.

- Good to review synopsis of each meeting, good for keeping up to date if a meeting was missed, excellent resource base
- It has a lot of potential, and I hope that regional champions can learn to use it well

8. What would you like to see happen next?

- Moving into action – the time spent building the foundation was well spent. A good investment.
- Action to get more paid staff & paid hours for hub work. Action to create tangible means to promote the value of hubs.
- Concrete steps: clarify hub structure, process per hints provided here. Hubs and mapping, should not define hubs by ‘association name’ but more a name given to a group of associations within a geographic area meeting for a common purpose (ie. North End Community Circle).
- Continue to build map & connect it with details about each Hub. A session on evaluation (for hubs to learn more about collecting and sharing their impacts).
- Actions, maybe small but some tangibles.
- Continue the journey; reach out to the ‘absentee’ partners
- Share knowledge with policy makers, politicians, public
- I would like to see an event that would showcase the work that has been done over the last 6 months
- Periodical updates and ‘gathering together’ times. Maybe visits to other hubs.
- Meet with other frontline staff to learn more about what they are doing on the ground; evaluations, volunteers, policy.
- It would be nice to meet a couple times a year.
- Expertise sharing.
- Concrete action steps that could lead to mutual support.
- Concrete action of some sort – quarterly meeting would be great with a specific goal to accomplish in each.
- Interested to read report & keep communication open.
- Continue meetings, quarterly?, continue mapping project, develop tool kit, develop branding
- Continued momentum

9. Is there anything you would change?

- While the mapping is super valuable, I feel we didn't need to spend as much time on it. I would've hosted the meetings at a different hub each time from the beginning.
- No; more of commitment to continue and a bit more direction re: next steps.
- No
- More action, education for the general public so there is awareness for communities / neighbourhoods
- Bringing new people up to speed before the meeting.
- No
- No, I feel the meetings have been well organized and enjoyable – resourceful.
- Maybe meeting places could have been at more of the hubs.
- A lot of time commitment. It's hard given demands of time at organization.
- Not sure if there was always much follow thru on spreadsheet on subject points – a little hard to catch up on individual topics if someone wasn't there to represent previous conversation.
- Sometimes repetitive, but always pleasant.
- Visit different hubs
- More feedback on what has been happening at the beginning of meetings and the process timeline really noted

10. Is there anything else you would like to tell us?

- Congratulations on a wonderful initiative. Laurie, Tegan and crew are to be congratulated for 'herding cats.'
- Please host these meetings in spaces with kitchens so we can use non-disposable dishes & cutlery. ;)
- Need resources to get real work done.
- Laurie – great job facilitating.
- Great job! Thank you for leading.
- Use the media once you are ready – don't hold back – invite them to the next meeting.
- No, thank you.

- Thank you for this opportunity. The information presented, the topics discussed and the resources provided will certainly have a positive impact on my continued work.
- Thank you for the opportunity to participate.
- I would like to meet with hubs frontline staff to learn from the tools and lessons they are using. Sometimes I feel like I was here just to educate and less learning from people on the same level.
- Private sector, property development, neighbourhood land / housing trust.
- Appreciated that participation was kept open and congratulations that the website helped fill in the gaps.
- Excellent forum for an exchange of information and ideas, great learning environment.
- Keep up the great work