

Envisioning Community Change through Storyboarding

Activity adapted from **Youth Leading Community Change**, pp. 4-15.

Each community or small group introduces themselves to the full group with a visual depiction of their community and a representation of a vision for change. For this introduction to thinking about community, we draw only storyboard #1, depicting the current community (defining characteristics, demographics, assets, problems...) and #4, depicting their community with changes to solve problems or enhance assets.

Materials: Large flip charts and markers or enough white board space for each group.

Reflection Questions:

- Looking at all of the representations of community, what are some assets in this community? What are some problems? (Keep a list on a separate sheet for later use in defining areas to work on)
- What are changes we would like to see?

This activity builds energy and is a good way to bring people together who may identify their communities differently. The Storyboard Activity can be used in full (including the action steps in #2 and 3# when you are moving to the action planning stage. To explore community before identifying a particular issue of interest, have the youth create a visual representation of their current community and another of their envisioned or changed community.

Defining Community can be a challenge. If your group has not had much opportunity to reflect on what community means to them, you could use Community Mind Map & Dimensions of Community from the **Building Community Toolkit** pp. 116-118.

Identify issues and assets in your community

- Listing possible issues on a whiteboard and visually representing connections between issues – Identify all possible topics they might want to address
- PhotoVoice-type project of the good and bad in the community
- Neighborhood walk – mapping & discussion of what they saw
- Conduct a survey about top issues in the community. Here's a guide to doing an Issue Identification Survey from Mikva Challenge.