

# CONNECT ACROSS DIFFERENCES

## BUILDING TRUST RELATIONSHIPS



**Stewardship** is not a solo act. It becomes increasingly powerful as more people and organizations are drawn into the work together, connecting across geographies, roles, departments, sectors, or cultural divides because they are informed by place-based, interdisciplinary, multisector, multiracial, and multicultural perspectives.

### WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO CONNECT ACROSS DIFFERENCES?

#### Weave Mutual Interests

Seek ways to understand the values and priorities of others. See opportunity in tension. Use dialogue to stay curious, build trust, and discover common aspirations and interests.

#### Engage Unheard Voices

Learn from unheard perspectives and marginalized groups—and build belonging in the process. See community engagement as a co-creation process, not an obligatory input.

#### Share Power

Discover the unique contribution each individual and organization can make. Grow stewardship as the de-facto way of working together. Create just enough structure for ongoing and emergent forms of collaboration.

### STEWARDSHIP QUESTIONS



What's an example of a collaboration that has worked well because it involved stakeholders who held really different perspectives? *What made it work?*



How can we fully engage community members, particularly underheard voices and marginalized groups, in the process of co-creating solutions? *What are the potential win-wins? How do we build and nurture trust?*



What's a current community challenge/opportunity that is calling for shared stewardship—working across a wide range of different perspectives—for the well-being of our community? *What's holding us back? Where might we start?*

### Better Maternal Outcomes: Redesigning Systems with Black Women

One of four community collaboration sites, more than 15 partners in Detroit, Michigan established design teams to focus on three key areas: pregnancy, birth, and postpartum. The partners collaborated to improve maternal health outcomes for Black people who birth by advocating for health care providers to build relationships with doulas; providing unconscious bias training to providers; and increasing awareness of postpartum warning signs and resources among postpartum people who birth and their families.