

We are the economy - the transformative practice of reclaiming ourselves and relationship through community wealth building

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**How old were you when you first realized
you were apart of an economy?**

Please respond in the chat



What is Community Wealth Building?

A systems approach to economic development that **creates an inclusive, sustainable economy built on locally rooted and broadly held ownership**. Key facets of this approach include:

- promote broader ownership of capital
- anchor jobs locally
- stop the leakage of dollars from communities
- support individual and family wealth building
- reinforce stewardship
- generate revenues to finance public services
- leverage anchor institutions for community benefit
- contributes to local economic stability

This new approach puts people and community first and focuses on creating broadly held wealth.



Community Wealth Building Approach

Place

- Develops under-utilized local assets of many kinds for benefit of local residents.

Ownership

- Promotes local, broad-based ownership as the foundation of a thriving local economy.

Multipliers

- Encourages institutional buy-local strategies to keep money circulating locally.

Collaboration

- Brings many players to the table: nonprofits, philanthropy, anchors, and cities.

Inclusion

- Aims to create inclusive, living wage jobs that help all families enjoy economic security.

Workforce

- Links training to employment and focuses on jobs for those with barriers to employment.

System

- Develops institutions and supportive ecosystems to create a new normal of economic activity.

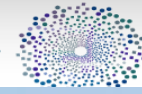




DEMOCRACY
COLLABORATIVE

Learning/Action Lab for Community Wealth Building





DEMOCRACY
COLLABORATIVE





Transformative practice of reclaiming ourselves and our relationships.

The scary word “economy”

My sister and my friend, Rae





The English words "**economy**" and "**economics**" can be traced back to the Greek word οἰκονόμος (i.e. "household management")



Lakota Community Wealth Building



A word cloud centered on the word "Community" in a large, bold, red font. Surrounding it are various terms in different colors and sizes, including: "Loyalty", "Inclusion", "Relationships", "Equality", "Democratization", "Sustainability", "Opportunity", "Engagement", "Common Good", "Ownership", "Building", "Resilience", "Resources", "Plac", "Building", "Ownership", "Common Good", "Engagement", "Opportunity", "Sustainability", "Democratization", "Relationships", "Equality", "Inclusion", "Loyalty", "Resources", "Resilience", "Plac", "Building", "Ownership", "Common Good", "Engagement", "Opportunity", "Sustainability", "Democratization", "Relationships", "Equality", "Inclusion", "Loyalty".

Community



CWB strategies must be translated and integrated into cultural values and practices through inclusive participatory processes to increase long-term sustainability.

We are decolonizing the approach and reclaiming the way we managed our economies long ago.



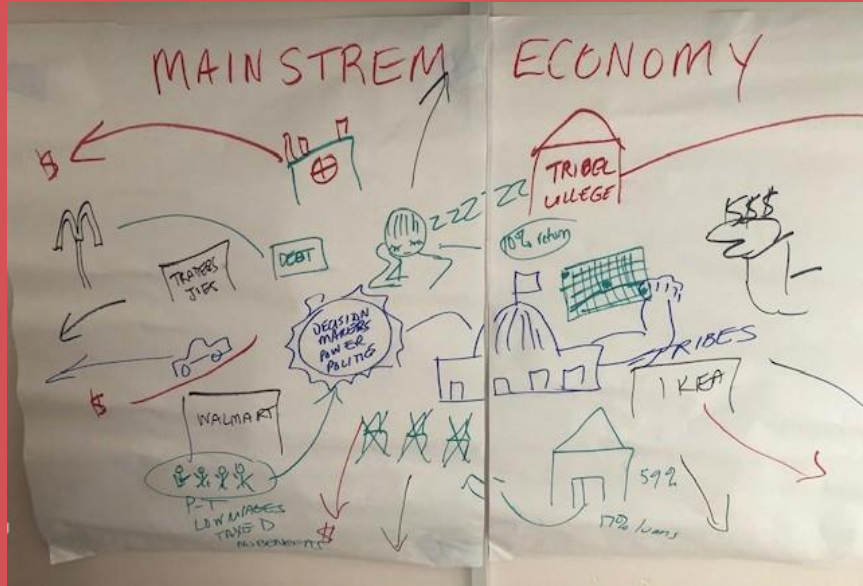
Drivers	Traditional Approach	Community Wealth Building	Lakota Community Wealth Building
Place	Aims to attract firms using incentives, which increases the tax burden on local residents	Develops under-utilized local assets of many kinds for benefit of local residents	Place-Loyalty to the Oyate (people) and Unci Maka (planet); human capital and land;
Ownership	Supports absentee and elite ownership, often harming locally owned family firms.	Promotes local, broad-based ownership as the foundation of thriving local economy.	Ownership-held by the Oyate; democratization of ownership;
Multipliers	Pays less attention to whether money is leaking out of community.	Encourages institutional buy-local strategies to keep money circulating locally.	Multipliers-Formal and informal economic activities such as bartering and trading locally;
Collaboration	Decision-making led primarily by government and private sector, excluding local residents.	Brings many players to the table: nonprofits, philanthropy, anchors, and cities.	Collaboration-As Lakota people we give and help as we can. Keeping the traditions of our virtues to work with one another as one. Reaching out to other Indigenous People;
Inclusion	Key metric is number of jobs created, with little regard for wages or who is hired.	Aims to create inclusive, living wage jobs that help all families enjoy economic security.	Inclusion- Making sure all living things are considered; triple bottom line: people, planet and prosperity;
Workforce	Relies on generalized training programs without focus on linkages to actual jobs.	Links training to employment and focuses on jobs for those with barriers to employment.	Workforce-Considers each person and their ability and makes a place for them;
System	Accepts status quo of wealth inequality, hoping benefits trickle down.	Develops institutions and supportive ecosystems to create a new normal of economic activity.	System-From beginning to end, the system is a circular; Lakota way of life-everything is connected; consciously re-creating sustainable communities;

Things we've learned

- **Decolonize the concepts.**
- **Recognize and include culture.**
- **Make it a communal process.**
- **Engage through storytelling.**
- **Develop a community baseline/profile.**
- **Share the knowledge.**



MAPPING YOUR LOCAL ECONOMY





HOPE NATION

Strategies

Anchor Procurement
Enterprise Development
Ecological Resilience
Financing
Land Use & Real Estate
Workforce

Seven Fires

We Are the Economy

Seven Fires is an Indigenous women-led nonprofit organization addressing systems of inequity by nurturing systems of holistic prosperity. The seven Indigenous women from different tribal nations are guided by a matriarchal belief that sustainable abundance requires honoring and healing our relationships with each other and ourselves. Utilizing the wisdom of ancestral Indigenous teachings to navigate the challenges of systemic oppression at the community level (by transforming economic systems) and individual level (by nurturing key community leaders), we are generating momentum to create the equitable future we envision.

Indigenous Community Wealth Building Program -provides real, on-the-ground solutions for shifting local systems and structures to create lasting, equitable economic outcomes grounded in communities' culture and values

Indigenous Women's Fellowship-provides an in-depth personal and professional growth opportunity for Indigenous women to nurture their wellbeing, cultivate their leadership skills, and amplify their entrepreneurial spirit.



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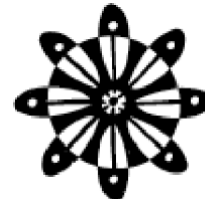
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Hope Nation: CWB Brand Identity
“Before” / Sickness / Leaky Economy





Stay Tuned....
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