

New Offers -Trusted Space Partners December 2014

Trusted Space Partners is a team of experienced community developers who are dedicated to supporting collaborative change initiatives, firmly grounded in the people who live and work together in local communities. The Partners, **Frankie Blackburn and Bill Traynor**, are long time practitioners who have worked at the grass roots level in community for a combined 60 years, and who have direct experience building new networks of residents and institutions that cross traditional boundaries and have witnessed firsthand, the results that come from working together.

The Trusted Space Approach

Today, new strategies are needed for helping people and institutions connect locally to maximize opportunities and make change. Trusted Space is an approach that believes that our biggest need and challenge is to **shape new community moments that level power dynamics and invite a wider range of people to shape and share relationships of trust and value to drive change.** Trusted Space Partners is directly engaged in local areas across the country, collaborating with change makers to shape new networks of people and share and explore new practices and new rooms for engagement and exchange.

We offer our support in three specific ways to individuals and teams who are just embarking on a change initiative, or to experienced practitioners and organizational leaders who have been involved in community development efforts for many years:

1. We design and offer **an Explore Series** each year; collective learning opportunities with a circle of practitioners from around the country who are facing similar quests and questions.
2. We provide on-going **strategic coaching to small teams** who have already come together to share responsibility for a change initiative within a specific place, either on-site or off site.
3. We periodically entertain participation in a multi-year project in a specific place where we serve as co-stewards, alongside a local stewardship team, of a **network building campaign and entrepreneurial commitment.**

1. Explore Series

In 2015, we are excited to offer three different off site learning opportunities.

Sparking Change with Others: A Simple Frame and Some Practices to Get Started....or to Re-Boot!

In this series, small groups of six to eight people from different places will learn a community change framework and several community building practices to use in a real moment of opportunity occurring in each of their specific settings. Over an intensive two month period, the groups will meet for three half-day retreats and each participant will receive up to four hours of individual strategic coaching between sessions. The retreats will focus on how to pose four guiding questions, on an iterative basis, to those with whom you are working in a specific change moment and will teach specific practices to use as you attempt to answer these questions together.

Three Half Day Retreats in Silver Spring Maryland: Feb 12, Feb 26 and March 12, 2015. \$ 1,000 per participant; \$1,500 for a team of two participants involved in the same community change moment.

Creating a “Qniversity” in Your Community: A Practical Day of Learning and Planning

Qniversity is an innovative approach to creating a new marketplace of mutual support and learning in neighborhoods. Trusted Space Partners believes that a powerful and relatively simple community

change strategy is to transform a mundane community space (in a school, church, mall, home) into an on-going “fun location” where regular, everyday people can teach and learn from each other in a non-programmatic way. This strategy is based on the belief that “wisdom is everywhere” and that we do not have to wait for institutions or systems to provide us with a higher quality of life. Quality or “Q” can be ours, now. Come hear our story of creating a Qniversity space in 2014 in Lawrence and then let’s use the rest of the time to develop a concrete action plan for you to create a similar space in your neighborhood.

Full Day Retreat in Lawrence MA, March 7, 2015

\$300 per participant; \$500 for a team of two.

Community Network Building as a Strategy and a Practice: Experienced Practitioners Exchanging and Supporting Each Other

Community Network Building is an emergent approach to building community in the 21st Century, pioneered by the Partners at Trusted Space and a community of practitioners around the country. For the first time ever, we are offering an intensive one-day gathering for experienced practitioners in local change work, who are looking for support, guidance and a community of practice for more effective, engaging, fun and impactful community change techniques and strategies. Participants will be supported prior to the session in bringing current “case examples” to share with others. Together, we will work to capture and document our collective shifts in thinking, practice and leadership, all towards a document that can be shared with others in our home communities.

Full Day Retreat in Lawrence, MA April 16, 2015

\$400 per participant

2. Strategic Coaching for Small Teams

We provide strategic coaching for teams within a wide range of organizations including local foundations, housing developers and managers, social service providers, community-based nonprofits, school districts and hospitals. Unlike traditional consulting groups, we understand that the devil is truly in the details. This is why we work side by side with local teams/groups on every aspect of both planning AND implementation. Trusted Space Partners supports:

- Strategy Development and Design
- Skills Building for Staff and Resident Leadership
- Co-Design of Tailored Initiatives and Campaigns
- On-Going Support and Coaching
- Planning Sessions and Retreats
- Innovating New Practices

Please see our web site, both our list of clients and items on our blog called “News and Learning” to better understand how we support others. www.trustedspacepartners.com

3. Co-Stewarding of Network Building Campaigns

Trusted Space has been a critical partner in a number of long term place-based changed strategies around the country. We seek out long term partnerships with high functioning institutions or organization interested in improving the way they engage and connect with their clients, customers, grantees, neighbors or fellow stakeholders. This is particularly important when this work takes place around a moment of opportunity or challenge that is facing a neighborhood, a school, a philanthropic

endeavor, a public health campaign, a retail area, a hospital, a redevelopment project, an apartment building, or a community college.

Increasingly, the kinds of strategies represented by the Trusted Space approach are needed to solve persistent challenges faced by a myriad of systems and institutions that are trying to serve or support local communities. Some examples:

Low Student Retention Rates in Community Colleges: The innovations being tried out in this field, such as peer mentors and academic advisory clubs, can achieve greater results if linked with neighborhood-based networks of mutual support and a more connected, trusting environment between teachers, students, mentors, advisors, neighbors, extended families and other community partners.

Income Diversity in Urban and Suburban Neighborhoods: Developers of mixed income housing and retail communities need new options for how to seed and support neighborhood initiatives that serve to bridge rather than divide those who live side by side, sharing the same parks, stores and streets.

Reducing “High Cost Utilizers” in Local Hospitals: Many in the health care field are working to engage lower income residents in preventative care and reduce the likelihood of a patient’s return visit to a hospital. Creating new community networks of mutually supportive relationships among patients, providers, neighbors and partners is an essential building block to long term health care reform.

As a critical partner, we work to build the capacity to develop sustained community network-centric practice and behavior at the local level. **In return for a commitment of genuine collaboration we offer our services for an affordable flat fee for a minimum one year period.**