

Session 1

Fundamentals of Community Engagement

Session 1 will be hosted in Berwick, Maine where members of the Town's Envision Berwick group will walk us through their transitioning downtown. We will explore the site of the tannery that once was the heart of the community, and listen to the story of engaging the community to envision a new future. Academy educators will guide the dialogue and introduce participants to key concepts and core practices in facilitation and community engagement. To wrap up, participants will lead key informant interviews with Envision Berwick members.

More info about Envision Berwick: <http://www.berwickmaine.org/envision>

Session 2

Active Engagement: Beyond the Public Meeting: Broad and Diverse Engagement

Session 2 will be hosted in Dover, New Hampshire. In this session, we will discuss what diversity looks like, reasons to strive for equity and inclusion in community work, barriers to reaching community members, individuals and groups who may not currently have a voice, and techniques for reaching and engaging under-represented and diverse groups. We will also look at case studies and examples of communities using engagement techniques that reach out to citizens who may not "typically" be involved. We will have a walking tour of Dover to learn about how the community is engaged in the new mixed-use development slated for the east side of the Cocheco River. We will discuss public outreach at a time of significant redevelopment of downtown and the implementation of form-based code.

Session 3

Sustaining Engagement and Implementing Input

Session 3 will be hosted in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. Our final session will focus on continuing to expand participants' knowledge of engagement tools and strategies. We will explore strategies for sustaining engagement efforts and utilizing information gained through engagement to move from vision to action. We will learn from practitioners engaging community members around a variety of topics. We will explore Portsmouth through a walking tour. Participants will also have an opportunity to work in small groups to apply knowledge gained to develop a comprehensive community outreach and engagement plan for a peer's project.