

Principles of Regional Stewardship

Regional stewards—leaders committed to the long-term well-being of place—are integrators who cross boundaries of jurisdiction, sector and discipline to address complex regional issues such as sprawl, equity, education and economic development. They see the connection between economic, environmental and social concerns and they know how to “connect the dots” to create opportunities for their regions.

Regional stewards share basic values of creating broad prosperity: a healthy, attractive environment and inclusive communities for ourselves and subsequent generations. They take responsibility to ensure that we pass on a better place to our children.

Regional stewards apply the same entrepreneurial spirit and persistence to solving regional challenges that business entrepreneurs apply in building a business; they are *civic entrepreneurs*. They see the need for more connected regional approaches to addressing economic, environmental and social issues; they are *integrators*. They build support from leaders, citizens, interest groups and policy professionals toward a shared regional vision; they are *coalition builders*. Regional stewards hold themselves and each other accountable to achieve tangible results and sustained outcomes

Regional stewards include local elected or appointed officials, university or college leaders, business and foundation executives, nonprofit leaders and community activists. What they all have in common is the realization that to accomplish their goals they need to work collaboratively with people in other jurisdictions and sectors by embracing the principles diagramed on the front cover of this leaflet.

Innovative Economy: *Preparing people and places to succeed.*

- People work more with their brains instead of their hands. It is an economy in which rapid change is constant; an economy at least as different from what came before as the industrial age was from the agricultural age.
- Competitiveness is based on speed, quality, flexibility, knowledge, and networks.
- Emphasizes skills and knowledge as the keys to economic progress. Skilled and knowledgeable people tend to locate in communities that provide a good quality of life and excellent social, cultural, and natural assets.

- Provide jobs that enable all citizens to enjoy a good quality of life; to produce meaningful jobs that sustain families all along the economic spectrum and provide opportunities for advancement.

Livable Community: *Preserving and creating places to live and work.*

- Ensures the public safety and the well-being of their citizens.
- Ensures housing and public education opportunities for all members of the community.
- Uses new visions of design—including compact development, transit-oriented housing, walkable neighborhoods, safe and secure communities, and protected open space.
- Changes traditional land use practices that result in sprawl and traffic congestion.
- Promotes arts and cultural opportunities that build on the attributes of regions.

Social Inclusion: *Ensuring that everyone participates and shares responsibility.*

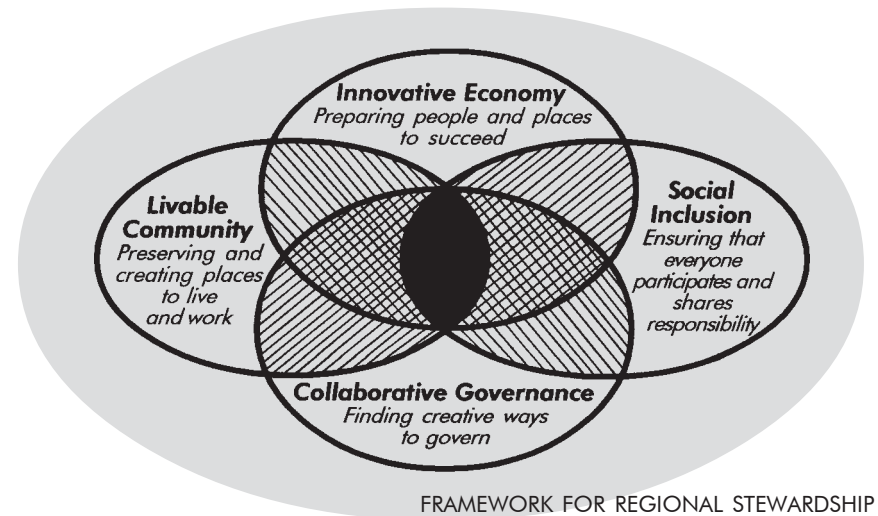
- Social Inclusion recognizes that the interests of neighborhoods are connected to the future health of the region and vice versa.
- Long-term regional prosperity is linked to reducing poverty and inequality in metropolitan areas. Thus, equity must become a part of regional strategy, not just an afterthought.
- Everyone is included in the development of regional strategies through decision-making structures and systems support broad inclusion.
- Increasingly diverse populations and perspectives must be engaged and participate as contributing members of a “regional society.”
- Complexity and interdependence of issues means that problem-solving can only be effectively accomplished through regional strategies and community engagement.
- Building trust and relationships requires safe civic spaces for public dialogue and conversations and the appropriate tools to support collaborative public decision-making and civic engagement.

Collaborative Governance: *Finding creative ways to govern.*

- Government alone cannot deal effectively with many community problems. Governance—how people come together to address common problems—is more than government. At the regional level citizens, business, labor, nonprofits, educators, and government must work together to set directions, solve problems and take action.
- Today's regions are a complex system of overlapping, interrelating jurisdictions—much like a network. Collaborative Governance requires coordination of resources, and sharing of information, ideas, and power.
- Social capital has to be created in regions. Social capital is the networks and norms of trust and reciprocity required to advance civic cooperation.
- Information has to be shared among all the participants
- Success requires process and structural changes that emphasize coalitions and actions across jurisdictions *and* across sectors.



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