

## Issues to Consider

**Food**—typically all tribal meetings offer food. This is a cultural consideration. Traditionally when another visits your home you would offer food, drink and entertainment. This provided a means of assuring your visitor/guest of your generosity, caring, respect, compassion and honesty.

**Child Care**—if a meeting is held after normal work hours or on the weekend, Most native families have children or grand children to be cared for. By offering on-site child care you can assure participation by all age levels.

**Transportation**—public transportation availability is minimal at best. Make sure you know how your community will arrive at the location of your meeting.

**Accessibility**—make sure the location is accessible for wheelchairs and walkers to ensure the participation of the senior population. Healthy snacks may also be needed for health conditions.

**Presentation Format**—do a practice run with a few community members to ensure the materials are understandable and resonate with your target audience. Listen to criticism. Fine tune your presentation for the engagement of your audience.

**Make Numerous Opportunities**—make sure there is time for both verbal and written comment. We recommend a minimum of 3 public meetings at different times and locations. For example 1 meeting at lunch (bring the lunch) at a senior center, 1 meeting at the tribal office and 1 meeting at the health clinic. And...



## Watch your hat!

Hat	Role	Focus
	Logic	The facts.
	Optimism	The value and the benefits.
	Devil's advocate	The difficulties and dangers.
	Emotion	Feelings and intuitions.
	Creativity	Possibilities and new ideas
	Management	Making sure the rules of the hats are observed.



## Build Relationships before you need them!

If you work for a tribe, spend time within the community creating the relationships you need before you need them. Go to lunch at the senior center or volunteer with the youth soccer league. Find a place where the people are and go there. You will be pleasantly surprised by the opportunities it will lead. Tribal people must have trust built before it

# Together is Better Community Engagement



**You can design, create and build the most wonderful place in the world but it takes a people to make the dream a reality—  
Disney**



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## Ask yourself these questions:

1. How well do I know the community I serve?
2. What are the community values?
3. Who are the unknown leaders?
4. What are some of their unique past decisions?
5. What does the past success tell us?
6. Who are my contacts? How well do I know them?
7. Who are the worker bees?
8. What is the best method of contact? Email? Phone? Face-to-Face? Mail? Radio?

## Tribal members are important

Tribal members are a great store house of historical and institutional knowledge which provides a foundation for tribal authority and governance. Tribes depend upon their tribal members to fulfill a variety of roles from staff to leadership. Tribal members protect the interests of the tribe for today, tomorrow and all future generations. Tribal members possess inherent loyalty, allegiance, constant commitment, passion, responsibility, and permanence.

## What is community engagement?

Is a process which seeks to better engage the community (a group of individuals affiliated by geography, proximity or special interest) to achieve long-term and sustainable outcomes, processes, relationships, discourse, decision-making or implementation

## Community Engagement Continuum keep it moving forward

Increasing Level of Community Involvement, Impact, Trust, and Communication Flow

Outreach	Consult	Involve	Collaborate	Shared Leadership
Some Community Involvement Communication flows from one to the other, to inform Provides community with information. Entities coexist. Outcomes: Optimally establishes communication channels and channels for outreach.	More Community Involvement Communication flows to the community and then back, answer seeking Gets information or feedback from the community. Entities share information. Outcomes: Develops connections.	Better Community Involvement Communication flows both ways, participatory form of communication Involves more participation with community on issues. Entities cooperate with each other. Outcomes: Visibility of partnership established with increased cooperation.	Community Involvement Communication flow is bidirectional Forms partnerships with community on each aspect of project from development to solution. Entities form bidirectional communication channels. Outcomes: Partnership building, trust building.	Strong Bidirectional Relationship Final decision making is at community level. Entities have formed strong partnership structures. Outcomes: Broader health outcomes affecting broader community. Strong bidirectional trust built.

Reference: Modified by the authors from the International Association for Public Participation.

# 9 areas of Community Engagement

**Agenda**—Engagement changes the choice and focus of projects, how they are initiated, and their potential to obtain funding. New areas for collaboration are identified, and funding that requires community engagement becomes accessible

**Design & Delivery**—improvements to study design, tools, interventions representation/participation, data collection and analysis, communication, and dissemination can be implemented. New interventions or previously unappreciated casual links can be identified through the community knowledge of local circumstances. The speed and efficiency of the project can be enhanced by rapidly engaging partners and participants and identifying new sources of information.

**Implementation & Change**—Improvements can be made in the way research findings are used to bring about change (e.g., through new or improved services, policy or funding changes, or transformation of professional practices), and capacity for change and the maintenance of the long-term partnerships can be expanded.

**Ethics**—Engagement creates opportunities to improve the consent process, identify ethical pitfalls, and create processes for resolving ethical problems when they arise. Public Involved in the Project0the knowledge and skills of the public involved in the project can be enhanced and their contributions can be recognized 9possibly through financial rewards). These efforts foster goodwill and help lay the groundwork for subsequent collaborations.

**Academic partners**—Academic partners can gain enhanced understanding of the issue under study and appreciations of the role and value of the community involvement, which sometimes result in direct career benefits. In addition new insights into the relevance of a project and the various benefits to be gained from it can result in direct career benefits. In addition, new insights into the relevance of a project and the various benefits to be gained from it can result in direct career benefits.

**Individual research participants**—improvements in the way studies are carried out can make it easier to participate in them and bring benefits to participants.  
**Community Organizations**—These organizations can gain enhanced knowledge, a higher profile in the community, more linkages with other community members..cont

Community Organizations Con't...  
And entities, and new organizational capacity. These benefits can create goodwill and help lay the groundwork for subsequent collaborations.  
**General Public**—The general public is likely to be more receptive to the research and reap greater benefits from it.  
(Stanley 2009)

## Contrasting Values

It is important to understand there are cultural differences between Traditional Native American Values and that of the Dominant Society



### Contrasting Values

Native American (Traditional Indian Values)		Non-Indian (Dominant Society Values)
GROUP (take care of the PEOPLE)	I	SELF ( take care of #1)
TODAY is a Good Day!	MUST	PREPARE FOR TOMORROW
A RIGHT time/RIGHT place	BECOME AWARE	TIME (use EVERY minute)
AGE (knowledge-wisdom)	OF THESE	YOUTH (rich, young, beautiful)
COOPERATE	CONFLICTING	COMPETE!
Be PATIENT	VALUES OR I CAN	Learn to be AGGRESSIVE
LISTEN (and you'll learn)	BECOME	SPEAK UP
GIVE and share	CONFUSED	TAKE and save
Live in HARMONY (with all things)	ANGRY	CONQUER Nature
Great MYSTERY/intuitive	FRUSTRATED UNBALANCED	SKEPTICAL/ Logical
HUMILITY	MENTALLY PHYSICALLY	(Ego) SELF attention
A SPIRITUAL Life	SPIRITUALLY	Religion (a PART of life)