

Transnational Communities

CEO for Cities – Portal Neighborhoods

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Today's Presentation

- 1) Ford's Learning Agenda – *Building Individual and Community Assets**
- 2) Practices, Actors & Institutions
- 3) Frontier Issues
- 4) Will not cover current funding for domestic programs on active public space - public markets (www.pps.org/markets/rfp) and neighborhood arts/culture organizations (www.listeningtour.org)

****Building Assets to Reduce Poverty and Injustice (www.fordfound.org)***

Framing Questions (handout)*

- Emerging Practices in both the U.S. & Latin America (Mexico, D.R. & El Salvador) ?
- Institutional Context in both sending & receiving communities ?
- Remittances – individual and collective (social) ?
- Homeownership & Mixed-Income Housing ?
- Role of Information Technologies (IT) ?
- Impact of Proposed Immigration Reform in U.S. on capital flows ?

*Interface with Ford's Migration Learning Group (Migration Policy Institute) & Rockefeller's Transnational Communities Initiative

Understanding Different Types of Capital Flows Across Borders

- **Financial (\$):** Monetary resources – remittances, investments and loans
- **Human (people) :** The achievement of the individual to become upwardly mobile (workforce, health, language skills, entrepreneurs & creativity)
- **Social (places):** Bonds that form civic culture to break down the isolation of the poor (social & environmental justice, crime, public health & access to public transit)

Preconditions

- Economic Integration & Globalization
- Advances in Transportation & Infrastructure
- Explosion of Telecommunications
- Multilateral Institutions that manage new Systems
- Dual Direction of the Movements of Ideas, People and Monetary Instruments
- Social Networks that serve both the individual and collective interests in two communities

Kick-Off of Learning Group

- Engaged Dr. Hector Cordero of Baruch College and the Consortium for Economic Development and Education Research (CEDER)
- Santo Domingo Convening (2/05)
- Attendees included Scholars, Practitioners Other Funders & Photo Journalist
- Ford Program Officers from NYC and Mexico/Central America – ED and CRD

Themes Emerging from the D.R. Convening

- Migration, Remittances and Micro-enterprises
- Community-Based Organizations and Transnational Development – Hometown Associations (HTAs) – Alex Rivera's *The Sixth Section* – www.alexrivera.com
- Formation of Leadership and Social Movements across Borders – intergenerational & gender issues
- Housing, Financial Services and the role of Telecenter Networks to facilitate transactions and disseminate knowledge

Frontier Issues – June Convening

- 1) Movement Management – migration systems that drive monetary instruments; the formation of social bonds and alteration of culture.
- 2) Decisions on Resource Allocation – households, communities and states/provinces (federations & public sector participation)
- 3) Organizational Forms to represent different interests – the “ecology” of immigrant groups as they adopt alternative economic and community identities

Frontier Issues Cnt'd

- 4) Relations to other actors in community economic development, i.e. CDCs, CDFIs, credit unions, workforce intermediaries, etc.

- 5) Provision of Public Goods (water, sewer, housing, i.e.) and the interface with Public Officials – “transnational” voting rights.

- 6) Public vs. Private Projects – “vanity” projects; joint financing; bi-national planning processes; and recognition/interest by multi-national corporations (RTI & B-Schools in the U.S.)

The Road Ahead...

- Conclude Learning Agenda by September 05 & Present Findings to Affinity Group For Development Finance (AGDF) & Migration Learning Group
- Lift Up Promising Investments to Senior Officials at Ford for consideration
- Begin to Align the Portfolios of Participating Program Officers for Complementary Grantmaking
- Focus on Supporting 3 tracks: Research/Policy, Practitioners & Political Mobilization
- Support initial efforts to convene leaders soliciting support for the African Diaspora and Transnational Development