

**FROM SKEPTICISM TO ENGAGEMENT:
ONE COMMUNITY'S JOURNEY**

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OUR AGENDA

- Discover how IAP2's 2017 “project of the year” facilitated grassroots support for a controversial project in an economically distressed community of color.
- Hear *from community members* what enabled them to shift from a position of skepticism to enthusiastic support for the project.
- Understand how ongoing inquiry can reinforce and imprint positive perceptions, planting seeds for ongoing partnership and co-creation.





Mental Health Center *of* Denver



DAHLIA CAMPUS *for*
HEALTH & WELL-BEING





Nearest Grocery Stores

 **Dahlia Campus**



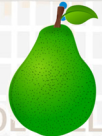
2.15 Miles



3.5 Miles



2.5 Miles



4.5 Miles



2.75 Miles



2.15 Miles

R NORTH DISTRICT

RTIS PARK

IVE POINTS

ARK HILL

CITY PARK

NORTH PITOL HILL

CITY PARK V

APITOL

PARK

CONGRESS PARK

MONTCLAIR

















AMPLIFYING OUR SUCCESS...

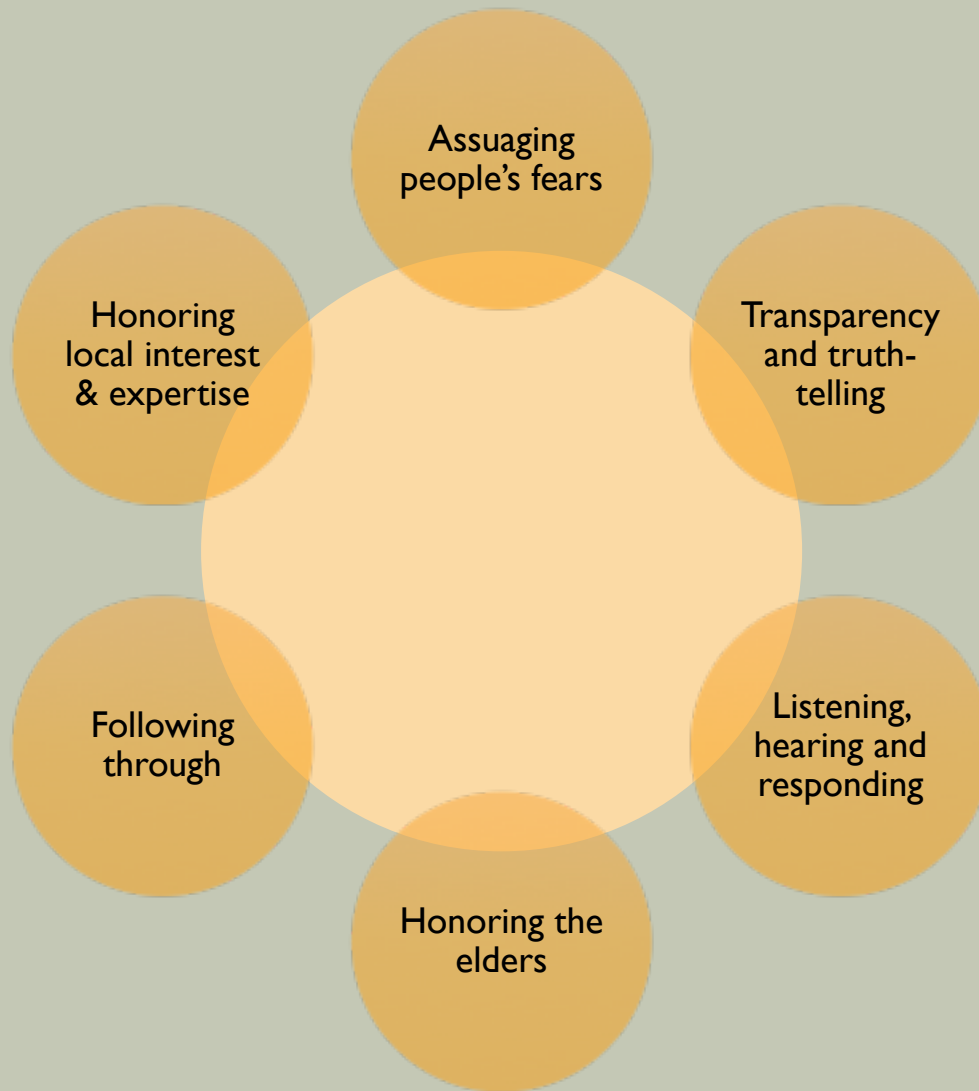
What enabled these community members to shift from a position of skepticism to support for the Dahlia campus?

- *Understand, amplify and build upon what worked.*
- *Build or enhance relationships between staff and community members.*
- *Expand the body of knowledge about how to foster similar successes in the future.*



- ✓ One-on-one voluntary interviews between staff and community members
- ✓ Narrative analysis of qualitative data
- ✓ Articulation of short- and long-term implications, next steps





***This is
our thing!***

Assuaging
people's fears

Transparency
and truth-
telling

Listening,
hearing and
responding

Honoring the
elders

Following
through

Honoring
local interest
& expertise

COMMUNITY HOPES AND DREAMS

“If you had a magic wand, and could have any three wishes granted to make Dahlia’s programs, services and facilities even better, what would they be?”



The Responses

Community ambassadors

- Utilize community partners
- Enhance mental health messaging

Staff engagement

- Staff gets out and about
- Dahlia advertising in local newsletters

Staff more reflective of community

- Direct hiring in community
- Actively recruit staff with similar cultural backgrounds
- Job shadowing, job fairs

Lean into community expertise

- Community members champion causes, lead classes
- Community mentors
- Seniors as volunteers

Continue asking

- Idea box
- Surveys

IN HINDSIGHT: IAP2 CORE VALUES AT DAHLIA

- Core values 1, 2 and 4:
Actively sought out and involved those affected by and interested in decisions
- Core value 3:
Recognized communicated and integrated all participants' interests
- Core value 5:
Encouraged people to participate as they wished – before, during and after construction
- Core value 6:
Provide information to enable meaningful participation
- Core value 7:
Communicated how participant input affected decisions





Mental Health Center of Denver

WATCH OUR VIDEOS!

[DAHLIA PRESS KIT](#)

[PBS NEWSHOUR](#)



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