



Innovation-Canton

Making things better in Canton, MA

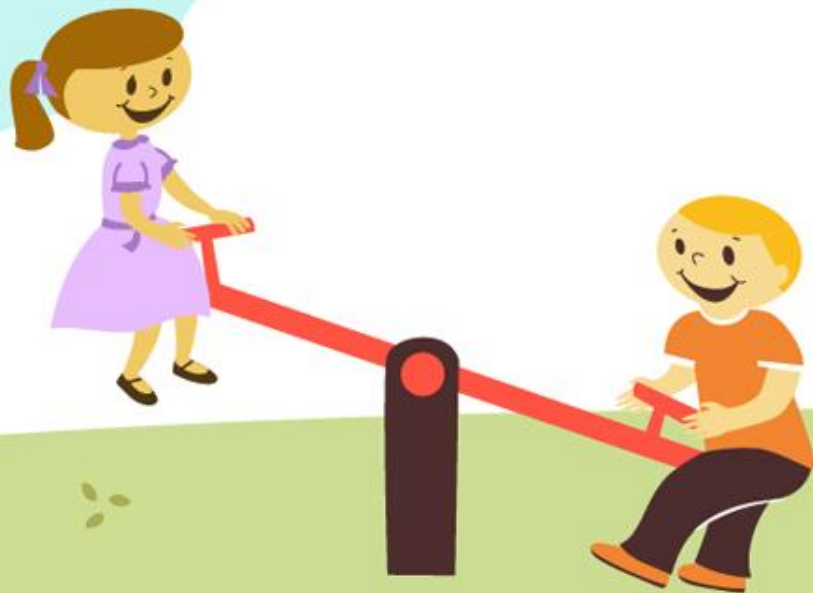
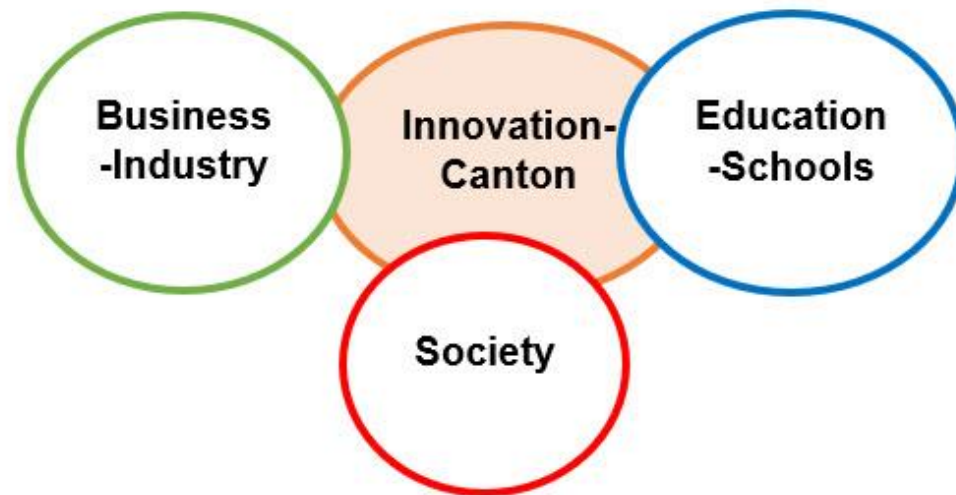
<http://innovationcantonma.org/>



Our Vision



The Team
will focus
on
Society
First



Our vision is to create a vibrant and thriving regional innovation community in Canton, MA. We envision a future where individuals and organizations come together to drive innovation, foster collaboration, and ignite economic growth. By cultivating an environment that encourages creativity, knowledge sharing, and entrepreneurship, we aim to position Canton as a hub for innovation, attracting talent, investment, and cutting-edge technologies.



The Opportunity

Canton community has done a good job for people to live and work but needs a uniqueness moving forward. **We have entered a phase of finding the negative in society and not looking for making things better.** We need a way to focus on making things better in our community that will not only enhance society but business as well as education. An innovation culture can do that. How did we support each other in the past that we can bring to the present?

Helping each other as a community!



Why an Innovation Process?



The innovation process is not just for tech companies and startups. It's a proven method that anyone can use to identify challenges, generate ideas, and create effective solutions. By taking a structured approach, our Canton community can focus on solving real, everyday problems – from information lists, communication issues, accessibility, and more.

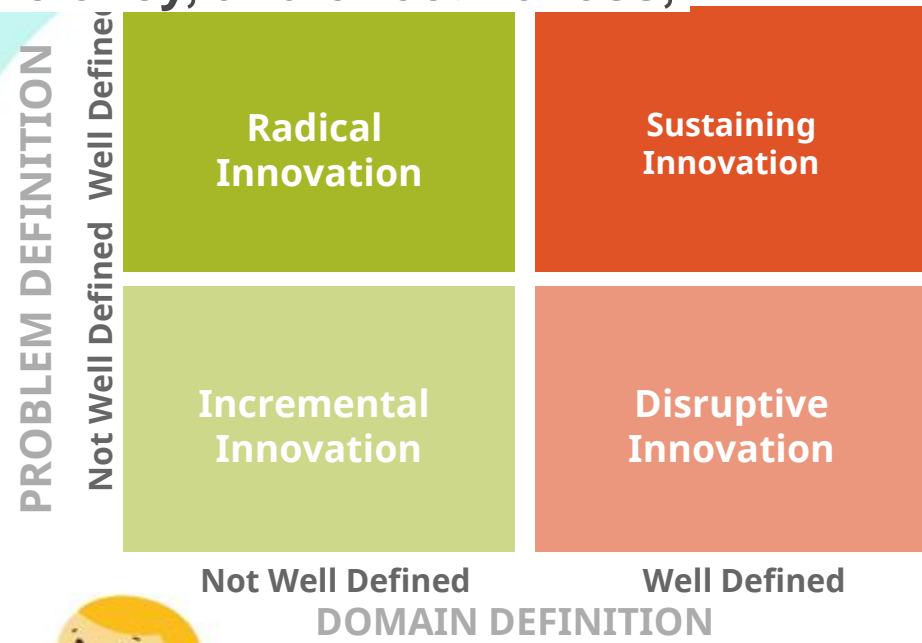


We need a focus to foster an Innovation Culture (**norms, values, outcomes**) (Making things better) in our community

Why Not- Tapping the wisdom of our Senior Citizens



Innovation is defined as the process of bringing about new ideas, methods, products, services, or solutions that have a significant positive impact and value. It involves transforming creative concepts into tangible outcomes that improve efficiency, and effectiveness, or address unmet needs.



Radical innovation

Completely disrupts existing business or economy **and** creates a new business model.

Sustaining innovation

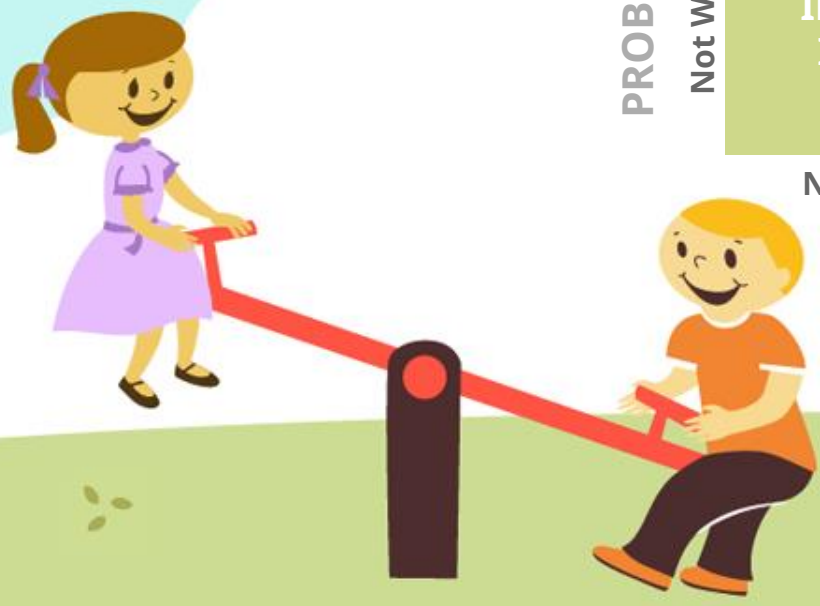
Exists in the current market and instead of creating new value networks, it improves and grows the existing ones.

Incremental innovation

A series of small, gradually built improvements to existing products, processes or methods to maintain competitive position over time.

Disruptive innovation

Creates a new value network either by disrupting an existing market or creating a completely new market



How It Works

- **Gather Ideas:** Community members of all ages are encouraged to voice issues they've noticed around town. This could be anything from walks for disabled people to ideas for new community events.
- **Define the Problem:** Once we have a pool of ideas, we'll analyze which ones have the most potential to impact the community and define the specific problems we aim to solve.
- **Generate Solutions:** Together, we'll brainstorm innovative ideas to address each problem. Whether it's improving green spaces, creating more youth programs, or even supporting local businesses, no idea is too big or too small.
- **Develop and Test:** Selected solutions will be prototyped and tested. This could involve temporary implementations or trial programs to assess their effectiveness.

▪ **Launch for Impact:** We hope to publish the final solutions and to implement it across Canton with the help of town officials, local organizations, and volunteer groups.



Building our Team

- Knowing our selves ... Our Goals, Who we are,
- Create our Team charter,
 - A team charter is a document that outlines a team's purpose, goals, roles, responsibilities, and working approach, essentially serving as a roadmap to guide the team's collaboration and decision-making process, ensuring everyone is aligned on the team's objectives and how they will work together to achieve them.
- Have Fun in learning & working together



Action items:

Work together to form a learning team.

Come together as a team to achieve a common goal. **Have teams identify the skills necessary for success.** Discuss problem solving, communication, listening, objectivity, empathy, and asking for help.

Essential Questions I must answer:

- 1. What do I bring to the team?
 - 2. What are our commitments to one another?
 - 3. What differences exist between us?
 - 4. How will we operate?
 - 5. How will we know we are succeeding? What benefits does a team approach help in solving problems?
- How are we going to work together – handle conflicts

Introduction to creating a team:
Why do we need a team?

Path of creating a team



Question: How could this be like a path?

Do Organizations have a Culture?

Discussion of the elements of the community culture

What is the culture of the team?
How is a learning team like a sports team?

Write up the results

The school will foster a **Team/community** based culture of a learning environment, with all treated as adults and with respect. What is our classroom culture? (How are we going to operate?)

Elements to discuss



- Elements of Culture
 - Language
 - Communication
 - Symbol
 - Gesture, sound, color, design
 - Values
 - Goodness and beauty
 - Beliefs
 - Shared ideas
 - Norms
 - Rules and expectations
 - Rituals
 - Rites and Public ceremony

Is diversity good for a team?

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How are we going to work together – handle conflicts

Creating a team charter

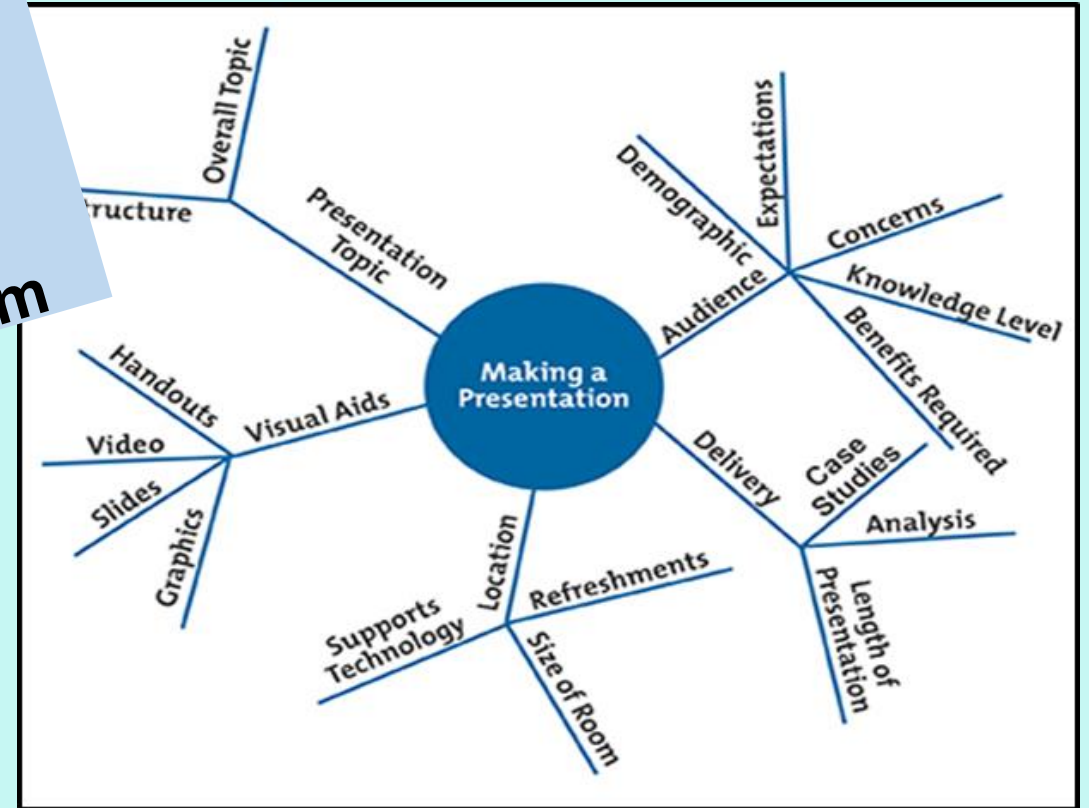
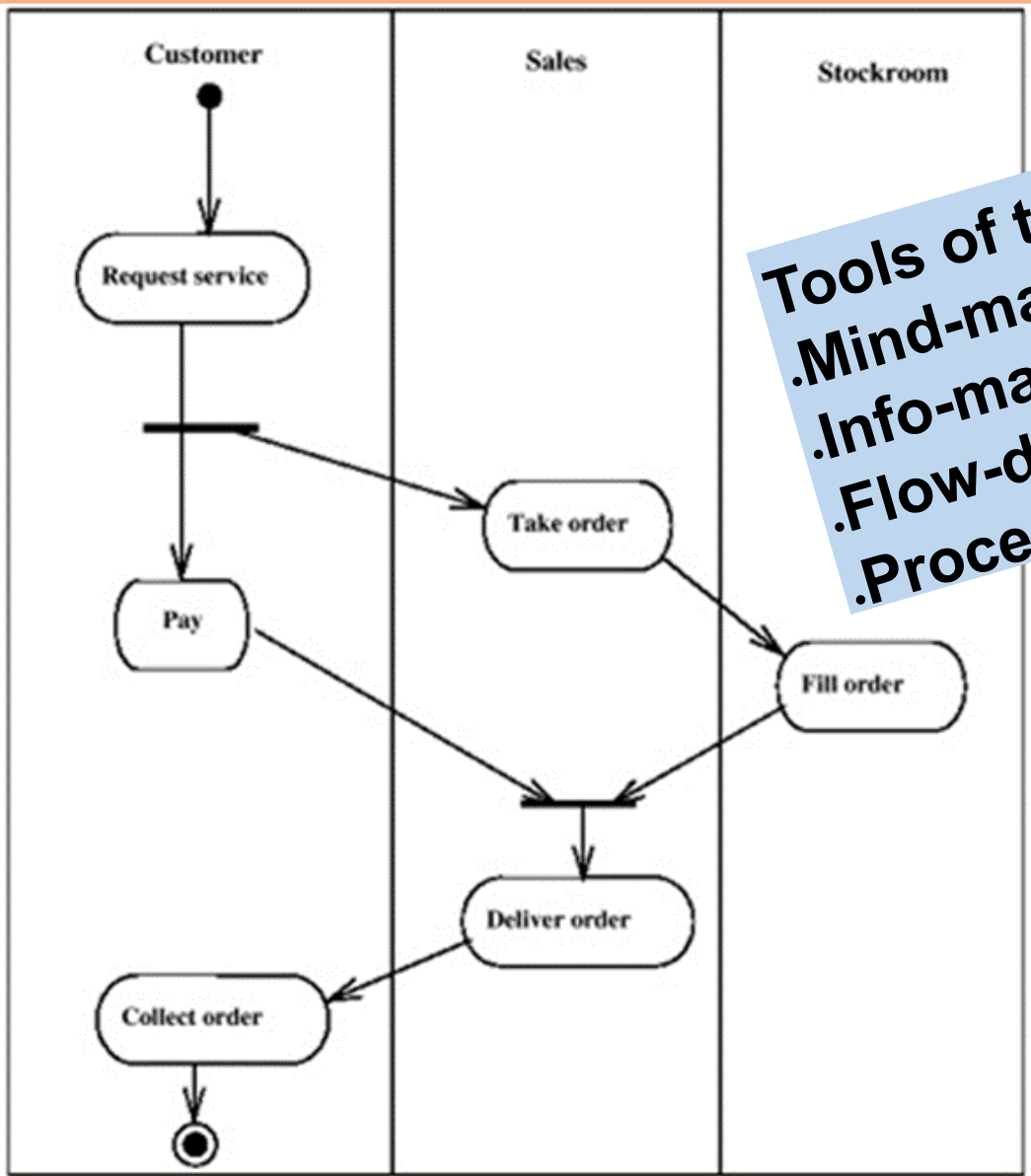
The Charter Covers:

- Goals (**Fun**, ...),
- How will we be measured at the end,
- Roles that the team will do, (Scribe, Captain, Planner, Advisor, Tester, Public reporter,)
- Our values, ... Curiosity, Trust, Flexibility,
- Deliverables?
- How will we handle conflicts?

Sports team
Jazz group
Project team

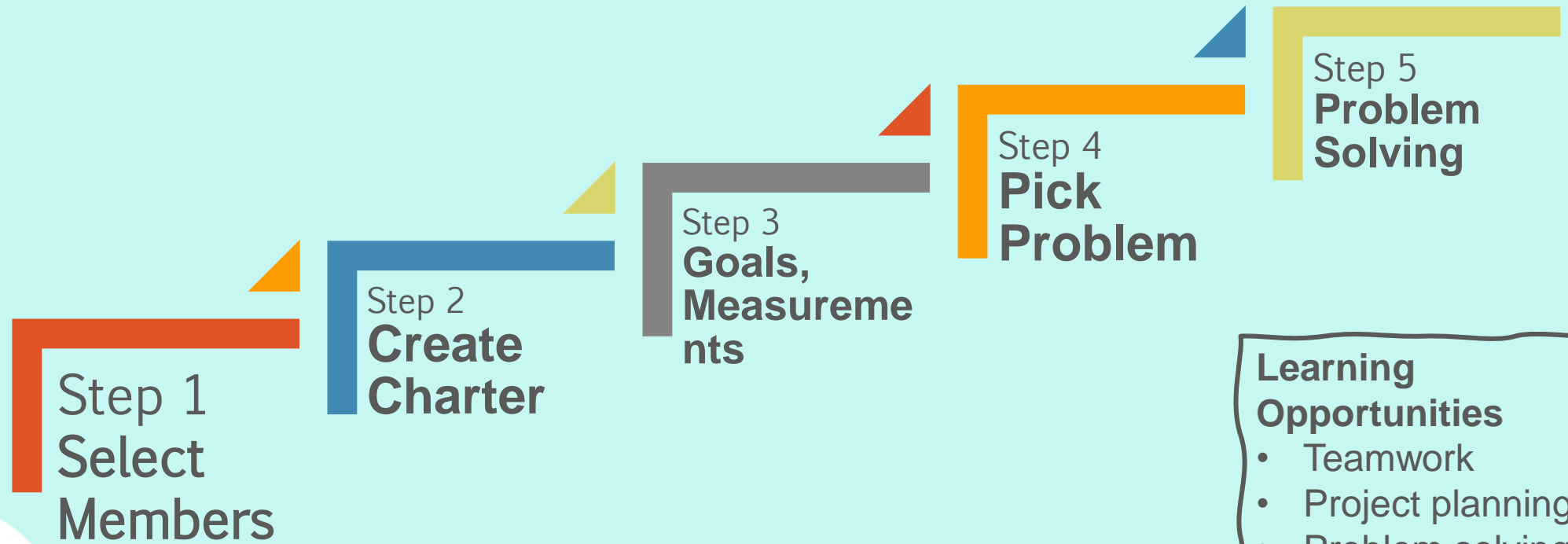
Use information tools to understand

Tools of the mind:
• Mind-map
• Info-mapping
• Flow-diagram
• Process diagram



Communication skills

Forming a team of seniors at our Senior Community Center



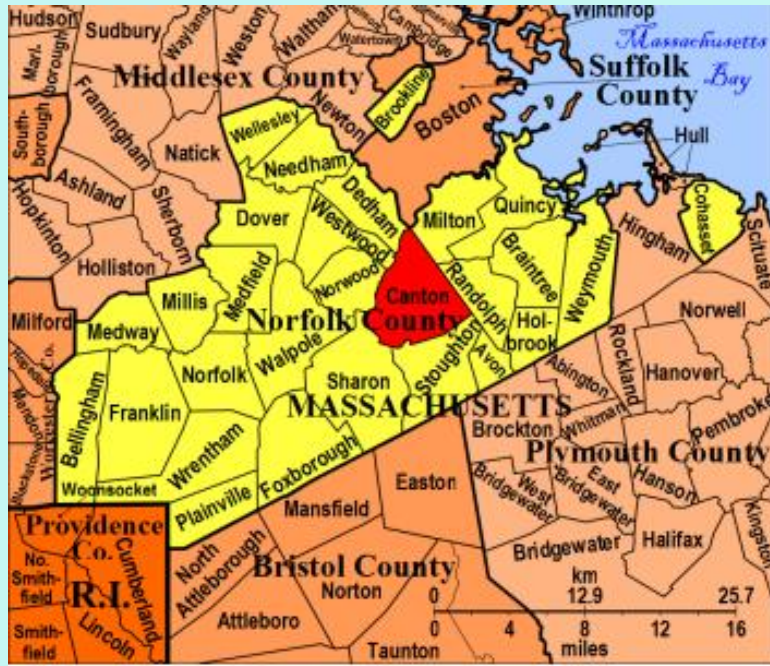
Learning Opportunities

- Teamwork
- Project planning
- Problem solving

Step-6 Report results to our community



Examples of first Discussions



- Discuss Canton as a community
- What are the non-political town processes that connect people
- Organize workshops and seminars that teach innovative problem-solving techniques and encourage creative thinking.
- Discuss Open Channels of Communication: Use social media, newsletters, and community websites to keep the public informed and involved in the innovation process



Problem Solving

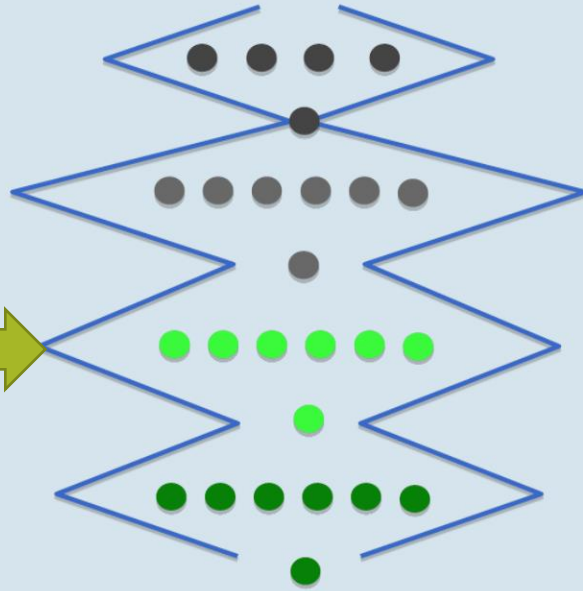
Reflection thinking

- Problem Framing
- Requirements
- Many Designs
- Pick a few Solutions
- Testing/ Feedback
- Reporting



Team-work

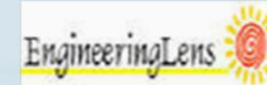
Creative/
Critical
thinking



Divergent/Convergent thinking

Decision making

Mark Somerville .. Olin College



Project Academy



Possible Community Discussions

Health, Climate, Education, Recreation, Discussions

How can we make it easier to interface with town gov't?.

What would be our wisdom to pass on to our youth

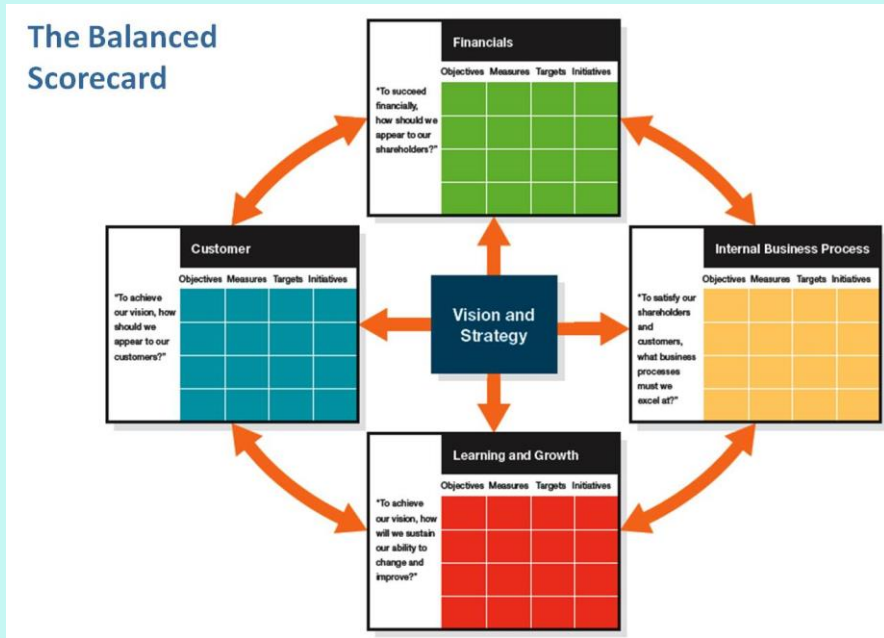
What process can we develop to prevent disagreements turning into hateful conflicts?

Design projects that promote sustainability, such as community gardens, recycling programs, or energy-efficient solutions.



Measurements ... You get what you measure

Balanced Scorecard: Instead of only measuring your results in only financial items, We add measurements in the following area:



- Improving your process
- Making your interface with your customer better
- Making it better for your staff (people)
- Finance (no change)



Open Issues to Discuss



Discussion
Questions

- This is not a bitch session
- Getting new people to join (~ 10-12 people total)
- Want group dialogue ... want your thoughts



Next Steps... Discussion - Thanks

Bill Wolfson

508-380-3747

billdwolfson@gmail.com

