

Common Good Awareness Project

Connect with community stakeholders, schools, groups, organisations in order to spread awareness and engender support to:

1. Create awareness of the Common Good Fund and what it is and represents.
2. Develop the farmhouse as an learning project in all aspects of its development
3. Nurture in the community the care and welfare of the common good fund, for future generations through the farmhouse project.
4. Invite educators tutors to be involved in presentations and learning.
5. Using local resources, radio stations, local news and networks. Find out about work that has already been carried out. Surveys, mapping and consultations, to avoid reinventing the wheel and produce a process that will carry the project forward in the interests of the community as a whole.

Broadening Community Commons



Participatory Action Research Study for Independent Resource Centre in Govan

What We Do

We at this juncture are the folk involved in the project at this moment in time.

The core group will work with administration, funding, communications, outreach, collaborations, meetings, updates, websites, computer work.

Folk will be encouraged to participate in this work, through work-skill, sharing and a fair allocation of the boring stuff. Rote tasks will incorporate a social aspect. I.e. a pizza on the table for after.

The whole emphasis throughout this project and its procedures, is participation. It is more important to insure that folk are involved, than the few just doing all the work.

It will be as important to know when to step back, as it is to step forward. Allowing others to take the lead and being respectful of what others think. We do not need to agree with everything folk think, to work with them.

Disagreements and conflict need to be resolved openly and honestly and conclude by consensual agreement and with respect to the aims of the projects.

16 Tenets of Participatory Action Research

1. Is an approach to improving social practice by changing it
2. Is contingent on authentic participation
3. Is collaborative
4. Establishes self-critical communities
5. Is a systematic learning process
6. Involves people in theorising about their practices
7. Requires that people put their practices, ideas and assumptions about institutions to the test
8. Involves keeping records
9. Requires participants to objectify their own experiences
10. Is a political process
11. Involves making critical analyses
12. Starts small
13. Starts with small cycles
14. Starts with small groups
15. Allows and requires participants to build records
16. Allows and requires participants to give a rea-

People encounter problems rarely encountered 20–30 years ago - expanding workloads, cultural realities that do not encourage but smother creativity.

The world is not static, it is being redefined constantly, but by whom? Banks, business interests, the markets?

We can either let these interests fashion our social and physical universe, or we can take control of this ourselves.

If we favour the latter, we will need to build or rebuild and support the institutions that represent working class people.

The Farmhouse project in Govan has all of the hallmarks of one such institution.

soned justification of their social (educational) work to others

Participatory action research is an approach to improving social practice by changing it and learning from the consequences of change.

- Participatory action research involves a continuing spiral of planning, acting (implementing plans), observing (systematically), reflecting and then re-planning.
- The collaborating group is widened from those most directly involved, to directly involve as many as possible of those affected by the practices concerned.
- Participatory action research establishes self-critical communities of people participating and collaborating in the research processes of planning, acting, observing and reflecting.
- Participatory action research is a systematic learning process in which people act deliberately through remaining open to surprise and responsive to opportunities.
- Participatory action involves folk being in-

quisitive about and coming to understand the relationship between circumstances, action and consequences in their own lives.

- Participatory action research requires that people put their practices, ideas and assumptions about institutions to the test by gathering compelling evidence for substantiation.
- Participatory action research involves not only keeping records which describe what is happening as accurately as possible but also collecting and analysing the groups judgements, reactions and impressions about what is going on.
- Participatory action research is a political process because it involves people in making changes that will affect others.
- Participatory action research involves making critical analyses of the institutionally structured situations (projects, programmes, systems) in which people work.
- Participatory action research starts small by working on minor changes which individuals can manage and control, and working towards established shared agreements in the group.
- Participatory action research starts with small cycles of planning, acting, observing and reflecting which can help to define issues, ideas and assumptions more clearly so that those involved can define more powerful questions for themselves as their work progresses.
- Participatory action research starts with small groups of collaborators but widens the community of participating action researchers so that it gradually includes more and more of those involved and affected by the practices in question.
- Participatory action research allows and requires participants to give a reasoned justification of their social (educational) work to others because they can show how the evidence they have gathered and the critical reflection they have done have helped them to create a developed, tested and critically examined rationale for what they are doing.

Abridged from: caledonia.org.uk/par.htm#4.