



COMMUNITY FOR CHANGE

PIP COBURN

BRYNNE THOMPSON

Foundational Ideas Series

FIVE RINGS OF ACTIVITY



DECEMBER, 2017

cvcommunityforchange.org

Artist: Grey Hall Borneman

Five Rings of Activity

Community for Change: Foundational Ideas Series

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The Community for Change has become so vibrant over the last few months that we took a step back to reflect and aim to understand what this organism is becoming, and to consider how we can be the best stewards possible of all the energy coming in and out of the Community for Change.

I hope this short update might help you understand where, how and if you want to match up with these activities. We are all about passion-matching and it sure helps passion-matching if you know what we're up to!

Before we dive in, a pointer:

If you are not sure if you are on our email list and think you want to be, email Melissa Norman at melissa@coburnventures.com and she will happily add you. It is still the easiest way to keep up to date.

SO, WHO ARE WE?

We are the community cultivated over a decade of connecting, sharing and think-tanking with hundreds of academics, investors, industry-types and thought leaders, most typically and historically around major changes in society, organizations and people so that we all might prepare for and adapt to change, better see the reality of constant change and see how we humans react and respond to this change. We also learn about change in order to create some ourselves.

The difference between the Community for Change activities and say, the Crosby gathering generated by Coburn Ventures, is simply that the Community for Change aims to generate and then direct energy from around this community to making the world a better place, broadly defined.

Many people consider the degree of trust in this group to be exceptionally high. That trust makes most everything else in the Community for Change possible.

We have always been a community. There is no “networking” in the traditional sense, in which one might come to “get” something out of someone, whether a job, a lead, information or



infinite ways of networking that seem to suck the life energy out of a room. This is a community. We come to contribute, to learn, to give. Our policy of “non-obligatory” participation is meant to ensure that only people who really want to be there are there. What a difference that alone can make.

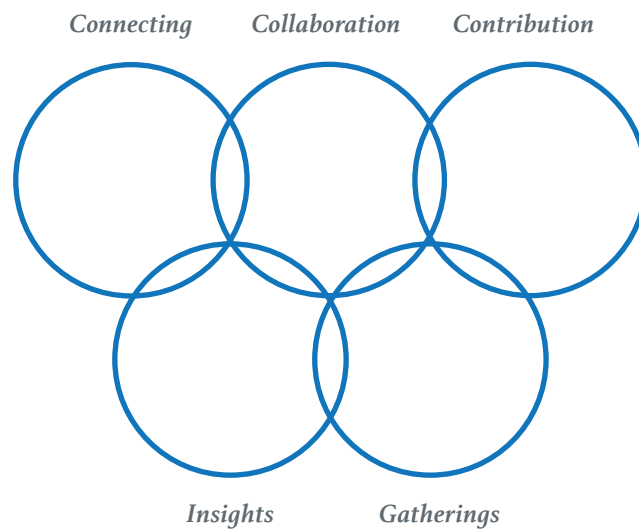
We particularly love Steve Crandall’s practice of “tithing time” to the projects and passions of his friends. What a great concept! We hope to provide opportunities for you to tithe your time and your learning, directing those valuable resources to improving a condition or helping spur a strategic thought for a passionate leader or organization.

Oh, there is no real qualifier to becoming a part of the community. If you’re reading this, know we consider you a part of it (whether you like it or not perhaps!). While we have been growing, we have no stated intention to grow. Our intention is to deepen relationships and serve this community as best we can. We aim to align with, encourage and actively root for other communities creating change.

WHAT DO WE DO?

Our activities center around five “rings”. Each ring represents a different type of activity or outcome in support of community members, organizations they represent, causes they want to rally around, and importantly, opportunities to dive below surface-level discussions so that any actions coming out of the group come from a deeper place of patience, wisdom and insight rather than knee-jerk reaction.

Here are the five rings:



GATHERINGS

This community has traditionally come together around gatherings that may be fairly unique. They are invitation-only because we view part of our caring for this community is setting boundaries. They are open in spirit and learning. We welcome referrals from community members who have a hunch that a friend or colleague would gain from being there.

They take the form of teach-ins, of virtual video 40 minute hangouts, of strategic development sessions, and “rocks” problem-solving meetings. Some of the gatherings are specifically developed to create a space in which typically difficult topics can “breathe”. These Waypoints gatherings are aimed to create a collective experience where judgment is suspended. Deeply listening to the “other” is the normative conduct and feels cleansing and powerful. Confusion and being undecided is greatly appreciated and there is no call-to-action at that moment but merely a call-to-being.

COLLABORATIONS

When the work provides the opportunity, Pip and Brynne offer deeper strategic work, often at a 1:1 level with leadership or board members of non-profits or for-profit start ups toward a specific breakthrough for their organization. We will bring everything we have learned across our careers of studying and creating change: brainstorming, communication, leadership methods, applied creativity, communication. We consider this partnership work, and bring in community members on an ad-hoc basis as they wish for targeted, collaborative work.

The nature of the organizations we work with run the gamut! The common traits among the dozen or so organizations we typically work with at any given time are that they come with immense trust and openness, student-mindedness and a deep desire to serve others significantly. They tend to bring us their absolute hardest problems to work on together. We aren't so interested helping a group with their #8 problem. We are interested in diving in with them on problems that are absolutely critical. We are always open to new “clients”.

CONNECTING

We aim to connect community members to opportunities and to one another, constantly. Those of you who already know Pip well know this is a special gift and joy of his! We often design our gatherings with plenty of time before and after for people to benefit as they bump into one another. We are encouraged when we hear stories of people now working together on vital initiatives who first met at Community for Change or Coburn Ventures gatherings. It is a perk for us to have an opportunity to create space where those things might routinely occur.



INSIGHTS

Our Coburn Ventures heritage is one of business analysis: our systematic attempt to convert data and knowledge into insight. From time to time we will offer thinking about organizations or themes and open our library of writing, hoping to inspire others. The intent is to contribute original, relevant, insightful thinking. This year we will feature more insights from a variety of people in the community.

CONTRIBUTION

From time to time we come together to make a resource-full contribution to a campaign, organization or project. Every once in a while what's required is simply putting fuel in the tank to make the car "go". We aim to give money and introduce opportunities to our community to give as opportunities come up that we think this group would get excited about. This has ranged from a consortium funding the building of a pre-school in a township many of us have visited in South Africa, to quick and sweet opportunities like funding the Eat off Beat cookbook!

We hope this helps clarify a bit of what we are aiming to do and, more importantly, how you can get involved. We have a great year ahead and hope you will join in as little or as much as you like!

— BRYNNE & PIP

