Years ago I made a quilt square using fabric crayons while attending an international conference. By the time the conference was over, the organizer had stitched together our squares to create a quilted collage. Not long after, I used the same concept with a community artist in a daylong camp for special needs children. Both situations drew out the creativity inherent in each of us; people talked and shared as they worked; and they were proud of their contributions.

In many ways, this is a metaphor for what happens in developing community. As we begin, we have some idea of what we hope to see the final picture look like, we don't always know for sure what we have to contribute, and we aren't really sure about others either. But as the process unfolds, the picture and results are often so much more than we could have imagined, we grow and discover ourselves and we build relationships with others.

This workshop fostered our sense of creativity and exploration using muslin squares and fabric markers to begin the creation of a wall hanging pieced from individual squares. Participants created a visual representation of community and the development process based on their experiences and practices. Eventually we will create an item that can be auctioned to the benefit of CDS and we will share the squares and statements online.
Group exercise: What is community?
Group exercise: Why do we do community development?
Group exercise: What do we do as community developers?
Group exercise: What is the result of community development?
A picture or symbolic way to show what community development is your ideas.

Everyone is an artist!

Creating the quilt square

- Leave a 1" border (2.5 cm)
- Fill up the rest of the space
- Markers: don't press hard
- Crayons: fill in for color
- Markers: Put paper under fabric
- Pictures: NOT WORDS
- Use color
- Abstract or Concrete
- Broad or Narrow
- Sign your name with marker
- Write a statement explaining & sign
Gardens are a way to neutralize and beautify communities. Boom and bust cycles have left many Kentucky communities in disrepair, residents to take pride in their neighborhood.

Audrey Burns

Anna Barber focused on the Global community and how humanity must lean in and work toward unifying us with a common set of goals for everyone.
Community Development helps people embrace their towns and stand guard over the places they value.

Community Development can be a restorative process that meets people where they are and challenges them to meet in their community “Center.”

A center that...

balances vulnerability & progress
situated & actualized

place & enlightenment

Participating in the campfire,

sanctuary,

dance.

poetics,

ELEVATION

of our communities, places & time

Jeff Broker
10th July 2015
As a rural community developer, I am always aware of the economic imbalance between urban and rural areas. A large part of my work is to help rebuild rural agriculture economies and help sustain the rural family farm that is a huge part of rural communities.

Tony Brown

Community development is a process that connects people and places, resulting in viable communities—economically, socially, and environmentally. These three are connected and interdependent. The process is organic and cyclical. It's an inclusive process and it's global and interconnected—forming a whole system.

Mary Brown
The image of open hands offers the symbol of a willingness to work; to reach out, to provide oneself to the common good. The emptiness of the hands suggests that all have something to contribute, regardless of their possession of material resources. Hands that are open can grasp other hands, building upon unity. The life-line on these hands conveys a unique individual -- this is a specific pair of hands, a particular individual person -- so that community development retains a respect for that individual. The position of the palms facing upward points to the spiritual, which is an undeniable element of unity and community. Were I a better artist, I might have added a pair of hands facing downward, to imply the connection to the material, symbolized by the ground.
"Many parts make a whole."

Community development brings together many disparate elements, people, processes, and issues to make a whole. The interacting issues, challenges, support, assets, and engagement create a circuitous path to reach this end result.

Sue Meadows

Community development as represented by a front porch. Front porches provide a place of  informal and social interaction. To me, it is also the supports of people: interaction, place - the community that also a place of gathering and connection to the broader community.
Community development - meaning connection of local residents/leaders to create a quality of life through improved multi-perspective and energies, intersecting. Creating synergy by coming together and working together. Not static, alive and transformative. In places, not defined, questions welcomed. Learning from each other to make larger impacts.

Stacie
Both represent processes of transformation...

cyclic and non-linear between equal forces in order to create a shared place...

- Douglas Pardue
Always moving toward global improvement, questioning injustice, the world keeps spinning.

With human's handprint all over it = Community
People coming together - staying smart so they become more connected to place and greater by connecting - create a sense of place.

Donuts, Jelly Beans & working together

Community development invites people to strengthen their relationships, share visions and work together through discovering untapped resources.

2015.7.20 Jay Young
Community development is people learning together, creating ideas, and following through on their ideas to make their community successful, however they define “success.” I chose this depiction because I wanted to capture the social aspect of community development, as well as the importance of knowledge (and research) needed to make informed decisions.

Life is one grand party that we have ALL been invited to, so be NICE and HELP each other out!

TORA-Carlee
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