

Community Engagement Toolkit

Strengthening Civic Roots Through Joy, Storytelling, and Action

A printable guide for organizers, storytellers, and community leaders building inclusive movements for collective care and democratic resilience.

Building Social Cohesion

Center Marginalized Voices

Building power starts by amplifying those most affected.



Humanize Systemic Issues Through Storytelling

Stories move people – facts follow.



Facilitate Dialogue Across Difference

Empathy is infrastructure.
Disagreement is welcome.



Make Accessibility Visible

Childcare. Language.
Transportation. If it's not accessible,
it's not community.



Activities That Spark Connection and Action

Neighborhood BBQs & Block Parties

Food, laughter, connection – civic joy in motion.



Local Storytelling Nights

Our stories are resistance.



Community Art Builds

Art Makes activism visible and inviting.



Town Hall Meetings

This is what democracy sounds like.



Workshops on Voting or Housing Rights Understanding the system gives us power to change it.	Volunteering & Mutual Aid Networks We take care of each other – that’s the work.
	

Why Engagement Matters

- Builds trust and collective action within communities
- Strengthens democratic participation and civic responsibility
- Counters isolation by fostering inclusive dialogue and shared purpose
- Mobilizes local voices to address systemic issues from the ground up

Inclusive Practices for Social Cohesion

- Create multilingual materials to reach diverse audiences
- Use alt text and captions on all digital assets for accessibility
- Choose venues with physical accessibility and sensory considerations
- Apply trauma-informed principles when engaging vulnerable populations
- Cultivate feedback loops to continually assess community needs

Planning Community Events

- Define clear objectives: awareness, action, education, celebration
- Collaborate with local organizations for amplification and support
- Build a timeline with milestones (venue, promotion, materials)
- Budget for inclusion: childcare, interpretation, transportation, food
- Prepare a contingency plan for weather or safety concerns

Outreach & Accessibility Checklists

Outreach

- ☐ Flyers distributed to key local hubs
- ☐ Posts scheduled across community platforms
- ☐ Emails sent to local leaders, organizers, and allies
- ☐ Personal invitations to underrepresented groups

Accessibility

- ☐ Venue meets ADA standards
- ☐ Digital content includes alt text and closed captions
- ☐ Materials translated or simplified for clarity
- ☐ Transportation or virtual attendance options provided

Organizer Templates

Flyer Template

[Event Name] [Date | Time | Location] [Short description with purpose] [Contact info + social media handles]

Invitation Blurb

Join us for [Event Name], a community gathering to [goal or theme]. All are welcome! Accessibility accommodations available—contact us at [email].

Sign-In Sheet

Name	Email	Organization	Interests							
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QR Links to Key Resources

QR links are generated from URLs you choose. Once you've selected the specific web pages, documents, or resources you'd like your audience to access, you can use a QR code generator (like qr-code-generator.com (<https://www.qr-code-generator.com/>)).

Resource Name	QR Code Placement	Description
Community Accessibility Guide	Top right of checklist page	Quick access to inclusive planning tips
Civic Engagement Toolkit	Footer of first page	Policy-focused strategies for local advocacy
Event Planning Calendar	Next to sign-in sheet	Downloadable template for organizers