

Wall of [Local Community]

Overview of Activity

The “Wall of [Local Community]” activity was designed to support teachers in looking back at the community historically in order to have an overview of events that have shaped the current state of the community.

Objective(s)

Teachers will...

- Engage with local events via a timeline displayed on a wall in the classroom/meeting room
- Comment on various events on the timeline

Materials Needed

List of local community events with accompanying photographs mounted on poster paper and affixed to a wall in the classroom/meeting room.

Sticky notes

Writing Utensils

Lesson Outline

LAUNCH

Direct the teachers to read each entry on the timeline, and to use the sticky notes to add impressions, reactions, and questions to any or all of the entries.

Ask the teachers to consider the following questions as they read the timeline entries:

- What strikes you as you read through the community’s history? What do you feel?
- How do you relate to this timeline personally? What do you remember or have been told by your family and friends?
- What or who is missing? What would you add or modify?
- What would you like to know more about?

EXPLORE

Teachers read the timeline entries in chronological order and add comments/questions.

SUMMARIZE

In the large group, the teachers return to the questions posed in the launch.

The facilitator leads a discussion providing time for reflection and sharing of insights.

Facilitator Insights and Questions

Issues of how the community is positioned by others in the country may emerge. In the case of communities that have been struck by some sort of disaster, have fallen on hard economic times, or have experienced some other sort of marginalization, issues of the deficit positioning of the community by others may emerge. This may be an opportunity to talk about the use of deficit language more generally.

Additional Resources

Example: [Wall of Detroit](#). This will serve as an example of a timeline of a community.