

# TRANSFORMING COMMUNITIES GUIDEBOOK

Communities are our resilience. Communities are our power.

By following the steps in this guidebook, you are working towards not only empowerment but radical transformation.



# WHO AM I?



My name is Danielle Hauck, and I am a lifelong dreamer.

I am well-aware that the optimistic naivety of a dreamer is often frowned upon. Having navigated institutions and several disciplines, I am also acquainted with the many people who will tell you to stop dreaming – that transformation isn’t actually possible or that you must play within the existing systems.

I don’t believe that’s true. However, playing in those systems myself, I did learn a thing or two.

**We live in a society of dreamers.**

But dreams don’t always easily translate into radical reality, pragmatic practice, or sustainable solutions.

The transition from dreams to meaningful change is not easy. As a dreamer turned community mentor, I have experienced firsthand many of the roadblocks any of us might encounter on the path towards our goals. However, there are ways we can harness our dreams and help them solidify.

**That is the process I seek to outline in this free guidebook.**

# *A Walk Through*

## **CREDENTIALS**

I started my academic career in Anthropology. In this discipline, I was exposed to many different ways of thinking and seeing the world. I saw the sheer enormity of human existence and the various phases and civilizations we've survived through. Change and transformation have always been a part of these systems. Coupled with a minor in Psychology, I began to realize that the narrow view we had of human society in modernity was only holding us back. I focused on health and medicine, and the ways the narrowness of the Western world had actually dramatically damaged the health of marginalized and oppressed communities.



It was my passion for community wellness that naturally led me to my Master of Public Health. In this degree and my global health specialization, I learned about the complexity of the existing systems. Despite its complexity, the system is ill-equipped to deal with the intricacy of health that required social and community-level interventions. This complexity only expanded with the introduction of One Health theories, which recognized the interplay between human, animal, and ecosystem health. With a greater awareness of the economics of public health in large-scale systems, I realized I wanted to work on a smaller level – grassroots, community, and non-profit work. In my heart, I knew working directly with people would have the greatest impact, especially given the overload of information most of us experience each day.

By this time, I had already worked in the non-profit space for a few years. I dabbled in early childhood development, mental health counselling research, and community resource networking. My next step into this space was small-town and rural climate adaptation. It was in this new space, connecting dots in the systems we live in and are affected by, and I realized most municipalities needed more than information booklets. They needed transformation. At the same time, these communities were not ready to begin the process of transformation.

Change was needed, but no one really knew where they wanted their community to end up. Most couldn't dream of a community that departed from the current system.

**I was at a crossroads. I saw my work as a pathway towards realizing my purpose and my own dreams, and yet that pathway never quite led me in the direction I wanted to go.**

# Vibrant Systems

## A FORK IN THE ROAD

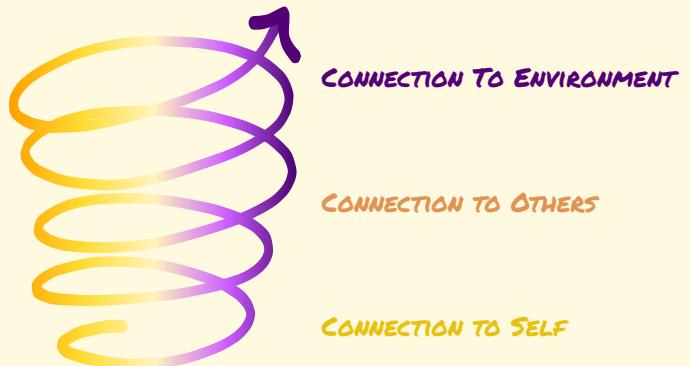
I never would have leapt into starting my own consulting business if my mentor and boss in my climate adaptation role hadn't pushed me in this direction.

She pushed, and I leapt.

Vibrant Systems was a fork in the road, and one I nearly missed. In some ways, it looked like it was heading in the same direction as the path I was already on – just parallel, a step or two over.

As I write this now, I realize I cannot even see where that old path led. The two diverged, and I never looked back.

**The Vibrant Path – the path I now walk and guide others through – is the transformational path I was looking for all these years. I know, because this path has required fundamental transformation from me as I've walked it.**



Walking The Vibrant Path

This guidebook is designed to introduce you to the Vibrant Path as a means for transforming your community, whatever scale or space your community currently exists in. I share the lessons and processes I have learned both in the transformation of myself and my business.

Notably, you don't need to walk through this transformative process alone.

While this guidebook is a free resource and you are welcome to apply its knowledge to your community circumstances, I am here as a community mentor and guide. Some may even call me a consultant. I can join you on this path in varying capacities. As you learn how to birth your dreams into reality, let me help you.

Get a quote today and connect with me at [danielle.vibrantsystems@gmail.com](mailto:danielle.vibrantsystems@gmail.com)

Let's make your story a vibrant one.

# WHAT IS COMMUNITY?



Community is a very general term, and that is intentional.

I work with all varieties of community. Municipalities, neighbourhoods, non-profits, clubs, businesses, social collectives, and online groups can all be considered communities.

The Vibrant Path, in its ability to guide communities through transformations, requires both intention and action for its success.

If you're a dreamer reading this, you don't necessarily need to turn back now. Some of the most transformative communities started because one champion had a dream that they turned into action. Like Vibrant Systems itself, sometimes the champion needs to trailblaze the path they see first, before others can join them in community and connection.

If you happen to be reading this without a community to support you, I invite you to continue with the reminder that the communities we build are designed for connections with others, authenticity, and with purpose.

**COMMUNITIES OF CONTROL ARE NOT COMMUNITIES AT ALL**

In my perspective as a community mentor, a community is any space where people gather with a shared intention, a desire to create meaningful connections, and an understanding of interdependence.

**Vibrant Systems already has resources for you:**

- Join [The Vibrant Community](#), a monthly newsletter that shares both Vibrant Systems updates as well as access to an exclusive community discussion forum
- Check out [Elements of Self](#), a 6-module video course that walks you through the four elements as a framework for connecting to your authenticity
- Visit the [Vibrant Systems Events calendar](#), and join one of the many sessions centered around facilitating transformation

# THE VIBRANT PATH

## To Transform Communities

In a broader sense, the Vibrant Path refers to the spiral of growth that takes us through connection to self, connection to others, and connection to the environment. Transforming communities walks along a similar spiral – a reminder that we may revisit lessons in the application of this knowledge, but each revisit is an opportunity to view a situation from a new perspective.

*Step 1*

### Defining Community Intention

Why are we creating this transformation?

*Step 2*

### Values Identification

Values, individually and collectively, become our road signs to ensure we are making choices that are aligned with our community intention.

*Step 3*

### Visioning

This stage moves our intention into full dreaming mode. What would you hope for if all limits disappeared?

*Step 4*

### Mission Pathways

Defining the pathways of bringing the vision to life.

*Step 5*

### Strategic Planning

Adding logic and pragmatism to the mission's pathways, a strategic plan opens doors to additional funding, awareness of our progress, and the milestones we hope to reach.

The rest of this guidebook will explore the details of each step

# DEFINING COMMUNITY INTENTION

What is the purpose of the community you are building or transforming?

What value does it offer?

What intention does it serve?

Maybe you already know what this is, or perhaps you have a looser or more abstract idea of Community Intention at this time.

Both are okay! There will be plenty of time to flesh out this information along the Vibrant Path.

However, defining your Community Intention is important because it demonstrates the direction in which you want to grow your community. Knowing the direction of growth is an important part of knowing what values or “road signs” to follow through this process.

But if you don’t know where you’re going, how will you know what directions to follow?

## SOME OF EXAMPLES OF COMMUNITY INTENTION

- I am helping build a community within X recreational activity/sport that supports the inclusion of new members and the growth of the activity in my area
- I want to create a space for the exchange of material goods and services to reduce reliance on larger corporations in my community
- I'm hosting an online community of local gardeners to support sustainability and self-reliance
- It's important to me to have a place that accepts diverse identities, and I don't think such a place currently exists in my community

## YOUR TURN

WHY WAS YOUR COMMUNITY CREATED? IF YOU ARE IN THE PLANNING STAGE, WHY ARE YOU CREATING THIS COMMUNITY?

WHAT PURPOSE DO YOU INTEND TO SUPPORT THROUGH THIS COMMUNITY?

Try to narrow down your focus at this stage to 1 or 2 sentences. You may wish to return to this intention throughout the process, so writing somewhere you can easily see/reference may help you and your community partners stay aligned.

This intention can also be used to communicate the value of your community to those you want to invite to participate or get involved in the process.

For example, in [Vibrant Systems Events](#), I highlight the intention of that community by stating, *"The events listed here are co-created with The Vibrant Community, creating a sacred space for connection and transformation."*

Clearly stating the intention of this community space helps potential attendees choose whether or not that space is one they would like to join. If they do join, they have an idea of what they can expect from Vibrant Systems Events.

# WHY COMMUNITY INTENTION MATTERS

Setting a Community Intention this early in the process may feel stifling to some, but this practice isn't meant to put your community into a box.

## **Setting a community intention:**

- Guides the development of your values, vision, mission, and strategic plan
- Communicates the value and purpose of the community to potential members
- Acts as a North Star to maintain your alignment in the long-term

This doesn't mean the intention cannot change or evolve over time. Change is a natural process that should be allowed when it emerges organically.

## **However, when we don't set an explicit Community Intention, we may encounter challenges, such as:**

- Disagreements about how to pursue steps towards community-building
- Miscommunication between members and attracting members who are not aligned with your intent
- The misguided evolution of the unstated intention into something misaligned or harmful

Returning to the example set by [Vibrant Systems Events](#), it has been important to me to communicate my intention for these spaces because if someone is not open to that intention, I personally do not want them to derail the importance of the session. I would rather lose a potential registration from someone who is not aligned with my intention than include individuals who would water down the potency of these sessions.

This may mean that I receive a smaller number of registrants than I'd get otherwise, but those who do attend will feel the transformative impact of Vibrant Systems Events much more deeply.

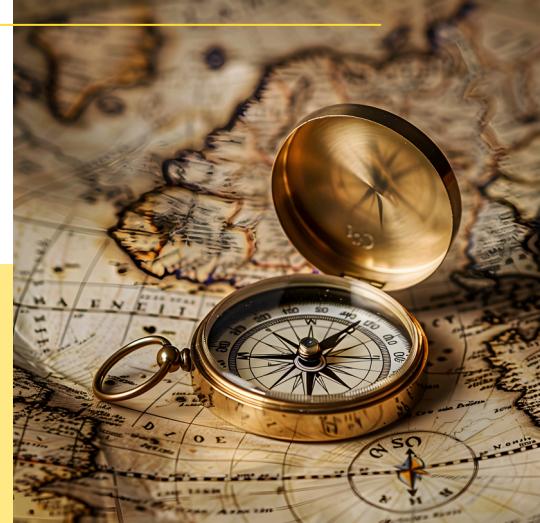


# Step 2

## VALUES IDENTIFICATION

If your Community Intention is your North Star, the values you choose for your community are the compass you use to get there.

In a time where values seem to be pushed to the side in favour of blind acceptance for all, we are seeing a massive trend where people who believe in harmful ideologies or act in harmful ways are given a free pass, while those who are harmed are pushed out of community spaces.



In the Paradox of Tolerance, this pattern is noted when we tolerate harmful or discriminatory choices. By accepting all without discernment, we are communicating to marginalized groups that they are not actually welcome or safe.

If your Community Intention is to support the growth of a certain activity or create a space to celebrate diversity, your values are the scaffold on which community action develops. Values do not create a cage but rather support the structure of the community you intend to create.

**EMBODYING  
GUIDING VALUES IS  
A CRITICAL FORM  
OF RESISTANCE  
AGAINST  
OPPRESSIVE FORCES.**

At Vibrant Systems, values have played a large role in how I've developed personally and professionally. [You can view a full list of Vibrant Systems' values here.](#)

But how can you actually define the values that guide your community towards the set intention?

On a personal level, values alignment feels like life or energy. When we decide in alignment with our personal values, even if it was a difficult choice, we feel confident about our decision. In my experience, values alignment feels like my heart is singing.

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Community values are not simply there to reflect the values of one person.

Instead, they are a collection of values statements that reflect the environment of the community you want to build (or transform). Community values are the values that guide the growth of your community towards the intention you set in step one.

For example, if your community intention is hosting an online community of local gardeners to support sustainability and self-reliance, you may outline the following values:

- o **Learning** as a way to **empower** local gardeners towards **self-reliance**
- o **Sustainability** within community governance, community space, and gardening practices
- o Creating a space for the development of **friendship** and **community** among local gardeners
- o **Respecting** the **wisdom** of life-long gardeners and building **curiosity** towards new gardening methods

In these statements, the bolded words are the “values” on which the community is built:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Learning</li><li>• Empowerment</li><li>• Sustainability</li><li>• Friendship</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Community</li><li>• Respect</li><li>• Wisdom</li><li>• Curiosity</li></ul>
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If I were to encounter this community in my hometown, I would expect an inviting, casual atmosphere that supports access to various shared resources. I would also join the community with an understanding that I am intended to take accountability of how I learn and build my skills within the community space.

All too often, businesses, communities, and other shared spaces will list values, but not do the added work of embodying those values within that space.

Embodying and acting in alignment with our values does take energy – they do have value and therefore a cost – but it is by embodying and aligning with our values that we actually create a transformative community space.

## YOUR TURN

IT IS BY EMBODYING AND ALIGNING WITH OUR VALUES THAT WE ACTUALLY CREATE A TRANSFORMATIVE COMMUNITY SPACE

BASED ON YOUR COMMUNITY INTENTION, WHAT VALUES STATEMENTS COULD YOU MAKE ABOUT YOUR COMMUNITY?

WHAT VALUES JUMP OUT AT YOU FROM THESE STATEMENTS?

WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE TO EMBODY THESE VALUES WITHIN THIS COMMUNITY SPACE?

# VALUES DO MORE THAN GUIDE EVERYDAY CHOICES

Outlining your community values sets the tone for the kinds of people you attract into your community space and can greatly influence the growth of your community.

They also play a critical role in guiding decisions through difficult periods of time, such as conflict or community challenges.

## **Values help communities navigate conflict and challenges by:**

- Providing the language needed to pinpoint issues that may arise during conflict (such as lacking respect or unwillingness to learn)
- Guiding the community through difficult choices (such as financial constraints, or either/or situations)
- Determining whether opportunities are aligned with a community's values (such as a sustainable gardening organization determining whether to receive funding from an oil company)



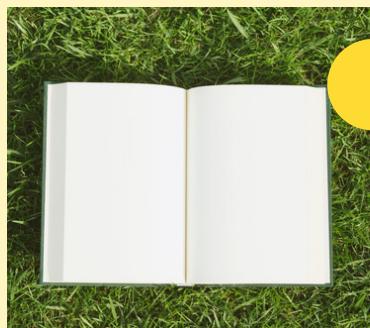
Like a scaffold, values don't necessarily tell you the right answer in a difficult situation. However, if you encounter a situation that is creating friction or unease within the community, they can help navigate troubled waters and maintain alignment with your initial community intention.

**Note: There will be times where certain values may conflict in a given circumstance (i.e. respect for wisdom may at times create friction with values of curiosity and learning). Not all conflicts are inherently negative, and learning to navigate conflict from a place of balance and discernment is a critical skill all community spaces can develop to support their long-term sustainability. At a time such as this, it may be important to seek a "middle path" between the two values.**

# Step 3

## VISIONING

**Your Community Intention is a 1-2 sentence statement that outlines the purpose you intend your community to serve.**



Your Vision, on the other hand, is a more detailed expression of how you would like this community to look over time. A strong vision gives you and your community members an idea of what you are working towards – what you are actually building or why the chaos of the transformation is worth pursuing.

**Visioning, therefore, can be a very fun and creative process!**



In this step, I encourage you to take the time to release any limitations or ideas you might have regarding what is possible for your community to achieve. All too often, especially at the start of a plan, we sell ourselves short on what is possible.



**THE COMMUNITY THAT DREAMS BIG  
KNOWS THE DIRECTION THEY WANT TO  
GROW IN WHEN UNEXPECTED  
OPPORTUNITIES ARISE**

The truth is you don't really know what resources or supports will become available down the line. By dreaming big at this stage of the process, you are setting yourself up for success if an unexpected windfall of resources comes to your community!

Consider the difference between a community that has big dreams (understanding they may be difficult to achieve) vs a community that keeps their vision small. If each community is suddenly given significant financial support, the community that kept their vision small may flounder in deciding how to use those resources. The community that dreamt big, however, already knows the direction they want to grow in, and can now spend the time deciding exactly how they want to make it happen.

And even if those resources never become available, the community that was willing to dream big will take smaller aligned steps towards this vision over the long-term than the community that kept their focus “achievable”.

## YOUR TURN

ASK YOURSELF, AFTER SHAKING OFF ALL LIMITATIONS, WHAT COULD THIS COMMUNITY BECOME? INCLUDE OTHER COMMUNITY MEMBERS IN THIS STAGE!

COMPARE YOUR VISION AND YOUR COMMUNITY INTENTION. CAN YOU CONDENSE YOUR BRAINSTORM INTO A COHESIVE, ALIGNED VISION?

## SETTING TIME ASIDE: VALUES CHECK-IN

**Now that you have your Vision, take the time to revisit the values list you created in the previous section.**

**DO YOUR VALUES STILL HELP GUIDE YOU TOWARDS THIS MORE DETAILED VISION AND THE COMMUNITY INTENTION?**

**ARE THERE ANY VALUES STATEMENTS THAT ARE MISSING? HAVE SOME STATEMENTS BECOME LESS APPROPRIATE OR REQUIRE ADJUSTMENT?**

Each of the stages outlined in this process are open to evolution based on your community needs and agreement. Especially in the planning phase, revisiting the steps of this process allows you to maintain alignment as you move forward, and offers an opportunity to deepen your community's shared clarity.

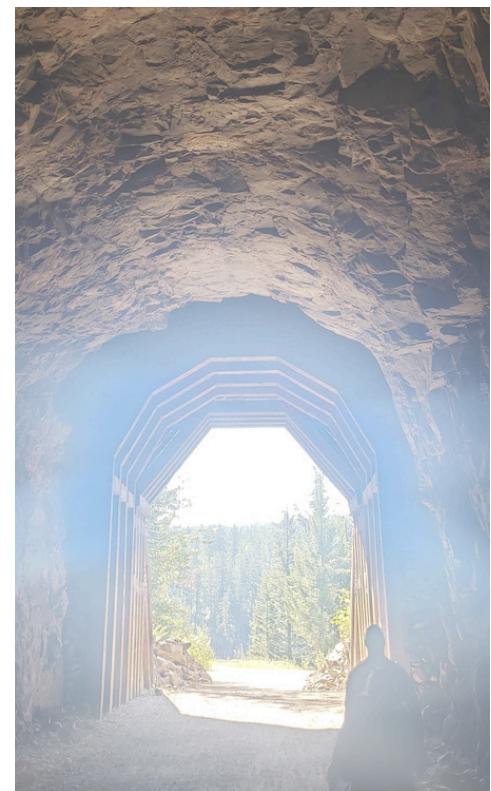
# Step 4

## MISSION PATHWAYS

Your community's Mission outlines the primary pathways you will take together to bring your Vision and Community Intention into reality.

Generally speaking, the Mission is a front-facing statement that supports your community's communications efforts and draws in like-minded persons. It isn't as detailed as a community calendar or program, but it highlights the general actions you are taking collectively within your community.

For example, the Vibrant Systems Mission is "*to help people deepen their connection to self, connection to others, and connection to the environment.*" This has provided me three general pathways through which I create more specific offerings, such as [Elements of Self](#), [Elements of Connection events](#), [The Vibrant Community](#), and more.



THE MISSION IS  
A FRONT-FACING  
STATEMENT THAT  
SUPPORTS YOUR  
COMMUNITY'S  
COMMUNICATIONS  
EFFORTS AND  
DRAWS IN LIKE-  
MINDED PERSONS.



## YOUR TURN

BRAINSTORM WITH COMMUNITY LEADERS. WHAT ARE THE 2-3 MOST IMPORTANT ACTION PATHWAYS YOU CAN COMMIT TO?

**If your Community Intention is to create a place to accept diverse identities, your Mission may look like:**

- Co-creating a physical space of openness and inclusion
- Sharing resources to educate community members and the broader community about social issues

Like your Vision, it is important that your Mission aligns with the Values you have decided are important for your community. For example, if one of your community values is “respect for all”, you may not want to include in your Mission an action pathway designed to ridicule people.

# MISSION IMPOSSIBLE: WHAT IF WE CAN'T FIND RESOURCES TO SUPPORT WHAT WE REALLY CARE ABOUT?

There is not a lot of financial support for transformative community-building in the current system. For people who are putting their time and energy into creating a thriving community space, it can be difficult to keep pursuing diverse Mission pathways when it feels like we are all alone on the path.

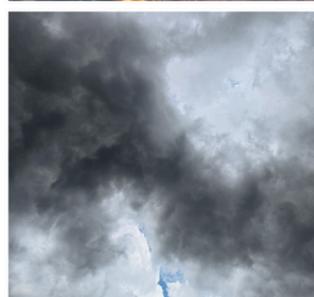
## I've been there.

However, like your Vision, your Mission doesn't necessarily need to be something you act upon all at once.

Using Vibrant Systems as an example, it is important to me to include "*connection to the environment*" in my Mission statement, because I firmly believe that an authentic connection to the earth beneath our feet is essential for decolonization and building sustainable futures. However, as I am building my business on my own, I need to be mindful about where I put my energy and the steps I take to create my Vision.

## IN MY CASE, THIS HAS LOOKED LIKE FOCUSING ON ONE ACTION PATHWAY AT A TIME.

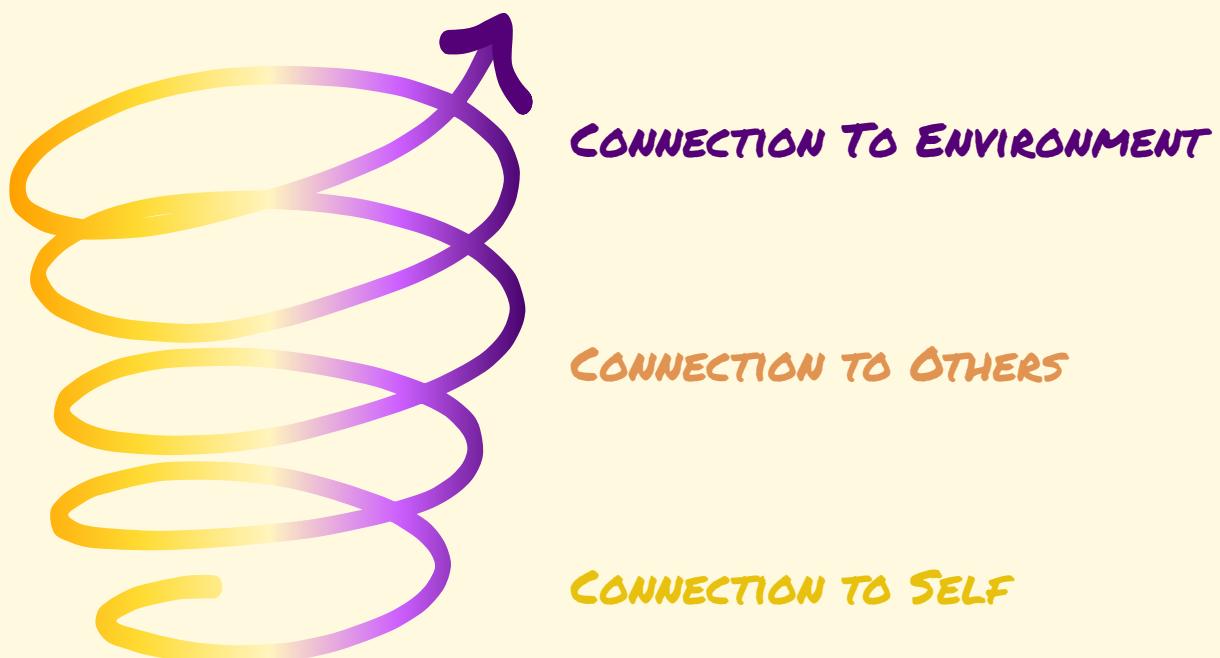
First, I dove into creating my video course Elements of Self, which is designed to connect individuals to their authentic foundation so that they can build the reality they desire. *Deepening connection to self* is often an independent journey, which is why I focused on creating an evergreen resource that is always available for those looking to start The Vibrant Path.



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Then, I began to create resources and materials to support connection with others. My event, [Elements of Connection: Illuminating the Collective Shadow](#), is created as a space to *deepen connections with one another* through overwhelming, uncomfortable, and sometimes painful shadows. Alongside my monthly newsletter, [The Vibrant Community](#), I also created this guidebook here to support others in their efforts to deepen their connection to others.

While I have been incorporating environmental awareness into the content I create and the services I offer, my next step in realizing my Vision will be turning to how I can create a service, resource, or event that *helps people deepen their connection to the environment* in a way that is meaningful and relevant to the rest of The Vibrant Path.



## Walking The Vibrant Path

## YOUR TURN

LOOKING AT YOUR MISSION, WHICH ACTION PATHWAYS CAN BE ACTED UPON NOW?

WHAT MIGHT THESE ACTIONS LOOK LIKE? WHAT DO YOU NEED TO CONSIDER TO KEEP THESE ACTIONS SUSTAINABLE AND MEANINGFUL?

# Step 5

## STRATEGIC PLANNING

I debated whether I wanted to include Strategic Planning. In some ways, it feels very "corporate". Unfortunately, the research is clear. When we write out our goals into broken-down steps, we are more likely to take the steps towards success.

### **Benefits of a Strategic Plan include:**

1

Clear guidance on where to place your efforts

2

Improved communications with community members and potential partners/funders

3

Something to refer to as a measure of progress towards Mission/Vision

However, unlike most, I don't necessarily believe a Strategic Plan should be a 10-Year or 5-Year plan. Longer-term projections are already accounted for in Vision and Mission statements (without pigeon-holing them to specific actions or activities).

Short of receiving significant long-term funding, I would recommend starting with a 1-Year Strategic Plan to guide the building and transformation of your community.

# CHANGING THE STRATEGIC PLANNING MINDSET

For many years, I was resistant to creating plans because I had learned that things would change anyway. What was the point of pouring time into something that felt like it became meaningless? Additionally, in many community spaces I engaged in my consulting career, the plans often sat on a shelf, not really guiding much of the growth these communities had once envisioned.

I was a little bitter about the whole planning thing for a while.

What I have learned as I started building my business from the ground up is that a Strategic Plan doesn't serve its purpose if it is created as a static document.

**IF A STRATEGIC PLAN IS UNRESPONSIVE TO THE EMERGING CIRCUMSTANCES WITHIN A COMMUNITY, IT EASILY BECOMES MEANINGLESS. THIS IS DOUBLY TRUE WITH THE ADVANCED RATE OF CHANGE WE SEE IN THE WORLD AROUND US.**

**To be truly strategic, planning documents need to allow for change and adjustment based on the dynamic realities of the world we live in.**

This means that it's okay to:

**1** Adjust how a certain goal is approached

**2** Change priorities over the course of the plan

**3** Add new goals, events, activities into the plan (as long as they align with previously stated Community Intention, Values, Vision, and Mission)

**4** Revisit the plan and update it throughout the year

# MAKING A STRATEGIC PLAN WORK FOR YOU

Much like defining our Values, Vision, and Mission, a well-crafted Strategic Plan creates a structure from which your community can expand organically. It is not meant to restrict what your community can do, but rather, it is like a trellis guiding growth and allowing flexibility.

## 1 Timeline

When crafting a Strategic Plan, the first step is deciding its timeline. This is especially helpful if you know your community would like to host a large event on a specific holiday, or you are creating a plan in response to grant requirements.

If you are new to strategic planning and do not have specific dates in mind, you may find it is easier to plan for a shorter amount of time. Don't cut it too short, though - a Strategic Plan is especially valuable for creating structure over periods of time that make it difficult to keep all pieces of a project in sight.

I would recommend starting with a Strategic Plan between a 3 month - 1 year timeline. Consider what works best for you and remember that if you do start with a shorter timeline, you can easily lengthen your timeline as you move through the planning process.



A STRATEGIC PLAN IS  
ESPECIALLY VALUABLE FOR  
CREATING STRUCTURE OVER  
PERIODS OF TIME THAT  
MAKE IT DIFFICULT TO  
KEEP ALL PIECES OF A  
PROJECT IN SIGHT.

## 2 Acting On Your Mission

Earlier, we identified the Mission as a way to define “action pathways” towards your community’s Vision. Your Strategic Plan will outline goals and steps within these action pathways.

For example, Vibrant Systems’ Mission is to “*help people deepen their connection to self, to others, and to the environment.*” My Strategic Plan would therefore include tangible steps towards these pathways. I wrote an entire Strategic Plan simply to create and publish my video course, **Elements of Self**, which was my first major milestone in realizing my Mission pathway to “*help people deepen their connection to self*”.

**If your Mission is to “Share resources to educate community members and the broader community about social issues”, then your Strategic Plan would include:**

- Identifying and prioritizing key social issues
- Learning how to best communicate resources in a meaningful way
- Creating or sourcing educational resources
- Marketing or communicating the availability of resources

These tangible actions take place over an extended period of time. Your Strategic Plan acts as both a reference point for the next step and helps keep the project progressing along an intended timeline.

If you have multiple pieces within your Mission, try to include tangible steps and actions for each to maintain balanced progress throughout. They may be staggered throughout the timeline (I myself am building my “connection to others” portion of my Mission after I finished publishing my video course, **Elements of Self**).

**YOUR STRATEGIC PLAN ACTS AS BOTH A REFERENCE POINT FOR THE NEXT STEP AND HELPS KEEP THE PROJECT PROGRESSING ALONG AN INTENDED TIMELINE.**

# 3

## Recognizing Successes

Long-term projects can, for many people, lose their impact when they reach their finale. It's easy to forget all the work that went into a project that developed over months or even years.

**At the same time, humans thrive when their hard work and impact is recognized and celebrated.**

Building indicators of success into your Strategic Plan is one way to not only track the impact of your actions, but also a reminder to celebrate the progress you've made!

**Possible indicators of success can include:**

- The completion of a milestone
- Collecting numbers on events hosted, engagement, attendance, and other key statistics
- The expansion of community involvement
- Opportunities to network with other communities
- Recognition of community impact from outside sources
- Review and appreciation for the work done over the past period of time (month, season, etc.)

Recognizing indicators of success (and recording the information through photos, reports, or communications) prepares your community to communicate with potential funders, newcomers, and allies. Your successes are a part of showcasing the value your community creates, not just for members, but anyone impacted by your actions.

Recognizing successes, however small, is also important when it comes to building a culture of gratitude and sustaining momentum on long-term projects. When we build celebration and appreciation into our community's functioning, it creates a space that is more inviting and attractive for others to participate.

**YOUR SUCCESSES ARE A PART OF SHOWCASING THE  
VALUE YOUR COMMUNITY CREATES.**

## 4 Pulling The Strategic Plan Together

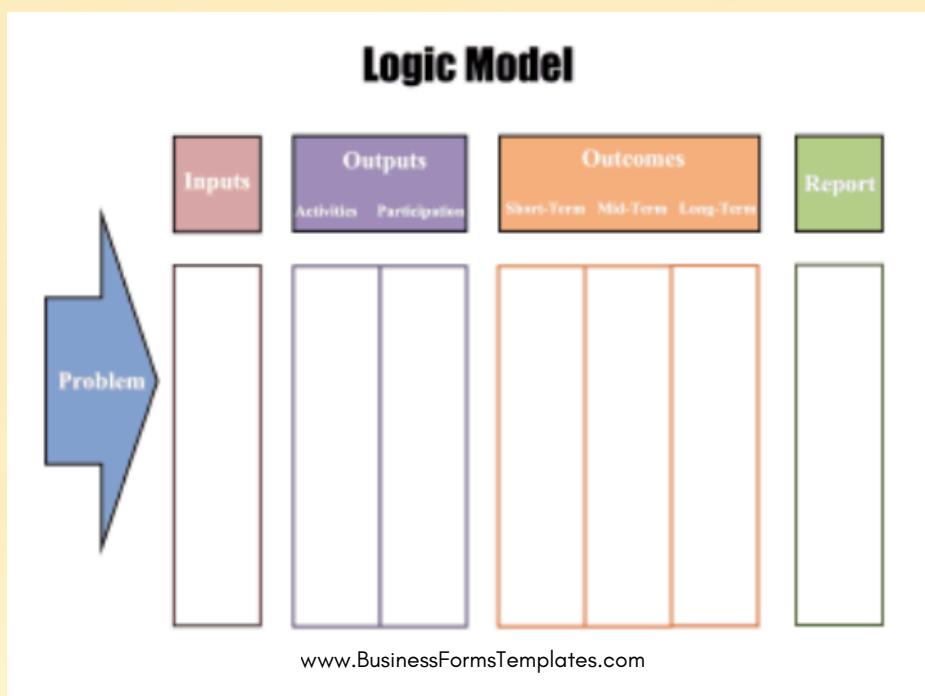
Many will take the information you defined above and pull it together into a simple timeline. This document is easy to use and can help you and your community partners visualize the next steps and past projects.

**You may also choose to include a more detailed report on the Strategic Plan's actions. For example, you could create a chart that notes:**

- The Mission objective you are working towards
- The title of the project or goal
- A clear description of what marks the completion of this project or goal
- The estimated date of completion
- Details breaking down the specific steps needed to complete this objective
- A list of indicators to track
- If relevant, who in the community is responsible for overseeing this project or goal

Some may also choose to pull this information into a Logic Model format. A Logic Model is a Strategic Planning tool that explicitly outlines the logical intentions behind certain choices or strategies. It also includes a clear outline of how strategy impact is measured.

While a Logic Model isn't necessarily the right choice for every Strategic Plan, it has immense value for communities that are seeking external funding because it clearly communicates the pathways of action and reasons for taking those actions.



# YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO IT ALONE

Community-building, in whichever context it applies to you, can be an intimidating undertaking. Many of us are not taught how to build sustainable communities, let alone transformative ones.

Beyond the content of this free guidebook, community-builders will navigate challenges such as conflicts, resource restrictions, emotional barriers, and ethical dilemmas. While the work you've done working through this guidebook will help (especially in defining Values and Community Intention), the reality is that humans are complex and fluid.

But a strong community recognizes that our human complexity and fluidity are also our strength.

**If you're reading this, you are already an integral part of that complexity and fluidity.**

But you don't have to do it alone.

I started Vibrant Systems because I have always known the communities we build together are the most important parts of our legacy. By creating place, systems, and capacity, we are creating spaces of love and reciprocity. That love and reciprocity are not just transformative – they are the key ingredient in cultivating sustainable action towards a future that benefits us all.



VIBRANT SYSTEMS OFFERS  
TAILORED SERVICES TO  
SUPPORT YOUR  
COMMUNITY'S EVOLUTION



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