



RURALX 2021 RECAP

Where do we go from here?

Virtual Conference
June 16, 2021

YOUR RURALX EXPERIENCE

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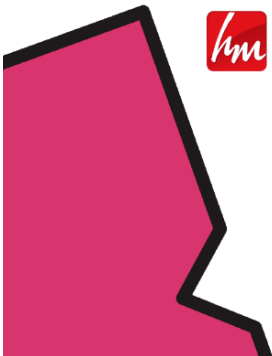


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Hello, Rural Shaper!

Thank you for showing up for RuralX, and welcome to the **FUTURE** of rural. Because that future is **RIGHT HERE**, wherever you are **RIGHT NOW**. It's you, and the community around you. We're all co-creating **WHEREVER IT IS**, we go from here.

One of the things that has become terribly clear is that racism, hate and oppression are international emergencies. And that makes those things a rural emergency too.

We talk a lot about empowering rural people in our work at Dakota Resources. It's right there in our mission, it's one of our five core values that lead us every day. And, even though I'm very proud of the work we do and have done, empowering people is something we fall short of achieving too often.

Power can be a beautiful thing if it's wielded for the good of all. It can show up as inclusion and opportunity. It can be an act of love, by spreading it around and defending the power of everyone in the form of equity.

Yet power is too often used to keep or gain more power. At every level--in your community and across the world. The way many choose to keep their power is by keeping most people out of power. By treating people who do not hold power like they are somehow less than people who do.

So after a time of division and separation and isolation like we've never seen before in any of our lifetimes, where do we go from here?

Well, there are definitely many tragedies to heal from, and many challenges ahead too. And, it is a very exciting time right now to be shaping rural communities. To be coming together around those opportunities that show up in the wake of tragedy. And there are opportunities for all of us here in rural places.

Afterall, we are rural shapers and the future is up to us. Where we go from here is up to us. That's why you attended RuralX. At Dakota Resources, We boldly say the future of rural is **HERE**.

That's not about knowing what that future is, or claiming we know how to do it right. It's about knowing that we need to be shaping it, constantly, together. With and for everyone who calls rural home. So let's make each other better leaders today. Stronger shapers of this new rural that is emerging right now.

JAMES & DEBORAH FALLOWS

Our Towns: A 100,000-Mile Journey into the Heart of America



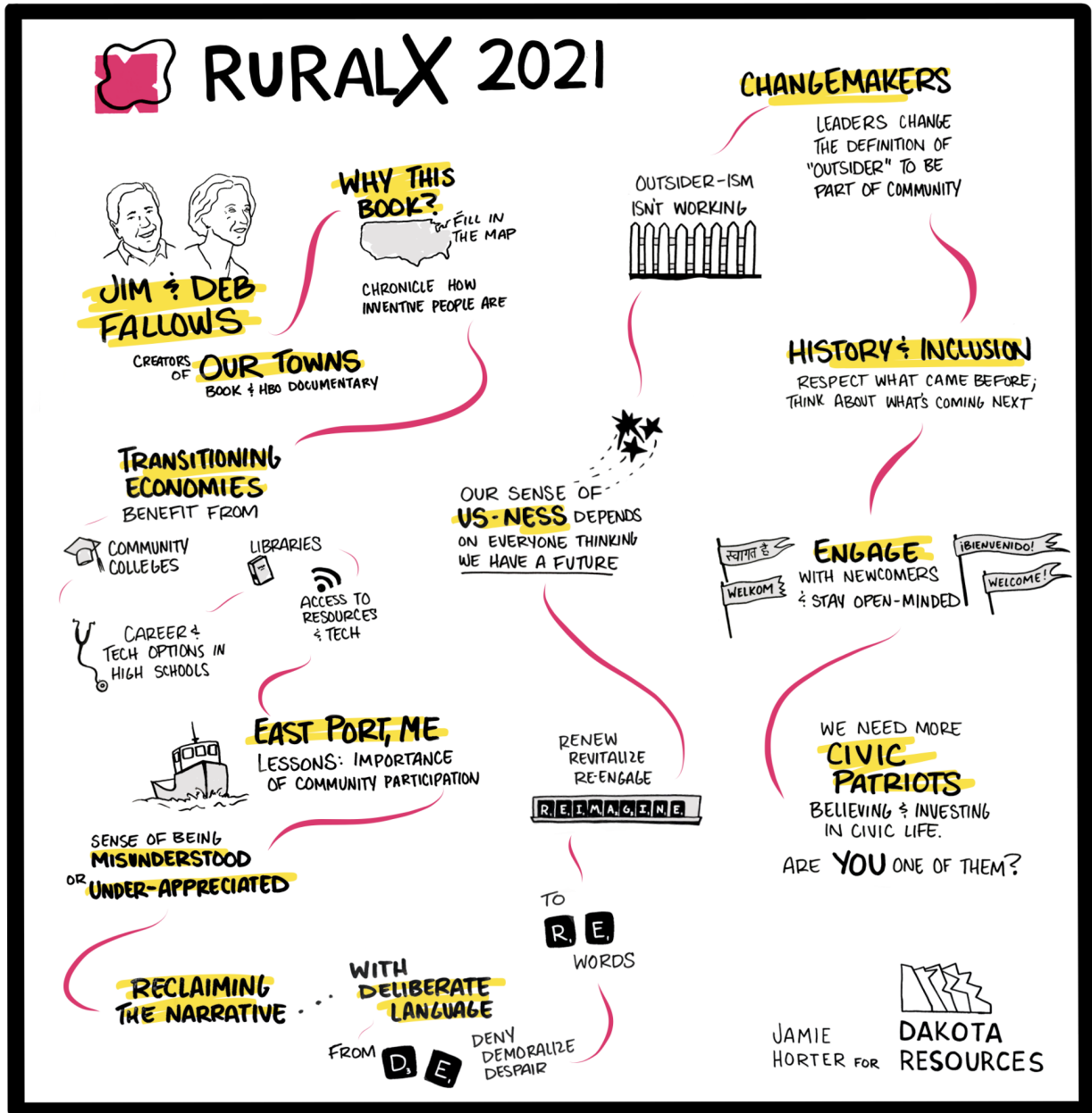
Authors of the Bestselling Book, "Our Towns: A 100,000-Mile Journey into the Heart of America," which was recently turned into a documentary directed by Academy Award®-nominated filmmakers Steven Ascher and Jeanne Jordan (HBO's Emmy®-nominated "Raising Renee"). It is a remarkable portrait of America and how the rise of civic and economic reinvention is transforming small cities and towns across the country.

James and Deborah Fallows joined us for a discussion hosted by [Mike Knutson](#), Learning Network Orchestrator and Community Coach. To watch the full conversation check out their keynote [here](#).

Twitter: [@jamesfallows](#), [@fallowsdeb](#)

ourtownsfoundation.org

Graphic Recording



KNOWLEDGE CAMP BREAKOUTS



The Knowledge Camp Breakouts Experts spoke about the challenges, opportunities and victories of people living in rural communities today. They left us with actionable steps we can take back to our community and start shaping the future of rural today. Take a look at the topics they covered by clicking on their name below to watch their breakout session:

Carlos Bárcenas

- Choose Purple: How to communicate with those who are different from us
- ichoosepurple.com

Julie Garreau

- Our journey with Lakota Youth: How to engage youth in rural communities
- lakotayouth.org

Nicole J. Phillips

- The Negativity Remedy: How kindness can build a community
- nicolejphillips.com

Melody Warnick

- This Is Where You Belong: Finding Home Wherever You Are
- melodywarnick.com

OPENX SESSION GUIDE



OpenX
RURALX

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How OpenX Works

1. Whoever shows up are the right people. Don't worry about who isn't here.
2. When it's over, it's over. Don't stretch it.
3. Whatever happens is the only thing that could have. Be present with the conversation.

Ways to Participate

1. **Host a conversation.** Convene any conversation you want by naming your topic and hosting others who show up.
2. **Join a conversation online.** Choose from the virtual board and show up for an OpenX conversation with any device (no more than 2 people per device please).
3. **Join a conversation in person at a Watch Party.** Choose from the poster board in the remote location where you are and show up for an OpenX conversation in person.
4. **Move around between sessions.** Go wherever your curiosity leads you between conversations to spread ideas.

Conversation Tips

- Make room for every voice.
- Listen to each other with curiosity.
- Link, connect and harvest ideas.
- If you find yourself not learning or contributing, go some place where you can.

What RuralX is...

- A space to explore any ideas, questions or possibilities about thriving rural communities with others who are interested.
- A space to value every voice in the group with curiosity and care.
- A space to contribute what you want, and just listen if you want.
- A place to decide to work on something together.

What RuralX is NOT...

- A space to judge ideas or interrupt others.
- A space to push anyone to speak.
- A space to convince anyone to get involved in a project.
- A space to sell or promote something.

Getting Things Going

1. Check-in around the circle
2. Determine a lead Harvester for your group
3. Ask everyone who joins your session to sign in

One Simple Rule

If you find yourself in a situation where you are either not learning or not contributing, go find some place where you can.

Session Topic or Question	Page Number
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Summer Housing Study

Topic convener:

Lori Moen, Grow South Dakota - lorim@growsd.org

What are the highlights?

Housing study is looking at...

1. Affordable workforce housing
2. Identify the effectiveness of the gaps.
3. Develop a long-term dedicated revenue, strategic plan.
4. Examine community match and partnerships that will leverage the positive impacts and resources.

Based on the survey results, they will make recommendations to the Governor and Legislators for the next session.

What is identified in workforce housing in your community?

- There can be confusion in what “workforce housing” is defined as.
- In certain communities, it isn’t about building new housing, but instead opening up that housing to a bigger group of people.
- How can we create housing in general, not just workforce housing.

What are the housing needs? What are you seeing? What are some solutions that would benefit?

- TIFF housing... would be great to have a dedicated person to work through that TIFF process. Feels like we are often chasing our tails. If there was someone we could call for our questions, it would be hugely beneficial.
 - Capacity building around TIFF
- There are some issues where zoning can become an issue for multi-family homes.
- Housing and housing solutions have to be flexible.
- Infrastructure costs really impede the development of land. We have to have a good partnership with our city to keep down our infrastructure costs. Let cities partner with the economic development or housing authorities to get it done.
- Needs to have community involvement when it comes to finding the funding.
- Really want to come to the legislators with a solution that will work for many and come as a united front.

What stands out?

- We are all faced with a housing challenge
- What are our similarities that we can work together to find the solution that fits each our our unique community needs.

Rural Spirituality

Topic convener:

Margie Neugebauer, Counselor, Coach, Consultant - maneugebauer@mt-rushmore.net

What are the highlights?

There was a session last year at RuralX about churches and economic development.

When you hear rural spirituality, what does that look like for your community?
Moved through stories and groups to inspire others to do better in the community.

Definition - "our relationship to ourselves, our world, to our creation, others, and a higher power"

How important is spirituality in rural communities?

Defining the difference between spirituality and religion. We are often defined by how welcoming we are to those who come into our communities.

There are both sides of the coin on how rural communities approach religion that can be a pro and con.

Growing up in religion often felt forced and what you got out of it is a lot different aspect.

Tension in rural communities about different religions and beliefs.

Step back and find what the main purpose is overall and come together for this greater purpose as a community - it is more than just me, just this church, or just my business.

Can benefit as being one community and one spiritual place.

How can the conversation about spirituality versus religion in communities begin? Who can lead these conversations?

Spirituality is a much broader topic than religion.

The older generation could become more visionary, future-forward think, and open. Be more mindful in their language.

Spirituality can be a unifying thread in communities versus church and religion. It is an all encompassing inclusive approach to be welcoming and help others come into this environment.

Need a neutral person to start this and value would be a great place to start.

This is a journey. Figuring out this journey and what works best for you.

Business Succession

Topic convener:

Jaime Wood, US Small Business Administrator - jaime.wood@sba.gov

What are the highlights?

How can we best identify opportunities for business succession in our communities?

Where do the next business owners come from?

How can we “mind the gap” if a business faces closing because owners are retiring or moving and there’s no backfill owner?

How can we share these business opportunities within or external to a community?

How can you/your organization support the business succession process?

Additional considerations

Hard to find the ppl to take over and not sure where to find them.

A platform: <https://redtire.ku.edu>

How can we ‘mind the gap’. Barrier is finance, but also culture. We may like the new people coming into a small community but we may not like their new/different ideas - culture/lifestyle, etc.

What stands out?

- What insights, ideas, questions are emerging?
 - Communities and individuals must work on overcoming bias so that they are open to business owners that may be different than them.
 - Engage highschoolers (before they leave after graduation) to plant the idea of opportunity in a community (that they could become a business owner, or that there is solid employment opportunity for them)
 - Discussions around identifying opportunities and where the next biz owners come from.
 - There’s a lot of pride and hesitancy with passing on a business; don’t want to get the word out too soon, but sometimes too late if in bad health.
 -
- What is the group learning from each other?
 - There are shared concerns and opportunities for each community regarding business succession and sustaining workforce for an employee base that is also aging out
- What needs are becoming more clear?
 - Need easier access to information on available support resources (seems like there’s so much information that it’s overwhelming and hard to find)

Small family business transition

Government succession

Services to communities others would like to see stay that the owner doesn't see the path. Vinegar museum over 20 years old. Hard to keep up the pace of the work of the museum.

How can we best identify opportunities for business succession in our communities?

- website that is a matchmaker for the opportunity and a new person
- Non-Profit. Profitable but mission driven.
- Private business. Culture driven by founder. What needs to pass along and how can a match carry the business forward and to the next level? Network expansion. How do we pull people to these opportunities? Especially those that may be more unique or specialized?

How might we attract people to the community because of the community not because of the job?

- Barrier. Financials to the businesses. Can cost a lot to buy in.
- Culture is a huge barrier. More people but no new ideas or lifestyles.
- redtire.ku.edu Cooperative Extension, SBDC, SBA, SCORE resource to mentor
- Challenge is organizing ALL the information that's out there. Maybe too many places to go?
- Mentor for entrepreneurs. Let the owners shop the young business starters

SD has been a welcoming state and they are aggressive toward trying to help build business
How do we meld the resources?

Where do the next business owners come from?

How can we "mind the gap" if a business faces closing because owners are retiring or moving and there's no backfill owner?

How can we share these business opportunities within or external to a community?

How can you/your organization support the business succession process?

Additional considerations

Energizing Intergenerational Projects / Conversations

Topic convener:

John Peterson, AARP Iowa - ankpetej@gmail.com

Check-in: Kick things off by reminding everyone of the topic and then giving each person a chance to check in. Example: “hello, I am _____ from _____” and ask for a twitter version answer to “what drew you to this particular conversation?”

- Main Street project wanting to connect all voices
- Community is old/young
- Hoping to understand opportunities- storytelling between generations
- Downtown revitalization- creating masterplan- how to reach all generations
- Rural areas for tourism
- Livable community projects- building community teams
- History in town, loss of community stories
- All generations joining/sharing community- newly retired/nursing home connections
- Why do some communities thrive and some don't
- Work with 50+ but all generations seem to want the same in community
- Local community partners working parallel to one another

What are the highlights?

What has worked for you to bring different generations together?

Students from the local school district interviewed older people in the community. Video documentation.

Local historical society hosted coffee and conversations. People would come and talk about their community. Also, a journalism class at school where the students met with people to record their stories.

From a Latina, intergenerational culture, we would gather around food. There is great value in sharing together over a communal experience like cooking and storytelling.

Collections of recipes that are often compiled by church congregations. How to include people that have not connected through that traditional channel. We are working in community gardening where we bring other voices into the project.

<https://projectfoodforest.org/>
<https://reclaimcommunity.org/340-2/>

Several AARP Challenge grant applications were for community gardens which were generally written by older citizens but included working with local 4H or youth groups.

Housing projects that are intergenerational as people return to their communities of origin. What brings the younger people back? The value of places with amenities that attract families.

Park facilities that offered intergenerational and ADA accessible equipment. Inclusiveness in the design process.

Designing Inclusive Playgrounds | HAGS www.hags.com › en-us › designing-inclusive-playgrounds

What stands out?

- What insights, ideas, questions are emerging?
 - Wrap intergenerational work around a cultural activity
 - Be thoughtful about how invitations are made so they include all generations
- What is the group learning from each other?
 - Ideas and projects that brought generations together

Shared many ideas of projects that brought multiple generations together.

- What needs are becoming more clear?
 - Be thoughtful about how to invite different generations to activities/projects
 - Include all generations in planning

Rural Infrastructure

Topic convener:

Caleb Finck, South Dakota Legislature - calebfinck@gmail.com

What are the highlights?

- How to germinate ideas / identify needs, and shepherd ideas to fruition at the hyper-local level, yet also leverage regional resources to make things happen?
 - Look for public-private partnerships
 - USDA Rural Development can be a great resource to help find community facilities technical assistance, which can include infrastructure
 - Leverage the help of organizations who can help strategize (developing comprehensive plans, economic development directors, etc.)
- How to fund water/sewer upgrades?
 - DENR (Clean Water SRF, Drinking Water SRF)
 - USDA Rural Development
 - District Planning Offices
 - A lot of funding is working to put many pieces together, make connections
- Is housing infrastructure? Most communities don't have funding available to invest.
 - It's important to fund baseline infrastructure so that it's affordable for developers to create housing.
- Recreational infrastructure
 - Rails to Trails
 - Park improvements
 - Difficulty finding funding for recreational projects
- REED Fund is available to make funding connections in their lending area.
- Many counties/municipalities will be getting some one-time Federal infrastructure money.
 - What are the possibilities for using those funds?
 - What are communities planning to do with those funds?
 - Contact your city/county Finance Officer/Treasurer for more information. They should already know what is allocated to their community, and some may have already received first payment. 2-3 year window to spend funds.
 - Where can people find information about Federal programs and opportunities in terms that volunteers and rural communities can understand?
- Planning is key for lenders/funding partners to get involved & get momentum behind a project.. UDSA Programs like Search, PPGI, CHFTE (?) can help provide technical assistance for planning. Midwest Assistance Program (MAP) does technical assistance for water and waste.
- When applying for grants/awards, consider including the addition of a new position

What stands out?

- What insights, ideas, questions are emerging?
- What is the group learning from each other?
- What needs are becoming more clear?
 - Funding is always a challenge.
 - Making connections - how can communities find out more information about programs, funding opportunities, help with planning projects, etc.
 - Communities need to be able to engage in more forward-thinking planning around infrastructure projects.

Using Arts & Tourism to Bring People to Our Towns

Topic convener:

Lawrence Diggs, VCI - public@ldiggs.com

What are the highlights?

What ideas about things that communities might do to attract tourists? How can we use tourism dollars at the unique venues in South Dakota?

- Identify what makes their community unique. What niche produce can the community become? If you corner that market and let people know it is there and that you're doing it, people will come.
- Agritourism opportunities in South Dakota
- Something that might be every day to you can be really unique for someone else. For example, riding in a combine!
- Photo-tourism - we have some beautiful places in South Dakota!
- Regional hubs for places to go - fun to hit multiple destinations in one trip. For example, hit 3 breweries, hit 3 wineries, hit 3 boutique shops.
- Think about the low hanging fruit in your community.
- Think about the different ways to make your town a "destination," not just a "pass through" to another town.
- Art is essential to communities. How can we set up the proper infrastructure so that art and culture are recognized as essential?

Welcoming & Engaging Newcomers

Topic convener:

Tara Mastel, Montana State University Extension - tara.mastel@montana.edu

Check-in: Kick things off by reminding everyone of the topic and then giving each person a chance to check in. Example: “hello, i am _____ from _____” and ask for a twitter version answer to “what drew you to this particular conversation?”

General opening introduction comments: Newcomers from different cultural backgrounds. People moving in but not connecting. How do we identify newcomers? How to get new people involved in your organizations. How to get students involved. Defining ‘community’ helps when welcoming new members into a community.

What are the highlights?

Be aware if your community is NOT welcoming. Direct actions such as hosting Newcomer Dinners, etc.

What stands out?

- What insights, ideas, questions are emerging?
- What is the group learning from each other?
- What needs are becoming more clear?

The Welcome Wagon program, is it still a thing? Does it have something to do with privacy laws? In Freeman, since I work in development and marketing, but am employed by the City of Freeman, SD, I put together Welcome packets of info that are picked up when people stop in at City Hall to get set up with utilities. I know we can't just give those addresses of new residents to other groups.

Often, the Chamber is aware of newcomers. The Chamber comes and spends 45 minutes learning about the newcomer and then profiles them in the local paper.

Learning WHY people are moving to new communities through surveys, To be able to feature those reasons for others. About $\frac{2}{3}$ of residents have not lived in the local community before. Half of them have children. Not always moving for a specific job, for lower housing cost, great place to raise kids.

People are moving to your town now for what it is right now. They don't know, or really care, about what the town has lost. Local residents need to see their town through a newcomer's perspective.

Sounds very much like asset mapping. Communities, but especially economic development would especially be interested in asset mapping. Cultural plans are a great asset for newcomers, as well. <https://www.luthersnow.com/asset-mapping-title-page.html>.

Placemaking as a development tool. When EDD don't recognize the importance of cultural assets and focus on industries.

Create a newcomer panel to tell their stories about why they have moved into your town. Ben Winchester from the University of Minnesota. Google "Brain Gain" and you will find his work. <https://extension.umn.edu/news/ben-winchester-talks-brain-gain-mpr>.

Listen to your newcomer focus groups and you may find that they do not feel welcomed. Leaders need to hear some of the bad parts, about when communities are less than welcoming. Many organizations, including churches, are not as welcoming as they believe they are.

Ottertail Lake MN has a great and unique way of welcoming newcomers through social media. Check them out and especially Active Otter https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/fiscalrecoveryfunds_countyfunding_2021.05.10-1a-508A.pdf.

Neil Lindshied
<https://vimeo.com/518753297>

Are local banks as important as local businesses?

Topic convener:

David Sandvig, Dacotah Bank - david.sandvig@dacotahbank.com

What are the highlights?

Talked about “un-banked” - folks that live without credit or checking accounts. Check cashing at Walmart, etc. Pay cash, etc.

Are there deficiencies with local banks to keep up with local businesses or do they do well? Discussions around ag and going to USDA FSA vs. local banks...start up money back in the day; however, now they opened up their parameters to allow for more qualifiers at better rates. Downfall is the time it takes for application - so timeline is important based on the biz.

Help is hard to find, good help is even harder to find.

Mobile technologies are desired, so banks are going towards that route to accommodate their customers. Other industries are impacted as well. On-line payment apps - venmo, apple pay, etc.

Little contact with people to make a transaction. Businesses look at fees for wires, credit card fees, etc. all come into play. Checks will probably go away.

What's the value of having a community bank? Beneficial as the holder of capital in a community - power - and the good banks are touting their success and how they contribute in many ways to the success of the community. COMMUNITY MINDED.

Any changes from institutions with bilingual population growth? Mentioned that Sioux Falls does with radio spots in spanish. With more mfg and processing plants coming online, there is more emphasis on inclusion....etc.

What stands out?

- What insights, ideas, questions are emerging? Banks are important and looked at as the keeper of the capital. Community minded banks are successful as they are touting their community efforts and are respected by the community members.
- What is the group learning from each other?
- What needs are becoming more clear? Immigrant education for the un-banked to be banked and work with banks rather than the pay-day loan places with higher rates and fees for loans and/or check cashing services, etc.

How communities can inspire and help entrepreneurial ideas become reality.

Topic convener:

Krysti Mikkonen, Frederick Area Forward - krysti.mikkonen@gmail.com

What are the highlights?

What are some Ideas that have worked to gather entrepreneurs together in your community? How can we help young entrepreneurs create successful businesses. How do we help people believe that they can build a successful business?

PlaceEconomics

Entrepreneur Program for kids in Langford

Implanting the I CAN DO Spirit. "Failure is not failing. It is learning and doing it better next time."

Co-working space for entrepreneurs

Maker space with sewing machines and 3D printers.

Multipurpose space.

Stimulate business ideas that are needed in the community and expand on existing things.

Combine ideas and concepts.

We don't think about what we can do with what we already have in our communities.

What stands out?

How to support entrepreneurs:

- Listening session - gather them and ask what they need and want
- Small towns can have co-working and maker spaces too utilizing existing institutions like the library, local school, a collaboration of small businesses
- Incentives - free water & sewer hook-up, land for \$1, grants
- Mentoring - Mentor existing successful business owners with new business owners
- One Million Cups
- Soup Pitch - DSMFlourish.com - women's group that gathers for soup and listens to business pitches and give donated money to the 3 best ideas to help them with their endeavor
- Start young entrepreneur groups for kids so they know what being one feels and looks like - curriculum from TREPS can be done through the library or schools
- Education - teaching small business basics for the public and even in schools
- National Development Council
- PlaceEconomics.com -

What's the next BIG amenity in your community?

Topic convener:

Kayla Bucknell, South Dakota State University - fritz.kayla@gmail.com

What are the highlights?

- Communities want to do wellness centers/YMCA-type facilities, but it can be less cost-effective to do in small communities. How do we create these types of amenities that would be sustainable in small communities?
 - Funding is often a challenge.
 - Sales taxes might be an option.
 - Cities might be able to help with feasibility studies - leveraging public-private partnerships.
 - People will often travel to other cities for these amenities. How do we create them here so people don't have to travel for them?
- Community wanted a splash pad/pool-type facility. The project went a public vote, which failed. The community came back together to create a committee to continue the conversation, which came up with a manmade lake concept - more affordable than the original pool concept, but can still fill that need in the community.
 - Needing some creative fundraising efforts and combinations of funding sources.
 - Towns with heavy tourism face additional challenges with convincing stakeholders that these amenities are "worth it," but can truly breathe new life into a community.
 - We need to be a good place to live year-round for the people who are here, not just a tourist destination.
- What about smaller projects? Not just pools, or other big amenities. Small projects also add quality of life.
 - Roundabouts with sculptural art in the center - has led to further public art in the area.
 - Combining amenities with wellness - walkability.
 - Wayfinding signage on trails
 - Benches
 - "Pocket parks" in empty lots - provide places for people to gather, have live music, etc.
 - Streetscaping
 - Public art
 - Community gardens/orchards
- Funding sources for amenities: Wellmark, AARP of South Dakota

What stands out?

- What insights, ideas, questions are emerging?
 - Amenities are all about placemaking.
 - Amenities don't have to be huge - small projects can have an outsized impact on quality of life in a community.
 - Some amenities, like public art, can be expensive or difficult to source. What happens when the feature is over? A rotating rural sculpture collection would be a great idea!
- What is the group learning from each other?
- What needs are becoming more clear?
 - Out-of-the-box thinking is needed to generate ideas for small communities
 - Funding, especially grants, is around, but can be hard to locate

Custer County Communications

Topic convener:

Custer RuralX Remote Watch Party

What stands out?

- What insights, ideas, questions are emerging?
 - We have a newspaper
 - Only Weekly
 - What information we would like to see?
 - Voter Information
 - School Registration
 - What do we need to know about the community
 - Community Garden
 - Chamber Website
 - Most Updated
 - Need a one stop shop calendar (information)
 - They have good links
 - Economic Dev Website
 - City Website
 - Need a dedicated person internal
 - School
 - YMCA
- What is the group learning from each other?
 - Learning what we have and how do we communicate to the community and the world
- What needs are becoming more clear?
 - Need to have conversation with all who have website and social media outlets - get on one page / share information
 - City
 - County
 - Chamber
 - Econ Dev
 - YMCA
 - School
 - Newspaper
 - Custer Connect (facebook Page)
 - Covid - 19 (facebook Page)
 - Custer Community Action
 - Custer Hospitaly
 - Custer State Park
 - Custer County Emergency Management

Custer Housing

Topic convener:

Custer RuralX Remote Watch Party

What stands out?

- What insights, ideas, questions are emerging?
 - Company in Rapid City that is constructing Multi Family Housing (Bessgin)
 - We have a new project in the pipeline for Low to moderate income with the Housing Authority
 - People who work in Custer but live outside the community because there is no housing
 - Property Tax issues - Taxes in western SD are more than eastern SD.
 - City has partnered with developers
 - Custer has over 125 VRBO in City Limits
 - Custer County Housing Authority is working on Workforce housing
 -
- What is the group learning from each other?
 - There are lots that the City owns and may make available for building
 - The Housing Authority is working to create a subsidiary company to do workforce housing
 -
- What needs are becoming more clear?
 - Townhouses at stone hill
 - We need more multi family housing
 - Apartments
 - Duplexes
 - Townhouses
 - More creative thinking
 - Create a community with everything on site - (pool-fitness center)
 -
- What might we be doing?
 - Bring the financial information forward
 - How do we use those funds to our best ability
 - SD housing authority
 - Bring forward and share what lots are available that the city owns
 - Educate the community about the 501-c-3 Econ Dev and the ability to donate land

Community Gathering 2021

Topic convener:

Custer RuralX Remote Watch Party

What are the highlights?

Community Gathering - Possibly September 22

New Mayor Bob Contractor Heating / cooling

New City Council Member Julie Jenkins owns a business and works at carson drug

What stands out?

- What insights, ideas, questions are emerging?
 - The last time we met was the fall of 2019
 - Its time to invite more to get involved
 - What's on peoples minds now
 - What if.....
 - Prioritizing
 - Need to distinguish between wants and needs
 - Select top 5
- What needs are becoming more clear?
 - What's the purpose
 - Where is it going to be
 - What time
 - Is there going to be food?
 - How are you going to invite people?
 - Use local paper must be more than one time
 - Put it out on social media
 - Chamber calendar
 - School calendar
 - Buffalo bits
 - Face to face invites
 - Mailing to county commission - City Council - county / city staff
 - Marquees banks Bradeen Auction
 - Poster / flier
 - Flier into the elementary school backpacks
 - Development Corp will serve is host
 - Budget
 - One person who agrees to attend city council and county commission meeting and personally invite
 - Someone work one- on - one with the news paper
 - School Board
 - New members to the community

ARTISTS & COLLABORATORS



Thriving rural communities are possible by artists and collaborators who bring vibrant, bold, and engaging opportunities back to the towns they call home. RuralX participants had the opportunity to hear exciting and educational music, and even participate in creative art processes.

Cornbread & Tortillas

- A collective of Appalachian and Latino artists whose mission is to build community by sharing art, music, dance, and cultural heritage.
- Check out additional content and how-to videos - cornbreadandtortillas.com/ruralx

Buffalo Ridge Brewing

- Serving as our broadcasting headquarters for RuralX, Buffalo Ridge Brewing is a craft brewery and taproom based in Hartford, SD.

THANK YOU

for being a rural shaper.

Please do not wake up tomorrow morning and think about how fun or interesting or inspiring this was. Wake up and decide what you will DO about it.

Who will you connect with?

What will you start making happen where you live?

Because RuralX is NOTHING if it does not LEAD to something. So, go be SHAPERS of your communities. We all NEED you. YOU are the X in RuralX.

It's up to each of you to make where we go from here, BETTER.

SAY HELLO

we want to hear from you.

Share your RuralX eXperience with us.

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