# **ASPIRATIONS**

HARWOOD The Institute for Public Innovation



### Three questions to help reshape your conversations.

Try using these questions to get people focused on the community – and what they have in common.





## ASPIRATIONS FACILITATOR'S GUIDE

Instructions for leading a conversation about aspirations:

- For this exercise you'll be asking the three questions shown below and helping to identify patterns or themes from the answers given.
- Make sure everyone has a copy of the Aspirations questions.
- Give your participants ten minutes to read and write down their answers to these three questions.
- Go through the questions in order and for each, record their answers on a flip chart and identify any patterns or themes that emerge from their answers.

#### 1. What are your aspirations your community?

Record your participant's answers on the flip chart. Capture the key words they use. Ask the group:

- What patterns do you see?
- Are there any themes emerging? Name some of these themes.

Make sure that you've captured the essence of their thoughts and responses.

#### 2. What challenges do we face in reaching these aspirations?

Record your participant's answers on the flip chart. Capture the key words they use. Ask the group:

- What patterns do you see?
- Are there any themes emerging? Name some of these themes.

Make sure that you've captured the essence of their thoughts and responses.

#### 3. What needs to change in the community to reach our aspirations?

Record your participant's answers on the flip chart. Capture the key words they use. Ask the group:

- What patterns do you see?
- Are there any themes emerging? Name some of these themes.

Make sure that you've captured the essence of their thoughts and responses.

#### How to summarize:

Once the three questions have been answered and the responses recorded, summarize what your participants have said by telling a story.

We began by sa	iying that we wanted a community where	(aspirations)
but we face	( challenges). So if we want to reach o	ur aspirations, we
need to create _	(new conditions/change)	

