

Community Project Planning

Information Sheet

Introduction:

The Community Project Planning Training is a course designed for people who have already completed a Building a Better Community (BBC) course and are keen to develop more specific skills around community project development. The course is run by Community Praxis Co-op in partnership with a local community agency in the area in which the course is run. Often the Project Planning course is referred to as a *BBC Stage 2*.

The course is non-accredited but utilises proven theory and practices through a participatory project planning model. Participants could ideally use this course to complement a TAFE accredited course.

What is the Community Project Planning course?

- It's a **20 hour course** designed to build on the foundation of concepts and frameworks considered in the initial BBC training course.
- The course provides an opportunity for up to 15 people who have participated in a previous BBC course and are currently involved in or about to begin a **community project**. It is essential that participants come with a project – as this will form the groundwork for the material presented during the course.
- The course uses extensive **action reflection** so participants need to be open to listening to other people and willing to share their experiences.
- The course is based on **adult-learning principles** meaning that all participants have skills, knowledge and experience to contribute and this creates a fun, interactive learning environment.

How does it work?

Participants need to collaborate with each other prior to the course to determine which community project they will experiment with during the course. The course requires working in small groups to develop a project plan for each groups chosen project. Topics that the course will cover include:

- Introduction from each participant about their project;
- Mapping projects to determine common themes to explore;
- The “Action Research” and “Appreciative Enquiry” models as tools for project development;
- Participatory Project Planning:
 - Community needs & problems assessment
 - What is the overall project goal?
 - Determining the specific project purpose
 - What results are desired to achieve the purpose?

- What activities are needed to get these results?
 - What resources are required to make these activities occur?
 - Project Indicators – Knowing if the project is working?
 - Project Assumptions – What has been assumed for the project’s success?
- Project problems;
 - Evaluating your project;
 - Community projects & organisational skills;
 - Project planning, chaos theory & people; and
 - Dealing with disappointment

What is required of course participants?

During the course it is essential for participants to adopt an “**action-reflection**” approach to a community project they are currently working on or about to begin. The course is designed for those who are:

- already involved in their community (and preferably have recently completed a BBC course),
- are willing to experiment with a community project they are currently involved in or work alongside others in another community project , and
- prepared to think laterally and reframe their view of success!

Cost:

The course is offered **free** to participants as the partnering community agency will find the resources to offer the course.