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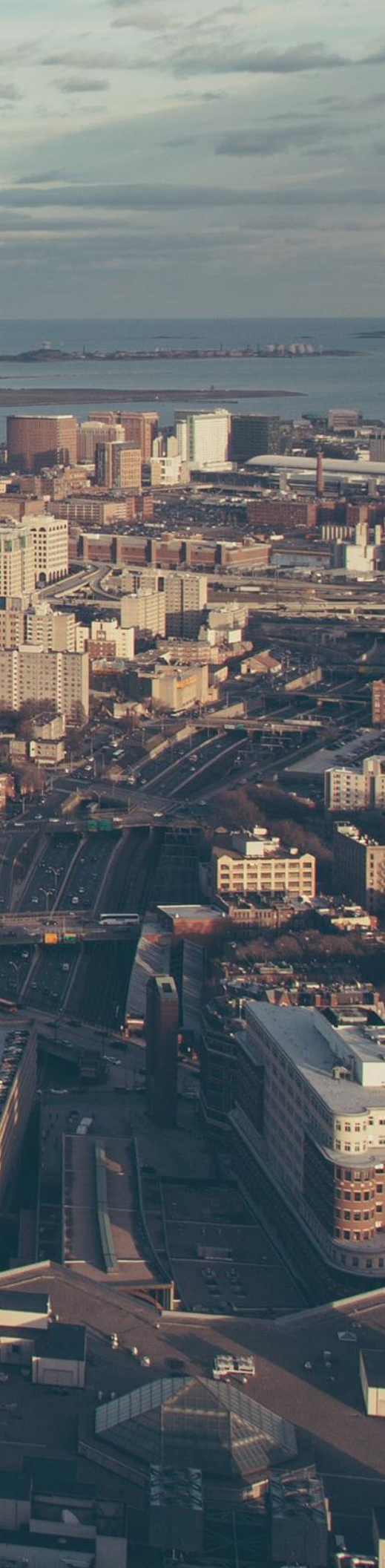
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Introduction

A couple of years ago, I had a debate among my colleagues about the difference between the words transformative and transformational. Knowing the English language is full of nuances and limitations, I felt strongly that our research team needed to be intentional regarding which word we used for one of our manuscripts. We debated whether lifelong learning was transformative or transformational, and we settled on the word transformative (Pstross, Talmage, Peterson, & Knopf, 2017).

For your and my edification, some lexicographers see the two words as synonyms, whilst some see them as different. What is clear that is that transformational is a newer word than transformative, but the word transformative is much more popular and powerful. Transformative is used to describe the ability to change, combine, or shift (e.g., community development is transformative), whilst transformational is generally used when something has already been changed, combined, or shifted (e.g., the experience was transformational) (O'Conner & Kellerman, 2012). Thus, you see why I prefer the more active, transformative.

When I read through three articles contained in this twenty-first issue of Community Development Practice, I can see the transformative power of community development across the globe. In our first article, we see the transformative power of community development to improve rural health in West Virginia. In our second article, we see the transformative power of community development to strengthen veterinary extension systems in Zimbabwe. In our third article, we see the transformative power of community development to reduce group and gang violence in London. These incredible stories and tools move our practice of community development forward in this new millennium.

I hope you will find these articles not only useful but also inspiring of your own practice. I also hope you consider submitting articles to Community Development Practice in the near future. Your stories and tools deserve to be shared. Please also consider presenting your stories and tools at future conferences of the Community Development Society. We must unleash the transformative power of community development and not keep it hidden.

References

O'Conner, P. T., & Kellerman, S. (2012, Oct. 14). A transformative vision? The Grammarphobia Blog. Retrieved from: <https://www.grammarphobia.com/blog/2012/10/a-transformative-vision.html>.

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