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Step 6: Plan for the Future

It's now time to take all of the outputs and learnings garnered throughout the *Engaging your Community* process and turn it into an action plan.

Each museum's action plan will look different depending on your stage of maturity, the reasons why you entered into this process in the beginning, the resources you have, the degree to which the museum and community are aligned, the commitment of the Working Group, and the amount of momentum that has been built throughout this process.

This step will begin with one Working Group meeting to debrief together, but will likely involve multiple meetings to devise your action plan, share it back with your stakeholders and the community, and to turn it into reality.

SNAPSHOT

Timeframe

Working Group: Initial meeting (3 hrs)

Participants

Working Group

Facilitator

Materials

Bring the outputs from the Self-Assessment and Community Consultations

Process:

The facilitator will lead the Working Group in debriefing the entire *Engaging your Community* process so far.

Review:

- Group Self-Assessment outputs
 - Spider diagram
 - List of program/service ideas
- Community Consultation outputs
 - Impact/Implementation grid
 - Top idea sheets
 - Wheel of Engagement sheets

Highlight and discuss the points of alignment between the self-assessment and the community consultation. What are the priorities? What ideas generated the most excitement and interest?

Use the [Engagement Mapping Tool](#) (p. 66) to map the program/service ideas to the strategic area. For each idea, specify a larger engagement goal that the idea would help to achieve.

Based on the priorities indicated on the Engagement Mapping Tool, the Working Group will devise an Action Plan.

There are infinite possibilities for ways to move forward with the action plan with more or less integrated community involvement. Choose a method that works for the community and the museum, and best achieves your shared goals.

Examples of ways to move forward with the plan:

- a) Working Group divides responsibilities in the plan and moves forward
- b) Working Group augments its numbers with community members and moves forward. Use the Wheel of Engagement sheets (p.62) to invite community members to lead and be involved.
- c) An advisory committee of community members is created to meet periodically to monitor the work of the Working Group
- d) Working Group establishes partnership(s) to accomplish goals in the plan

If there are no points of alignment, your action plan should address the areas of disconnect and suggest ways to increase the alignment between the goals of the museum and goals of the community. Ideas for addressing misalignment include:

- Discussion and recommendations to the governing body
- Re-visit the group self-assessment
- Additional community consultations
- Re-visit the museum's strategic plan and/or the implementation of it

Helpful resources:

Template for a Community Strategic Plan

Results Worksheet: Putting it all together

Outcomes-Based Program Planning & Evaluation Workbook

Community-led Libraries Toolkit

- Community Entry (p.35)
- Relationship Building (p. 61)
- Partnerships (p. 75)
- Program Planning (p. 85)
- Customer Service (p. 111)

Community Collaborations Toolkit

The Partnering Toolbook