

Brown's Community Engagement Agenda: A Call to Partnership and Action

The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine

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Context and Framing



RESEARCH

- Community-Engaged Research
- Research Aligned with Local Priorities
- Translated & Applied Findings

TEACHING CO/ CURRICULUM

- Community-Engaged Courses
- Community Practitioners as Co-Educators
- Fellowships & Residencies
- Practica & Internships
- Engaged Student Organizations
- Off-Campus Work-Study

EXPERTISE

- Advice, Consultation & Training
- Public Speaking & Writing
- Membership on Boards & Commissions

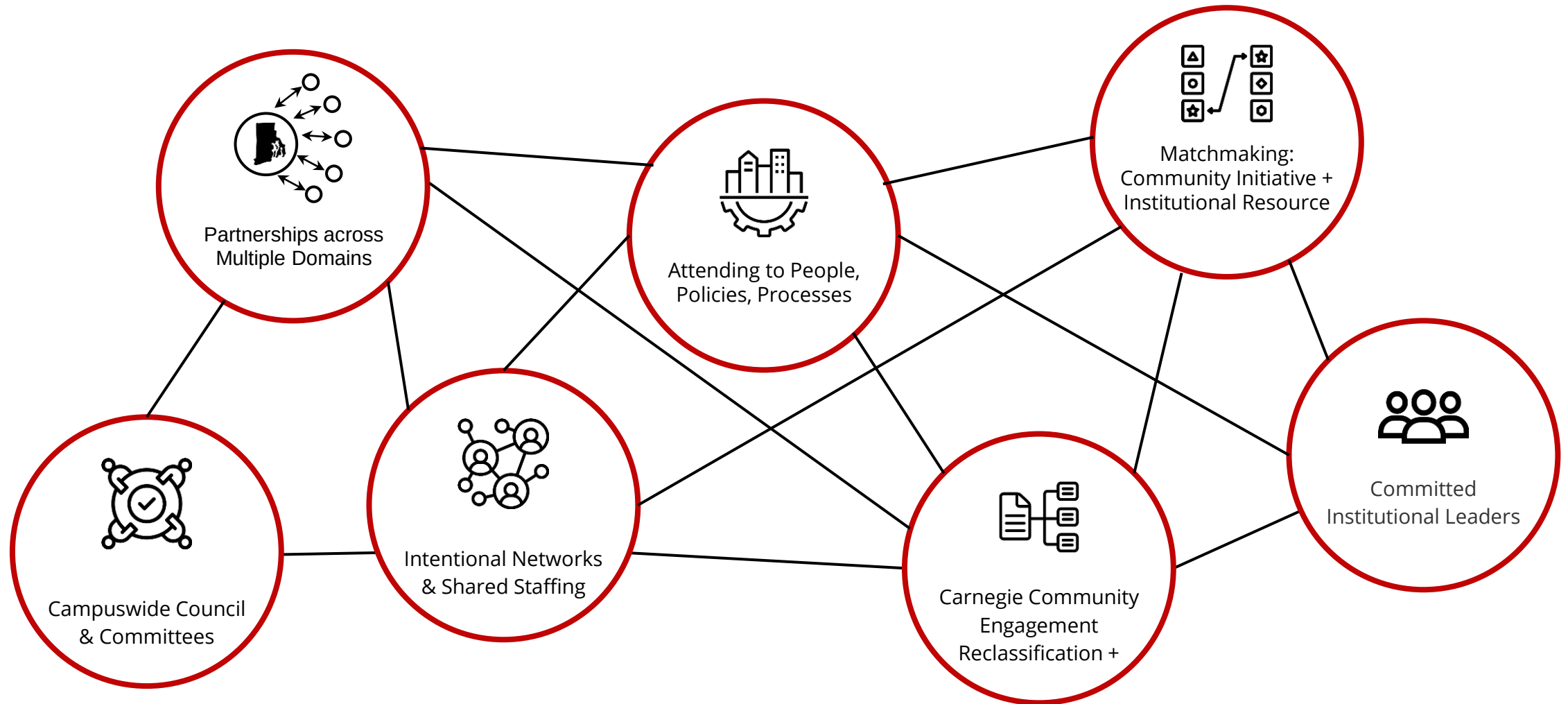
INCLUSIVE PATHWAYS

- College Access & K-12 Partnerships
- Hiring & Workforce Development
- Supplier/Business Development

ANCHOR RESOURCES/ INVESTMENTS

- Arts, Culture, Athletics
- Employment
- Library & Technology Access
- Purchasing/Procurement
- Space & Land Use
- Sponsorships & Funding
- Transit & Infrastructure Investments

Ecosystem for Positive Impact



The Agenda



THEMATIC AREA 1 - UNDERSTANDING AND RESPONDING TO LOCAL CONTEXT AND COMMUNITY PRIORITIES				
STRATEGIES	SELECT ACTIONS TO BUILD ENGAGEMENT INFRASTRUCTURE			
	PEOPLE	POLICY	PROCESS	
Participate in and contribute to existing community priorities, efforts and initiatives	☐ Support students, staff, faculty and alumni engagement with grounding in local context and community-identified priorities	☐ Increase access to capacity-building on community-identified priorities aligned with Brown resources (e.g., data analysis)	☐ Map where Brown is already engaged with community-led efforts and initiatives; ask and assess how to best contribute	
Connect and leverage community advisory boards and groups (CABs)	☐ Inform existing CABs of this Community Engagement Agenda and gather feedback	☐ Provide payment or other compensatory resources and logistical support to CAB members	☐ Identify and map existing CABs ☐ Convene and connect CABs and share insights across units	
Invest in community engagement (CE) processes that democratize access, agency and recognition	☐ Replicate or expand effective engaged fellowships and programs such as RI-based Health Equity Scholars	☐ Provide payment or other compensatory resources to community co-educators of Brown students	☐ Increase community participation and access in new ways, e.g., local hires, community review board, pathway partnerships	

THEMATIC AREA 2 - BUILDING CAPACITY IN ALL FIVE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT DOMAINS				
STRATEGIES	SELECT ACTIONS TO BUILD ENGAGEMENT INFRASTRUCTURE			
	PEOPLE	POLICY	PROCESS	
Research - Support community-engaged and community-informed research that transcends disciplinary silos and reflects mutually beneficial community engagement as critical to high-impact knowledge production	☐ Develop toolkits and modules on effective community-engaged research practices	☐ Encourage academic units to define and recognize high impact engaged research and diverse scholarly and public products in hiring and T&P	☐ Share community-identified priorities to inform research agendas	
	☐ Connect interested scholars from across disciplines	☐ Provide payment or other compensatory resources to community research partners	☐ Support sustained engagement and benefit by offering seed funding for research partnership exploration and research-to-practice projects	
	☐ Connect scholars to aligned community research partners			
Teaching & Learning - Expand and deepen high-impact practice of community-engaged learning for students, preparing them for engagement balancing their agency and ambition with community agency and expertise	☐ Support academic and other units to coordinate student preparation and training	☐ Recognize high-impact community-engaged teaching in personnel policies/T&P	☐ Source engaged projects from partner-identified priorities	
	☐ Develop toolkits and modules on effective community-engaged teaching practices	☐ Expand credit-bearing and paid experiences and internships	☐ Develop and sustain collaborative community engaged initiatives	
		☐ Expand utilization and support for CBLR courses	☐ Connect programs that include experiential learning	
Expertise - Democratize and enhance access to both campus- and community-based expertise on important local and societal issues	☐ Connect campus and community-based experts on specific priorities	☐ Enable and reward contributions of expertise to local initiative in personnel policies	☐ Leverage Researchers@Brown and BrownEngage to develop an accessible registry of experts	
	☐ Cultivate a reciprocal speaker/consultant bureau of university and community experts	☐ Create formal recognition for community-based collaborators	☐ Share opportunities for faculty and staff service on local boards	
Anchor Resources - Mobilize anchor institution resources for mutual university-community benefit including local purchasing, workforce development, housing and land use, use of space, performances, athletics, etc.	☐ Build on supplier diversity commitment by investing in pathways for local firms owned by historically underrepresented groups (e.g. Black, Indigenous and people of color) to do business with Brown	☐ Create local purchasing preference/goals; address barriers in supplier policies	☐ Continue to identify anchor resources to match to community priorities and goals	
	☐ Expand certificate programs and CEU opportunities	☐ Invest in community development including affordable housing	☐ Cohere protocols for community sponsorships, access to space	
	☐ Engage students in related research and projects		☐ Share information to support purchasing from local suppliers	
Inclusive Pathways - Connect college access and educational outreach and coordination to increase campus and college access for local K-12 students. Connect campus workforce needs with local talent development.	☐ Provide more guidance and training for working with minors and vulnerable populations	☐ Invest in building an online portal for youth and family to increase access to multiple Brown programs for K-12 students	☐ Map and publicize entry points to Brown for parents and students	
	☐ Connect campus stakeholders engaged in local K-12 schools	☐ Build on successes such as Pre-College scholarships for PPSSD students	☐ Identify priorities for Brown to contribute and coordinate K-12 engagement efforts (including through broader impacts)	
	☐ Strengthen pipelines for additional workforce development opportunities for community members			

THEMATIC AREA 3 - COORDINATING ACROSS BROWN AND BEYOND FOR GREATER COLLECTIVE IMPACT				
STRATEGIES	SELECT ACTIONS TO BUILD ENGAGEMENT INFRASTRUCTURE			
	PEOPLE	POLICY	PROCESS	
Scale the Salesforce CRM to track, connect and understand our current and past engaged programs, courses, research and other partnerships to inform future engagement	☐ Provide CRM training and support to staff in multiple units	☐ Establish shared data governance for CRM users	☐ Utilize data analytics to assess and inform CE efforts	
Support people to more reliably match Brown's research, teaching, expertise, anchor resources and inclusive pathways to community priorities and partners	☐ Encourage faculty, staff and students to share data about CE efforts and interests	☐ Invest in building a CE data hub to connect Salesforce and other data repositories	☐ Expand CRM use, including how to access and contribute data	
Expand training and development for staff, faculty and alumni on community engagement	☐ Convene CE personnel regularly for joint strategizing and professional development	☐ Include coordination in CE roles and related job descriptions	☐ Continue to share local engagement stories incorporating community perspectives	
Partner with other local organizations, institutions and groups across sectors to deepen Brown University's collective impact statewide	☐ Explore shared positions/leveraging staff across units	☐ Codify and reward coordination in personnel policies and funding	☐ Enhance communication that share opportunities to address specific priorities	
	☐ Offer institutes, communities of practice (CoP) and consultation	☐ For relevant projects, integrate adoption of CE principles as a criterion to receive University funding and staff support	☐ Include community partners in workshops and training	
	☐ Develop toolkits and modules that share effective community-engaged teaching practices	☐ Join or work with other anchor institutions to create a local purchasing collective/shared purchasing	☐ Include CE resources in faculty and staff onboarding	
	☐ Support regular gatherings of key personnel of public and social sector anchor institutions in RI	☐ Participate in existing community-based coalitions	☐ Leverage BIRCH to strengthen community-engaged research	
			☐ Deepen coordination and collective impact work with anchor institutions in RI	

THEMATIC AREA 4 - ESTABLISHING PROCESS, OUTCOME AND IMPACT ACCOUNTABILITY MEASURES				
STRATEGIES	SELECT ACTIONS TO BUILD ENGAGEMENT INFRASTRUCTURE			
	PEOPLE	POLICY	PROCESS	
Assess the process of Brown's community engagement based on indicators of reach, mutual benefit and equity and along dimensions of output and outcome	☐ Involve CE staff, CABs, faculty and students in a baseline assessment of processes and indicators	☐ Recruit and support community-engaged scholars who advance interdisciplinarity and diversity, equity and inclusion	☐ Leverage the reclassification process for the 2026 Carnegie Community Engagement Classification to conduct a thorough self-study	
Provide regular evaluative updates and reports on the status of this Community Engagement Agenda to inform university leadership and decision-making	☐ Identify and connect people responsible for ongoing assessment of CE projects/initiatives	☐ Identify and address policies that can hinder CE (e.g. contracting, IP)	☐ Support the CEC to recommend indicated people, policy, process improvements to the President's Cabinet	
Measure the impact of collaborative work with community organizations based on indicators of equity in education, individual and population health, economic opportunity and vitality and environmental sustainability and resiliency	☐ Encourage faculty, staff, students and CEC committees to share community-engaged products, data and impact	☐ Provide regular updates to the CEC, FEC, UCS and more	☐ Support the CEC to recommend indicated people, policy, process improvements to the President's Cabinet	
	☐ Support CEC Committees to identify and recommend key indicators, methods and resources needed to assess impact	☐ Update and engage the Corporation through the CEA	☐ Share common indicators, assessment tools and best practices across units	
	☐ Build capacity to conduct impact assessment via trainings and/or CoP	☐ Adopt and report on relevant indicators and accountability measures	☐ Explore opportunities to collaborate on assessment with community-based partners	

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