Neighborhood Voice and Advocacy Framework
"Strengthening Detroit's neighborhood voice infrastructure"

1. Citywide Coordination and Advocacy

Primary role/authority/responsibility: Coordinate and facilitate all the local NAT tables to create a citywide vision and support advocacy to achieve that vision

- Facilitated by a city-wide organization
- Convenes neighborhood tables across the city
- Identifies common challenges or opportunities coming from the neighborhood tables
- Generates strategy to prioritize the common issues and turn it into a framework for advocacy, as determined by the NAT tables (A 'Neighborhoods Agenda'),
- Connects with other organizations working on issues identified by the tables
- Ongoing support to move the work identified forward
- Provides administrative support and facilitation for the citywide table
- Supports citywide advocacy activity

2. Neighborhood Action Teams (NAT)

Primary role/authority/responsibility: create a vision and priorities for the local neighborhood and work together as a community to carry out that vision.

Connects different people and organizations in a community to create priorities and vision for that community

- Supports the vision of residents and works together to implement that vision through planning, advocacy and other activities
- Brings different sectors together (human service, business, religious, etc.)
- Co-create a shared work plan/vision with the community based on shared values and a robust community engagement process
- Works through lens of racial equity
- Intentionally connects internal and external partners to drive the work forward
- Sets budgets and expenditures for the table
  - Open to all but the members decide on a process and criteria for joining the table to assure great participation
    - Organizes meetings (finds space, sends emails and agendas)
    - Keeps records - minutes and tracking action items
- Membership: residents, CDOs, social service organizations, city staff, local schools, faith-based institutions, academic partners, business groups, and other local stakeholders

3. Technical Assistance and Coaching by a Citywide Organization

Primary role/authority/responsibility: support, training and coaching to assure that the NAT tables and the citywide table are successful in achieving their vision.

- Facilitated by a citywide organization
- Provides training in facilitation skills to the CDO/Facilitators
- Provides training in various forms of organizing, advocacy, negotiation to support the NAT tables
- Provides high quality coaching and technical assistance to the CDO facilitator and individual NAT tables to help each table develop their own norms and processes and values
- Education and capacity building around the need to work together to strengthen the community
- Supports planning & creating the local NAT tables
- Assists the CDO/Facilitator and NAT tables in identifying shared values, vision for their work, action plans and key partnership opportunities
- Supports the CDO/Facilitator and NAT tables in doing ecosystem mapping

4. Community Planning and Advocacy Neighborhood Convener/Facilitator

Primary role/authority/responsibility: facilitating, coordinating, administering and supporting the NAT tables, at their discretion

- Facilitated by Neighborhood-based CDO
- CDO serves as Trustee to the Neighborhood Action Team:
  - Facilitates meetings
  - Assists the NATs in developing strategic connections
  - Supports NATs to develop shared vision
  - Ensures the NATs work from a racial equity lens
  - Receives funding to facilitate the table and perform administrative functions; and expends budget at the direction of the NATs

Neighborhood Voice and Advocacy Framework

Neighborhood Action Teams Component

Local Stakeholders create a vision and priorities for the neighborhood, and work together as a community to carry out that vision.
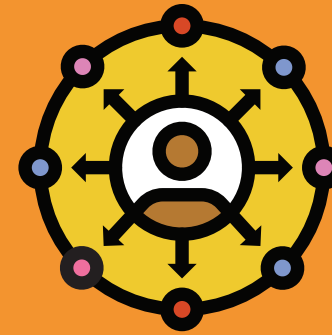
Technical Assistance & Training Component

A citywide entity supports, trains and coaches to ensure that the Neighborhood Action Tables and the Citywide Table are successful in achieving their vision.

Community Planning & Advocacy Convener/Facilitator Component

Local CDO/trusted community partner facilitates, coordinates, administers and supports the Neighborhood Action Team tables.

Citywide Coordination & Advocacy Component

A citywide entity coordinates all the local Neighborhood Action Team tables to create a citywide vision, and support advocacy to achieve that vision.

Building strong, vital neighborhoods over time