

Highlights of Civic Engagement & the Restoration of Community Model
SPECTRUM OF ENGAGEMENT SYMPOSIUM
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A **restorative community** is created when we shift the language of the civic debate away from the default conversation of the conventional questions, which build resistance, and move it into questions that build commitment and accountability. Conventional models hold the leader responsible for assuring that these beliefs are planned and implemented. The alternative is to move towards partnership and away from parenting. To care more about the experience of citizens than the direction or behavior of leaders. In summary, everyone is a citizen.

Questions that have the power to make a difference are ones that:

- Engage people with each other,
- Confront them with their freedom, and
- Invite them to co-create a future possibility.

To be serious about creating a restorative community, we need to organize our services around a neighborhood (i.e., a school building), instead of being organized around causes and disciplines. There needs to be a shift in our regard to boundaries.

- Change the conversation, from:
 - problem-solving to possibility,
 - negotiation and pursuit of narrow interests to the co-creation of common purpose,
 - blame to taking responsibility, and
 - retribution to restoration
- Make connection and relationship the point. Problems exist to create relationships, not the other way around. Politics create strange bedfellows; relationships create surprising friends and allies.
- Focus on gifts which replaces our focus on deficiencies. This is the work: to value and bring to the center the gifts of those in the community that remain on the margin.