

You Are the Architect of Your Community: Building Community Engagement and Resilience



By Ashley Edwards

“When individuals and communities do not govern self, they risk being ruled by external forces that care less about the well-being of the village.” -T.F. Hodge



Resilience- the ability to productively react to hard conditions

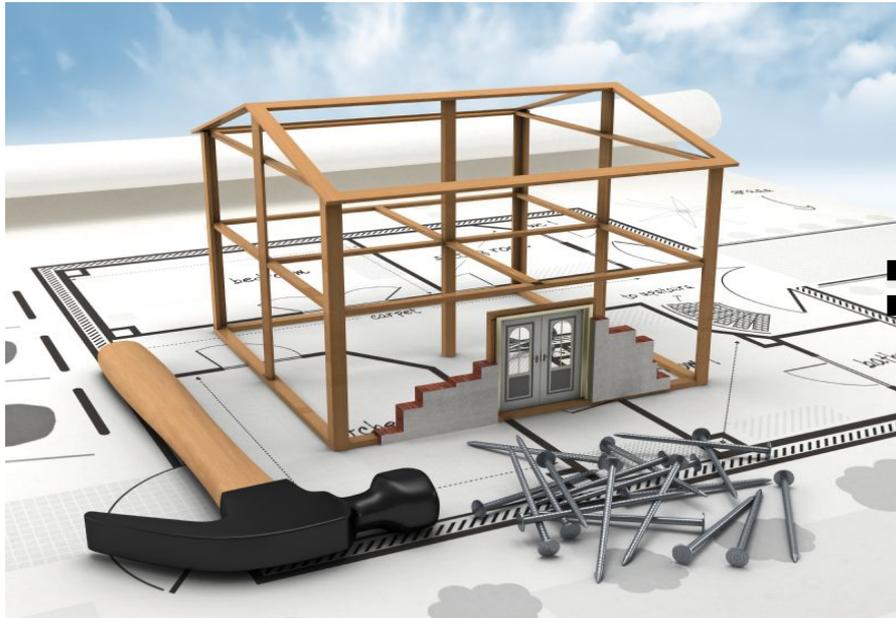


HOWEVER:
Where do we start?
Who should initiate this governance?

External force=climate change

Building a House = Building Education for Resilience

Your Role is to become the Architect

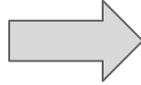


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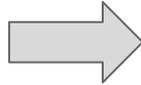
Building Process

Breaking Ground and
Excavating



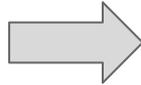
Creating relationships within your community inducing openness and asking questions.

Foundation



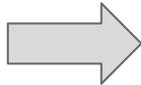
Challenging Education (still asking questions). Making it Necessary to Gain relevant knowledge about issues of Climate Change

Framing



Making the issue of climate change relevant to your community by answering the common question “why should I care”

Roofing



Devising plans that relate to Resilience through gatherings and planning meetings that show results.

Breaking Ground and Excavation

Central Question- “What do you think of when you think of climate change?”



Foundation:Challenging Our Education Methods

Beginning with students entering high school in 2011—2012, all students must complete a locally designed high school program of environmental literacy.

- Make decisions that demonstrate understanding of natural communities and the ecological, economic, political, and social systems of human communities; and examine how their personal and collective actions affect the sustainability of these interrelated systems.
- Investigate and analyze environmental issues ranging from local to global perspectives and; Develop and implement a local action project that protects, sustains, or enhances the natural environment.

Framing: “Why Should I Care”

How Climate Change impacts Baltimore City:

- Heat Island Effect- Baltimore is becoming extremely hotter than surrounding areas. This ultimately makes the summer, a time for freedom, fun and excitement, an uncomfortable time making the public weary of health conditions.
- Nuisance Flooding- when the overflow of bodies of water impact our current infrastructure. This wastes taxpayer money that goes to urban development and creates public inconveniences.

Roofing: “What could WE do?”

- Planning Meetings (Discussing making key places resiliency hubs)
- Themed celebrations with the focus of climate change (reducing emissions) and having group discussion



Is it Safe to Move in?

The “moving in process” is the process of taking an extra step as a group, after planning periods have past and opportunities have emerged. Will you and your community go on help push emission bills through the lawmaking process? Will there be community maintenance of resiliency hubs?

