



Civic Development and Partnership Foundation

COMMUNITY CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT OPEN SPACE FACILITATION

REPORT

developed by Zhirayr Edilyan

August, 2013



This report was developed to highlight the process of facilitation of the Community Cultural Development Open Space (OS) Community Events organized by Civic Development and Partnership Foundation (CDPF) for the following communities: Ranchpar, Metsamor, Tchambarak, Lukashin, Shamiram.

Three Open Space Events were organized and conducted:

- OS 1 --- August 19, 2013 --- Ranchpar and Lukashin communities, 21 participants.
- OS 2 --- August 20, 2013 --- Metsamor and Shamiram communities, 43 participants.
- OS 3 --- August 21, 2013 --- Tchambarak community, 46 participants.

In total, 110 participants from 5 selected communities participated to the three Open Space Events. The open space events were facilitated by Zhirayr Edilyan.

This report highlights the general flow of the open space discussion and its outcomes.

Open Space Discussion

The following sessions were included in the agenda of each Open Space event:

- Introduction Session: brief introduction to the project and OS event rules and expected outcomes; developing discussion points for the small group discussion sessions
- 3 small group discussion sessions
- Summary of small group discussions and further steps.

The following topics and ideas were suggested by the participants and included into the OS small group discussion sessions:

OS 1: Ranchpar and Lukashin communities	
1	Acquisition of musical instruments
2	Establishment of singing-dancing-dramatic classes
3	Establishment of sport classes and groups
4	Foundation of community kindergarten
5	Popularization of national games
6	Foundation of Lukashin community museum
7	National song & dance development at community level
8	Organization of Armenian movie clubs
9	Rehabilitation of national musical arts
10	Organization of sport events
11	Cross-community cleaning day in-reached with cultural program
12	Raising financial resources to promote community cultural development efforts

OS 2: Metsamor and Shamiram communities	
1	Acquisition of equipment for Cultural House
2	Pool reconstruction and popularization of swimming
3	Establishment of sports classes and organization of sport-events
4	Establishment of dramatic club for adults
5	Establishment of art classes at the pre-school institutions
6	Establishment of adult choir
7	Development of puppet-theater and popularization of national minorities' culture
8	Development of vocal and dramatic classes
9	Fundraising and promoting investments
10	Acquisition of furniture for Metsamor Cultural House
11	Foundation of singing-dancing national group
12	Reconstruction of Arts Schools and heating system.
13	Reconstruction of Sports School and popularization of sports
14	Creation of Young Leaders' Club
15	Nurturing and Teaching National Customs and Traditions
OS 3: Tchambarak community	
1	New life era for community library
2	Development and popularization of national cousin traditions
3	Creation of Youth Debate Club
4	Presentation of various nations' culture through cultural event organization
5	Organization of handicraft fares
6	Development of agricultural culture
7	Development of national singing-dancing classes
8	Foundation of sport groups/classes
9	Organization of flash-mobs
10	Organization of Summer Camps
11	Foundation of national musical instrumental band
12	Organization of cultural contests to promote talented youth
13	Foundation of a table-games club/center
14	"Let's talk with puppets" puppet theater development
15	Organization of national liturgical celebrations
16	Reconstruction and rehabilitation of cultural establishments
17	Creation of leisure space(s)
18	Popularization of the culture of keeping community clean

Discussion groups were formed based on participants' preferences and interests.

To each of the small groups formed two record sheets were presented and filled with the outcomes of the groups discussion.

At the last session all the groups presented the results of their discussions, which were followed by questions and answers from the bigger group.

The following materials were developed and used during the OS facilitation, and are presented as annexes to this report:

- o Annex A.: OS Rules

- Annex B.: Small Group discussion report spread-sheet
- Annex C.: Further steps discussed by small groups
- Annex D.: OS Agenda

All the materials developed during the OS event were photocopies and delivered to all the participants as an OS outcome handbook by the end of each event.

Lessons Learned and Recommendations

Bellow the facilitator's observations and recommendations are presented, which might be used by CDPF while organizing further similar events:

- Only limited number of community representatives had initial understanding on the purpose of the events and expectations from their participation. Some participants involved were not initially motivated and dedicated to commit their further efforts to support communities' cultural development aspects. This situation influenced the content of the discussion and its outcomes. Fur future, I would recommend paying a very serious consideration to the range and background of the people involved. Some initial criteria might be developed and used for making sure the "right" people are invited to the OS event.
- The experience proved that the discussion dynamics and actual outcomes depend on the number of people participating to the OS event. While initially it was planned to have 50 participants per each event, we had less people actually participating. Partly, this was caused by high agricultural season in rural communities. The recommendation here is to ensure community members' participation at the planning and preparation stage.
- Developing photocopies and delivering the OS Outcomes Handbook to the participants by the end of each event proved to be a very good practice, which would make the further action and groups' efforts more visible. Thus, the recommendation it to continue that practice in future and ensure having high-speed photocopying machine at the event venue.

ANNEX A.

Open Space Discussion



4 Principles.

- 1) Whoever comes are the right people.
- 2) Whatever happens is the only thing that could have .
- 3) Whenever it starts is the right time as the creative process is not controllable
- 4) When it's over, it's over. The discussion may end earlier or later, and it's normal:

1 Rule. Two Feet Rule

If you have found yourself in a situation, where you cannot have a contribution or learn anything, then you are responsible for using your two feet and moving to another place, where you can make a greater contribution.

2 Phenomena



1 Warning

Be Ready to Be Surprised

ANNEX B.

Problem.

What was discussed?

(concise and readable)

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The One Who Raises the Problem. _____

Discussion Participants.

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NEXT STEPS

- **Project Idea**
- **Participants**
Names of individuals and institutions?organizations
- **Our next steps**
- **Next meeting**
Place, day and time
- **Coordiantor(s)**
First name, last name, and phone number

ANNEX D.

OS AGENDA

9:30	Facilitator and Assistant get to the OS Venue
10:45 – 15:30	Constantly operating coffee break
11:00 – 11:15	Introduction to Community Open Space
11:15 – 11:30	Problem Announcement
11:30 – 12:30	Session 1 (including action planning)
12:30 – 13:30	Session 2 (including action planning)
13:30 – 14:30	Lunch
14:30 – 15:30	Session 3 (including action planning)
15:30 – 16:00	Final Circle
16:00	The end



Իրականացվում է «ԳՈՒՐՏ
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