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#CommDevStories **by Kyle Patrick Williams** **CDS Chairperson**

In one of my undergraduate leadership studies courses focused on leading change, I recently featured a **TED Talk** titled "Inspiring Social Change through Community Organizing." Rabbi Dara Frimmer, who serves as the senior rabbi at Temple Isaiah in Los Angeles, presented this TED Talk during the TEDxUCLA 2015 event. According to biographical information, Dara engages in every aspect of congregational and life cycle events, focusing on social justice issues, Israel, and religious education. She is active with many local organizations committed to social justice.



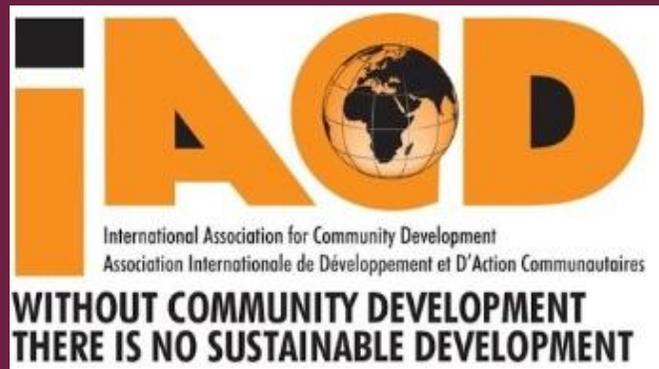
Dara's talk reflected on how our desires to pursue justice issues necessarily connect to our self-interest. They require a deep personal commitment to a select few problems to which we dedicate time and energy. She continued by saying that "One of the biggest challenges we face as agents of social change is that we forget to learn people's stories as we attempt to enlist them in our cause. And that's a mistake. Because what we care about is deeply connected to who we are: our life experiences, our pain and our disappointment, as well as our greatest joy. And if we can just remember to get at those kinds of stories and share those of our own, we are far more likely to create a network of committed people who are ready to bring about real social change."

As Dara pointed out, stories lead to connections that create a sense of accountability on both sides. "That is the accountability you need if you want to turn people out for your events. It's the reason why if you call me up and you say, "I need you to show up for me, to stand up, to speak out for this event, this cause that means something to me," I am far more likely to say yes if I know your story." Dara then described a concept she called "calculated vulnerability" and the importance of sharing about yourself and what you care about and inviting them to do the same.

As we continue navigating the myriad of issues impacting our communities, how do we remain invested in the work in which we are engaged? How do we bring others along with us to increase our collective impact? How do we move beyond sheer numbers of loss and tolls taken to re-humanize those individuals? We start with conversations and stories to, as Dara suggested, fill the tragic gap between the world as it is and the world as it could be. "You can cross that gap alone, screaming at the top of your lungs," she says, "or you can invite other people to join with you."

So, what is your community development story? What are you passionate about, and what opportunities do you have to share your story with others? We would love to hear your #CommDevStories and possibly feature them in a future edition of the *Vanguard*. Please reach out to **Anita Montgomery**, *Vanguard* Editor, to submit your stories!

2021 Virtual World CD Conference: Abstract Deadline May 1



The Virtual World CD Conference hosted by the International Association for Community Development and the Association of Community Development Practitioners-Kenya will occur June 21-23, 2021. The theme for the conference is Our Connectedness, Resilience, and Empowerment.

- General information about the conference can be found at: <https://www.iacdglobal.org/events/wcdc/>.
- The call for abstracts is ongoing and open until May 1, 2021. For more information about submission and thematic/topical areas, see <https://wcdc2020.acdpk.org/call-for-abstracts/>.
- The registration is open, and presenters are encouraged to register by May 10, 2021. Conference registration is \$50 (US) for international participants/presenters. For more information see about the registration process and a link to register, see <https://wcdc2020.acdpk.org/registration/>.

A Wealth of Opportunities at the 2021 CDS Virtual Conference!



CDS is proud of its tradition of providing CDS Conference attendees with highly experiential learning and networking opportunities. Last month, we announced this year’s mobile learning workshops, which will be engaging, video-based experiences where attendees will have the opportunity to see and learn about how real-life community development efforts in the greater Fargo area are contributing to community resilience. Attendees will be able to participate in all of the mobile learning workshops via the conference platform at any time during the conference.

In addition to the mobile learning workshops, attendees will have opportunities to interact directly with conference presenters, keynote speakers, and other attendees - all fellow community development practitioners - during panel and roundtable discussions following each keynote presentation. Panels will be made up of representatives from urban, rural, indigenous, and international communities; roundtables will be made up of conference attendees and will engage attendees in critical thinking and rich dialogue surrounding questions related to each keynote presentation topic. We are hoping to document each roundtable discussion in a report that will be shared with all conference attendees during the conference and that will eventually be published in the CDS journal, Community Development Practice.

Thanks to generous support from our conference sponsors, regular registration is ONLY \$50, and registration for students and retirees is FREE! This is an affordable, can’t-miss opportunity to learn from and network with fellow community development practitioners from around the U.S. and the world! **Click here to register for the 2021 CDS Virtual Conference!**

Aligning CDS Investment With Values

by Bob Bertsch



The Stewardship Committee, chaired by the CDS Treasurer, is charged with conducting donor outreach, managing donor relationships, and overseeing endowments and dispersal of donor-directed funds.

The Stewardship Committee met on April 12, 2021 to discuss a proposal to align CDS investments with CDS values. Currently the Linda Sunde Endowment Fund (LSEF) and the CDS Strategic Initiative Fund (SIF) are invested in investment pools that may include stocks of companies in the following industries: adult entertainment, alcohol, tobacco, weapons, fossil fuels, gambling, and nuclear power. Through the Community Development Society (CDS) Principles of Good Practice, CDS has expressed our shared commitment to participative democracy, community empowerment, social justice, and sustainable development. To that end, CDS members are committed to supporting activities that encourage broad participation and promote health, justice, and sustainability in the communities with which they work. The Stewardship Committee will be seeking the CDS Board of Directors support for a plan to host an online discussion of options for aligning our investments with our values, and to present a proposal for achieving that alignment at CDS Annual Business Meeting on July 14, 2021.

The Stewardship Committee also discussed alternatives to the CDS live and silent auctions traditionally held at the annual conference. Acquiring items and getting them to winning bidders will be a challenge since the 2021 Annual Conference will be fully virtual. In lieu of the auctions, the Stewardship Committee will be working on a teamtrivia contest as a

fundraising event. We are still working on the details, but stay tuned to the Vanguard for more information as this unique and exciting event comes together.

We have scheduled all of our meetings for the remainder of 2021, and we would love to have members join us to share their ideas and learn more about the work we are doing.

We'd love to have more members helping us with this work. Stewardship Committee members spend 2-3 hours each month on committee business, including our monthly meeting. If you are interested in joining, please contact me at robert.bertsch@ndsu.edu.

Click [here](#) to find the link to our May 3 Zoom meeting.

Building a Sustainable CDS

by Ron Hustedde

The CDS membership recruitment and retention working group is poised to launch an aggressive recruitment campaign and we need your help. We have new targets to increase membership significantly including community development educators, authors and other professional community development societies and others. We are cooperating with the chapters working group (see their article in this issue) as they launch a student chapters committee. In order to be sustainable and vibrant, the Society must increase its membership and its diversity. That's why we need you.



Would you like to join the membership recruitment and retention working group? If so, we welcome your input at rhusted@uky.edu.

We need your help to address a variety of questions:

- 1) Are there key individuals and authors that you believe should be part of CDS? If so, what are your recommendations? Would you like to reach out to them or send us their contact information?
- 2) Are there institutions and organizations that could benefit from CDS? How can we attract them?
- 3) Are there individuals or organizations you would like our group to recruit? Let us know how we can cooperate.
- 4) Who else is missing in CDS? How can we connect with them?

There are seven major advantages of joining CDS.

- 1) The annual conference continues to receive high marks from participants because it strengthens their capacity and gets them in touch with some of the latest trends in the field. It builds strong networks. The next conference is virtual and will take place from July 11-15, 2021.
- 2) The Society is guided by a strong set of guiding principles. Those principles are in the process of being updated. Members will have input on their adoption at the July 2021 CDS meeting.
- 3) Community Development Practice is an online CDS publication that addresses innovative approaches, tools, and techniques in teaching and practice that can be readily applied by community development practitioners, applied researchers, and educators.
- 4) Community Development is a peer-reviewed journal that has been published during the past 50 years. The research, reflective essays and book reviews keep one current about the field.
- 5) Local Development & Society is a new peer-reviewed journal that focuses on locally focused issues, policy applications and innovative ways and practices that can be accommodated by local governments and organizations. Noted community development authors, Rhonda Phillips and Norman Walzer, are co-editors.
- 6) The interactive website provides a venue for networking, learning and sharing

resources. The recent webinar on community asset building received many accolades.

7) The Society continues to attract international practitioners and people from various non-profits, government and educational institutions and other groups that broaden our dimensions. We need each other to be more creative and impactful.

Developing News: CDS Student Chapter

Exciting efforts are underway to explore and organize a CDS Student Chapter in conjunction with the 2021 Conference. If you are a student and have interest in helping with the organizing or you just want to share your interest, please feel free to contact [Celina Tchida](#) or [Mary Leuci](#).



Celina, who is providing leadership for this effort, is a PhD student of Community Resources and Development at Arizona State University. After three years working in the non-profit industrial complex, they rejoined academia to explore some of the relational power dynamics they witnessed, such as institutional hierarchy and the dominance of expertise in community partnerships. Therefore, their research focuses on relationships between (particularly marginalized) communities and institutions, including both nonprofit practitioners/funders and academia. They believe that participatory practice and radical community development are ushering in a sorely needed new paradigm that has the power to rehumanize the field and further its liberatory, democratic purpose.

RESOURCES: Heart & Soul Grant



The Community Heart & Soul Seed Grant Program provides \$10,000 in startup funding for resident-driven groups in small cities and towns across the United States to implement the Community Heart & Soul model.

Grant funding requires a \$10,000 cash match from the participating municipality or a partnering organization. Applying organizations must be from communities with populations of 2,500 to 30,000. Applications that are submitted by the last day of the month will be considered the following month. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis until all grants have been awarded.

Visit the Community Heart & Soul website to download the Seed Grant Program guidelines: <https://www.communityheartandsoul.org/seed-grants/>

Editor's Fieldnotes

Before I begin my first Editor's Fieldnotes column, I would first like to thank the board for selecting me as the next editor of *Vanguard*, and to Lisa Gilchrist for helping me through my first newsletter.

My background is in newspaper, media relations, and print advertising. I live in the Arkansas Delta -- one of the most impoverished, rural, yet culturally rich areas in the United States. As the mother of a young man with moderate non-



verbal autism, I entered the community development field to learn what is being done to build sustainable communities for our people with intellectual and developmental disabilities long after the parents have passed.

As we begin this journey together, I think about the mission of the *Vanguard* -- "CDS news, topical issues, and resources" -- what I have found beneficial to my practice, and feedback from attendees at the 2019 CDS conference in Missouri about what community developers want from CDS. One of the key requests was connectivity: the opportunity to build relationships, support each other, and share resources. #CommDevStories will feature a community developer practitioner every month, and we are asking you for

submissions highlighting your work.

The following questions should be answered in 200 words or less:

When: When did you become a community developer? (It does not matter how long or short to be included. Everyone can learn from others.)

Where: Where do you serve? Is it rural or urban?

Who: Who do you serve? Is it a municipality? The (formerly) incarcerated? Immigrants? Etc.

What: What are your goals?

How: How do you intend to achieve your goals?

What: What are the outcomes/impact so far? What lessons have been learned, even if they were unintended?

Provide a reference for one book that has impacted you as a community developer or your work, one picture that represents your work, and your email so others working in the same area can network with you. Send your submission to anita@theroadwemake.com. **A submission implies consent to publish in the *Vanguard* and the Community Development Society's and IACD's social media. All submissions are due by the 10th of every month.**

Anita Montgomery, *Vanguard* editor

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STAY CONNECTED

