Aspirations

Talk about aspirations and find common ground for working with others.

Take a moment to focus on your community aspirations and to identify next steps you want in creating change. Add your aspirations, challenges, and the new conditions to create in the spaces provided below. Use this on your own and then try it in a group setting - we have a facilitator’s guide to help in leading an aspirations conversation.

ASPIRATIONS
My aspirations for my community are:

__________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

CHALLENGES
The challenges we face in reaching these aspirations are:

__________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

NEW CONDITIONS
The changes needed in my community to reach our aspirations are:

__________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

(continued on the back)
Aspirations

Create a story for your community. Describe the key insights from the first page as a single word or phrase. Write down that word or phrase in the corresponding sentence below to create your story. Use this story as a reminder of your goals and share it with others.

My community Aspirations

My hope is to live in a community where ________________________ (aspirations).
However, right now we face ____________________________ (challenges).
In order to get there as a community, we need to ____________________________ (new conditions, change).

HOW TO MAKE IT WORK

1. Post this in your office or at home. Remind yourself to refer back to it. Ask yourself: Am I focused on my aspirations?

2. Share this exercise with others to find common ground - with your co-workers, at your place of worship, with friends, your PTA, your board, etc. Ask: How can our efforts reflect these shared aspirations?

3. Use these questions with others to begin finding shared community aspirations. Get the Aspirations Facilitator’s Guide - instructions on how to lead the conversation: www.theharwoodinstitute.org/harwoodhalfhour

Next Step? Visit the Promise of Libraries Transforming Communities website at www.ala.org/transforminglibraries/libraries-transforming-communities for initiative updates and access to resources, including tools and workshops that support the work of librarians as community innovators.

This tool is available as part of The Promise of Libraries Transforming Communities an initiative of the American Library Association in partnership with the Harwood Institute, and supported by the Institute of Museum and Library Services. ©2013 The Harwood Institute, www.theharwoodinstitute.org