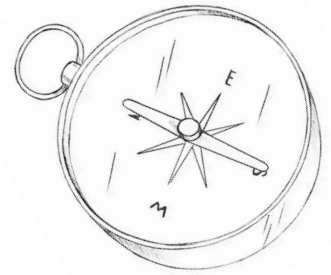


Mapping Your ABCD Journey



An asset-based, community-driven process is inherently emergent and iterative. We say that, "We make the road as we walk it." What you do and how you do it will naturally grow and evolve as you use ABCD to increase both the breadth and depth of your relationships, learn your fellow community members' gifts, talents, good works and priorities, and build your circle of trusted travel companions and collaborators.

Now that you've taken a deep dive into the core principles and practices of ABCD, you are well-equipped to begin laying out your own vision, principles, and action steps to get started!

For this exercise, sit down and reflect individually on the following. Then, share it with your circle of practice or discussion group.

1. Where do you want to go? What's possible? What possibility excites you most about applying ABCD within your work and your community? What would be different if you could put ABCD fully into practice, with no barriers or limitations to resources?

2. Why? Why is it important to you to apply ABCD to your work and actions? Why should other people join you or support what you are trying out?

a. Drawing from our learning journey thus far (materials, discussions, etc.), write down the top 3-5 reasons you think ABCD thinking is needed and valuable in your community and organization right now.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

- b. **My Guiding Beliefs** ABCD is not a map but a path we build as we walk it, with our principles and our beliefs as a compass.

First - Choose at least 5 “Guiding Beliefs of ABCD” that speak to you the most right now and list them below. (You can add as many as you like!)

Second - Add your thoughts for each belief about: (a) *Why this one speaks to or resonates with you right now?* and (b) *What is one step you can take to practicing this more deeply in your work or community in the next month?*

1. Belief:

Why this speaks to me:

One way I can put this into practice this month:

2. Belief:

Why this speaks to me:

One way I can put this into practice this month:

3. Belief:

Why this speaks to me:

One way I can put this into practice this month:

4. Belief:

Why this speaks to me:

One way I can put this into practice this month:

5. Belief:

Why this speaks to me:

One way I can put this into practice this month:

Notes:

3. What are your first few steps? We reviewed a number of touchstones, tools and steps in an ABCD process. Which stood out to you as the best ones to start with in your community and library? Name 2-3 next steps and when you want to complete them by (i.e. the next 1-2 weeks, 2-3 months, year, etc.). Examples / suggestions:

- a. *Begin building a case for why your organization (and/or related organizations such as partners or funders) should support an asset-based process. ([resource](#))*
- b. *Begin holding Learning Conversations, beginning with Connectors (especially residents) you can identify in your community.*
- c. *Convene a circle of Connectors (if you already know several)*
- d. *Do the Power Ladder Exercise (by yourself, then with a group) to see where people hold power currently and how you can increase it.*
- e. *Begin planning an Asset-Mapping session with community members*
- f. *Begin planning a Listening Campaign with your organization or group*
- g. *...?*

What:	When/Stages:	First Step:
• _____	_____	_____
• _____	_____	_____
• _____	_____	_____
• _____	_____	_____
• _____	_____	_____

Notes:

4. Who

My CORE. Who do you know who is most likely to travel with you? Who can you identify as your Core Circle -- or "Travel Companions" -- right now? I.e. Who would you feel most excited about and comfortable with sitting down to talk about what has most inspired you about this course? Who you think might enjoy brainstorming ways to "play" with ABCD together? *They may be fellow staff at your library, neighbors, friends or anyone else. They may be people in your community who are "doing ABCD," but may or may not be calling it that -- or, you may know them to be people who deeply value some or all of what ABCD stands for.*

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Next, make a plan to get together with them over a meal, coffee or a drink in one of your favorite local "bumping spots." When you meet, you might share what most inspired you from the training, how you are thinking to apply it, and any thoughts you have for how they might travel along this path with you -- for instance, meet up every month to check in to keep each other accountable and share progress, form a book club, help you craft and present a proposal, etc.)

Other resources for mapping partners: 100 Partners - by [Tamarack](#) / [Jeder Institute](#)

Notes:

5. How will you stay the course?

What do you anticipate in the “ditch” as you go forward (Challenges, obstacles, naysayers, etc.)? **What fears or doubts do you hold?**

What supports including supportive friends or travel companions, allies, inspirational resources, or personal habits and practices can you bring alongside you to help you avoid or get out of the ditch?

What practices can you pick up now to help you avoid or get out of the ditch?

Examples / suggestions:

- a. *Keep a personal journal and write in it weekly (Helpful questions: What happened this week? What is working? What are the highest possibilities in the situation right now? What will it take to mobilize action toward those possibilities? What are the most important lessons in what is happening right now? How are we coming alongside community members as an animator of their gifts, talents and care?)*
- b. *Find 1-2 travel companions ASAP and meet with them every 1-3 months,*
- c. *Start a monthly reading circle of peers and others using an ABCD resource - ex: When People Care Enough to Act (Green) / The Abundant Community (Block & McKnight)*
- d. *Focus more on those who want to take this journey than on “converting” / convincing those who “don’t get it,”*
- e. *Start small and experiment, then build on success and learning to do more,*
- f. *Experiment with ABCD ideas in your own neighborhood (to gain lived experience as a neighbor... as well as the fruits and joys of being in community with your neighbors!)*
- g. *Join an ABCD Community of practice and commit to showing up regularly. (The following list includes both live virtual CoPs and online communities: [Tamarack CoP](#), [ABCD in Action](#), Axiom News Cultivating Community bi-weekly gatherings, [Village in the City](#))*
- h. *Take Learning Journeys together with your ABCD Core Circle to visit places that are practicing ABCD.**

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Notes:

6. Gifts for the Journey

Remembering to center our own gifts, joy and passion in our work will help us keep going, practice ABCD as creatively, inspire others - and make the journey more fun and meaningful!

- a. **Which of your personal gifts, skills or talents can help you the most in your ABCD practice and journey? Which gifts would you most enjoy using?** *For example, I love photography, writing, and throwing parties and try to incorporate them into my community building work!*

- b. **What gifts and skills from others can you see yourself needing to complement your skillset?**

Who do you know with those skills who might be interested in joining you to build community?

Notes:

