

Delta Strategy Work Session 2005

Date/Time/Place	Saturday, November 12, 2005, 9:00 am–4:00 pm, GRCC Field House
Context	The Greater Grand Rapids community is at a turning point of great risk and great opportunity. Globalization is challenging economic stability, population shifts are challenging cultural dynamics, major institutions are struggling to meet increasing demands with decreasing funds, and traditional approaches to solving community problems are not producing desired results. At the same time, there is substantial evidence of community resilience, entrepreneurial spirit, desire to make systemic change, and willingness to experiment with new models and approaches to community organizing and development. Those consulted on the design of the work session are consistent in their belief that this is moment of opportunity for the Delta Strategy to exercise its leadership as a trusted, neutral convener of the diversity of the community on behalf of the common good.
Purpose	The purpose of Work Session 2005 is to catalyze a next generation of positive change in the Greater Grand Rapids community.
Theme	<i>We Gotta Move</i> , from “You Gotta Move,” the title of an historic Negro spiritual, suggested by a Design Team member. The message is that we all need to move – people, systems/structures/processes, and the dominant culture – if we want to move indicators of community well-being.
Outcome:	The primary outcome of the work session will be the formation of “collaboratories” or work groups that will engage ordinary people in a self-organizing, emergent process of bringing about positive change. The Delta Strategy’s role will be to connect, nurture and illuminate the work of these collaboratories.
Process:	The work session environment will be representative of a new day in how collaborative work toward positive change gets done in GGR. The session will be inclusive, highly participative, family-friendly, festive, creative, resource-rich, and visibly productive. Elements of the Work Session Design will include: <u>Information</u> related to the context, the need for movement, and the possibilities in new approaches to positive change <u>Inspiration</u> via a brief major keynote address <u>Celebration</u> of current positive change in the community undertaken by ordinary people <u>Formation</u> of collaboratories for positive change <u>Affirmation</u> of what is possible when a community discovers what it cares about
Follow-up:	Desired follow-up includes the support of collaboratories via Delta Strategy and other community resources, such as a Collaboratory Guidebook, participation in Facilitator Cafés, seed funding, research and facilitation support, online volunteer engagement, and others to be determined.