ON THE TABLE

Imagining a Vibrant Community With Our Northend Neighbors

October 4, 2017
HFLI used immersive, co-creation tools to help people imagine future scenarios and then facilitate a productive dialogue around those futures.
OVERVIEW & GOALS

On October 4, 2017, HFLI hosted representatives from Detroit’s Northend neighborhood for On the Table, an initiative of the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan and the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation. On the Table brought together thousands of people across the southeast Michigan region in small groups to share food and discuss how to make their communities places where young people can grow and thrive.

During HFLI’s gathering, 15 people - including students, entrepreneurs, and a public safety officer - came together to imagine and discuss what the Northend needs to be a thriving community for youth.

OBJECTIVES

• Imagine new social, economic, and political futures for the Northend.

• Foster a positive and productive discussion around the neighborhood’s needs by:
  
  Making street corner prototypes,
  Telling stories for potential characters in each future, &
  Enacting those future narratives for the large group.

• Provide an immersive experience for attendees to connect with other community members and inspire future action.

BIG TOPICS DISCUSSED

• Inclusivity is important. The voices of the people who live in the neighborhood must be heard, with input from and service for people of all socio-economic strata.

• Multi-use development needs to happen throughout the neighborhood, not just at main intersections.

• There is a strong desire see less auto traffic and more options for pedestrians, cyclists, and users of other mobility solutions.

NEXT STEPS

• Review the postcards sent out from your partners.

• Continue conversations that began at On the Table and keep building relationships with other neighborhood members.

• Consider bringing mindsets you experienced from Making, Telling, and Enacting into your daily work.

• If you want to learn more about the principles used for our On the Table activity, check out Liz Sanders and her work with MakeTools.
Redesigning how we learn.

HFLI’s hands-on Design Thinking workshops engage participants in a structured process to address organizational or community-centered challenges. Our immersion learning experiences help develop skills and mindsets for creative problem solving and collaborative innovation. In the 21st century, creativity and innovation can and should be an integral part of everyone’s professional experience – the growing complexity of our world and workplace requires it.

HFLI’s customized learning engagements use Design Thinking and other creative thinking tools and methods to support individuals and teams in their professional growth.

1, 2 and 3-day workshops introduce and develop Design Thinking skills and strategies through real-world challenges – participants leave with tools and an action plan to begin using their emerging competencies immediately.

Targeted 2 or 4-hour challenge sessions address an identified opportunity through a sequence of engaging activities – participants leave with a defined set of next steps and planned time line for accomplishing the desired change and identified goals.

Customized coaching engages learners in Design Thinking experiences that are tailored to the communities they serve. Ranging from corporate workshops to on-the-ground ideation sessions for non-profits, HFLI creates experiences that equip participants to leverage Design Thinking tools, mindsets, and strategies long after the workshop is complete.

Learning is at the center of everything we do, and we provide a quality experience at every step. At the end of the day, our greatest achievement is measured by the success of our participants, partners and colleagues to solve problems creatively, innovate collaboratively and improve our world through their unique and individual efforts.