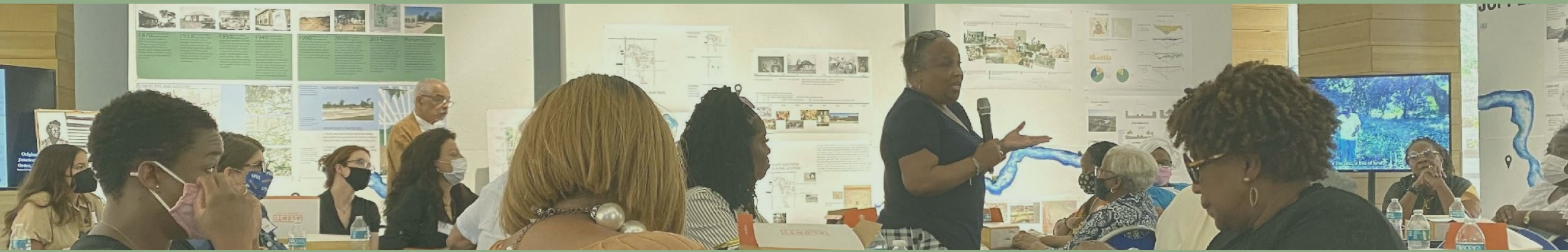




Amruta Sakalker

EcoLeader Graduate Community Research Fellow
National Wildlife Federation (NWF)

PhD Student in Urban Planning and Public Policy,
University of Texas at Arlington



Can Community Partnerships in Academic Environmental Research Projects Strengthen Equity and Inclusion In Environmental Decision Making

Recommendations for building strong community-based participatory research

Tools to analyze the spectrum of public engagement in the research process

IAP2 Spectrum of Public Participation

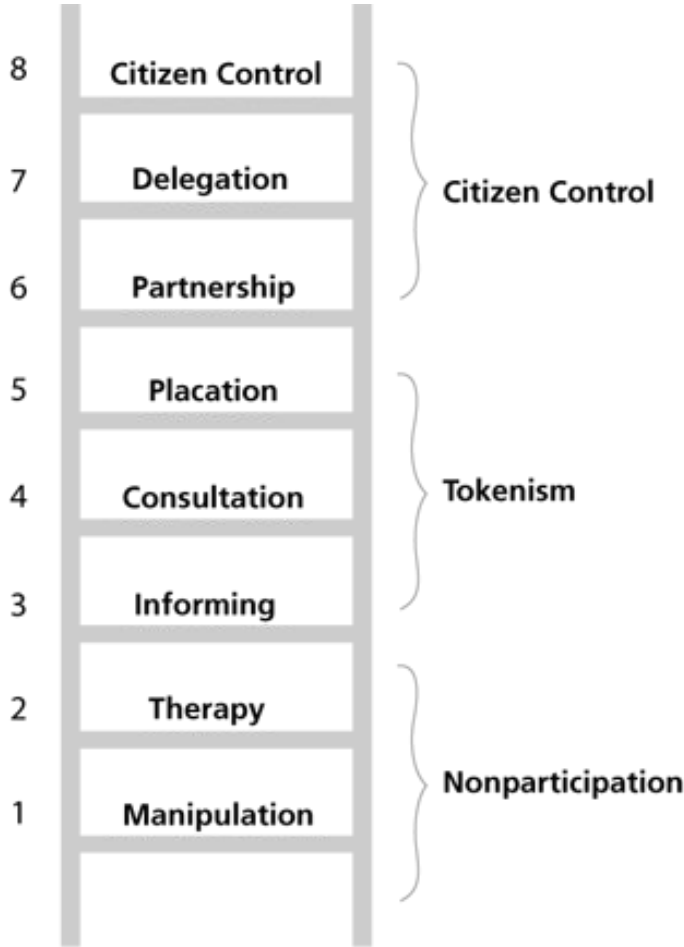


IAP2’s Spectrum of Public Participation was designed to assist with the selection of the level of participation that defines the public’s role in any public participation process. The Spectrum is used internationally, and it is found in public participation plans around the world.

INCREASING IMPACT ON THE DECISION					
	INFORM	CONSULT	INVOLVE	COLLABORATE	EMPOWER
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION GOAL	To provide the public with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the problem, alternatives, opportunities and/or solutions.	To obtain public feedback on analysis, alternatives and/or decisions.	To work directly with the public throughout the process to ensure that public concerns and aspirations are consistently understood and considered.	To partner with the public in each aspect of the decision including the development of alternatives and the identification of the preferred solution.	To place final decision making in the hands of the public.
PROMISE TO THE PUBLIC	We will keep you informed.	We will keep you informed, listen to and acknowledge concerns and aspirations, and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.	We will work with you to ensure that your concerns and aspirations are directly reflected in the alternatives developed and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.	We will look to you for advice and innovation in formulating solutions and incorporate your advice and recommendations into the decisions to the maximum extent possible.	We will implement what you decide.

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Arnstein’s Ladder (1969)
Degrees of Citizen Participation

Tools to analyze the spectrum of public engagement in the research process

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Interview of university faculty members and Community partners that have successful research grant partnerships

- How do the academic partner and the community partners **define** community-based environmental research? **Minority Serving Institutions** were the focus of the study
- How are CBER implemented with regard to **research design**, levels of community involvement and impact on the location of study?
- What evidence demonstrate that CBER projects result in intended **outcomes**?
- What types of **research grants** foster long-term university-community partnerships?
- How is the **knowledge created** in the research project used by the academicians and community members?

Main Interview Topics

Defining CPER

Research Design

Funding

Project Context

Knowledge Creation

Outcomes

Essential attributes that address CPER within larger topics

Defining CPER

Research Design

Funding

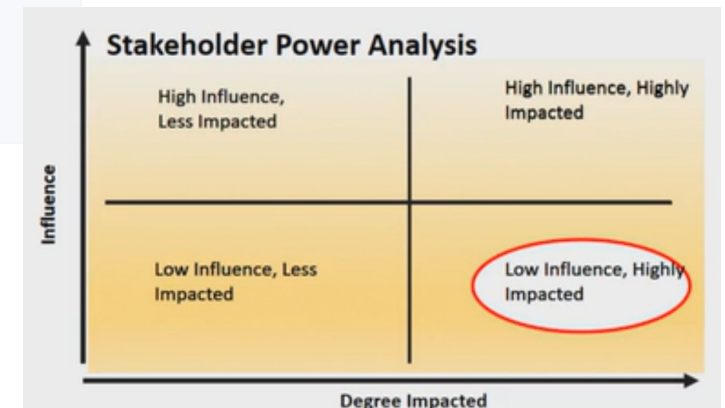
Choice of partnering community
High Impact / Low Influence communities

Project Context

Knowledge Creation

Outcomes

“these communities have been on the other side of the return of the dollar, when it comes to the urbanization of nature around them and the economic progress of the city” – Academic Research Partner



Source: DesireeWilliams-Rajee, Kapwa Consulting

Essential attributes that address CPER within larger topics

What does the community want to know?

Defining CPER

Environmental Significance

Research Design

Environmental Justice

Funding

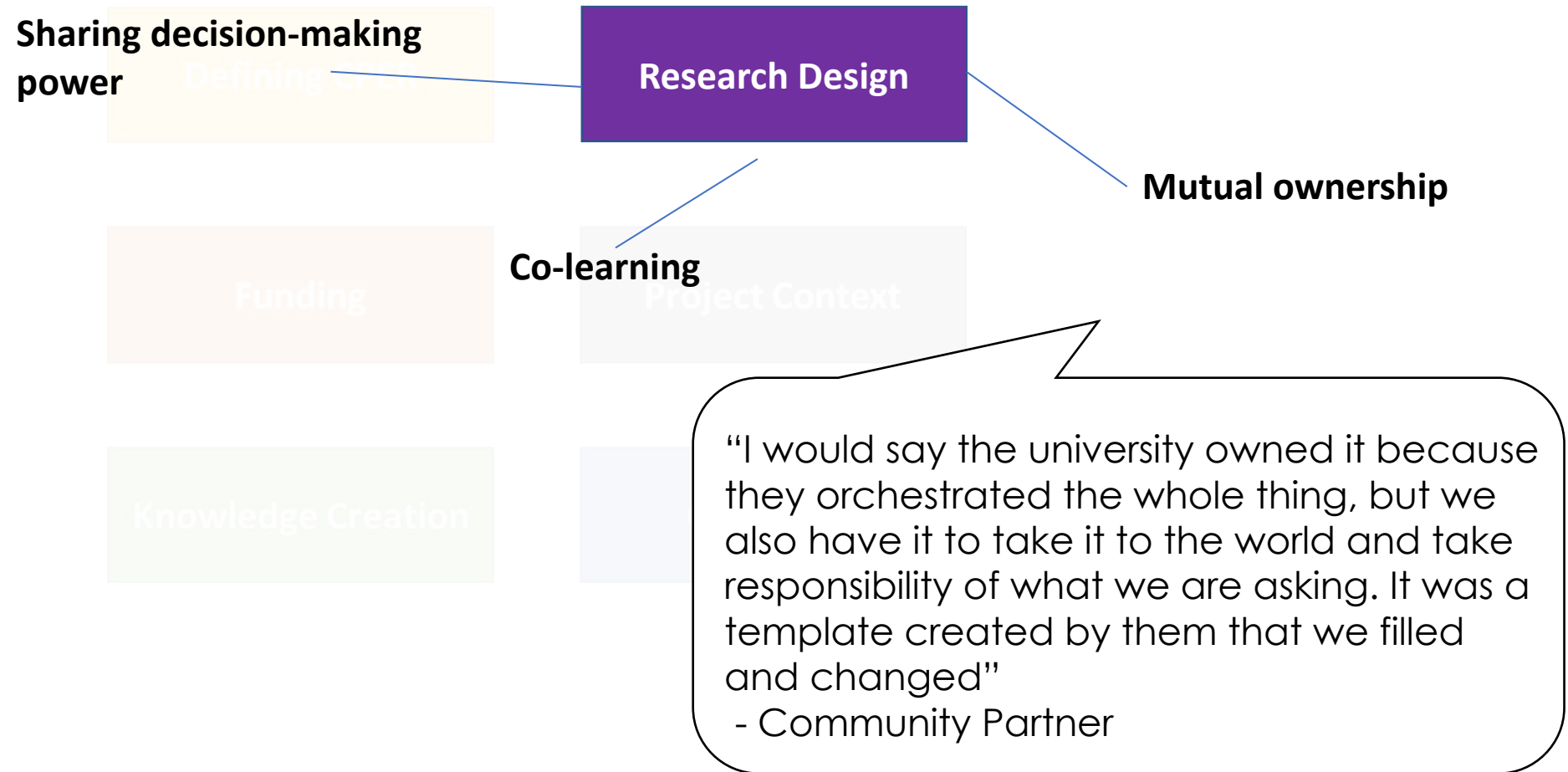
Project

"my lab is based on Environmental justice framework" – Academic Research Partner

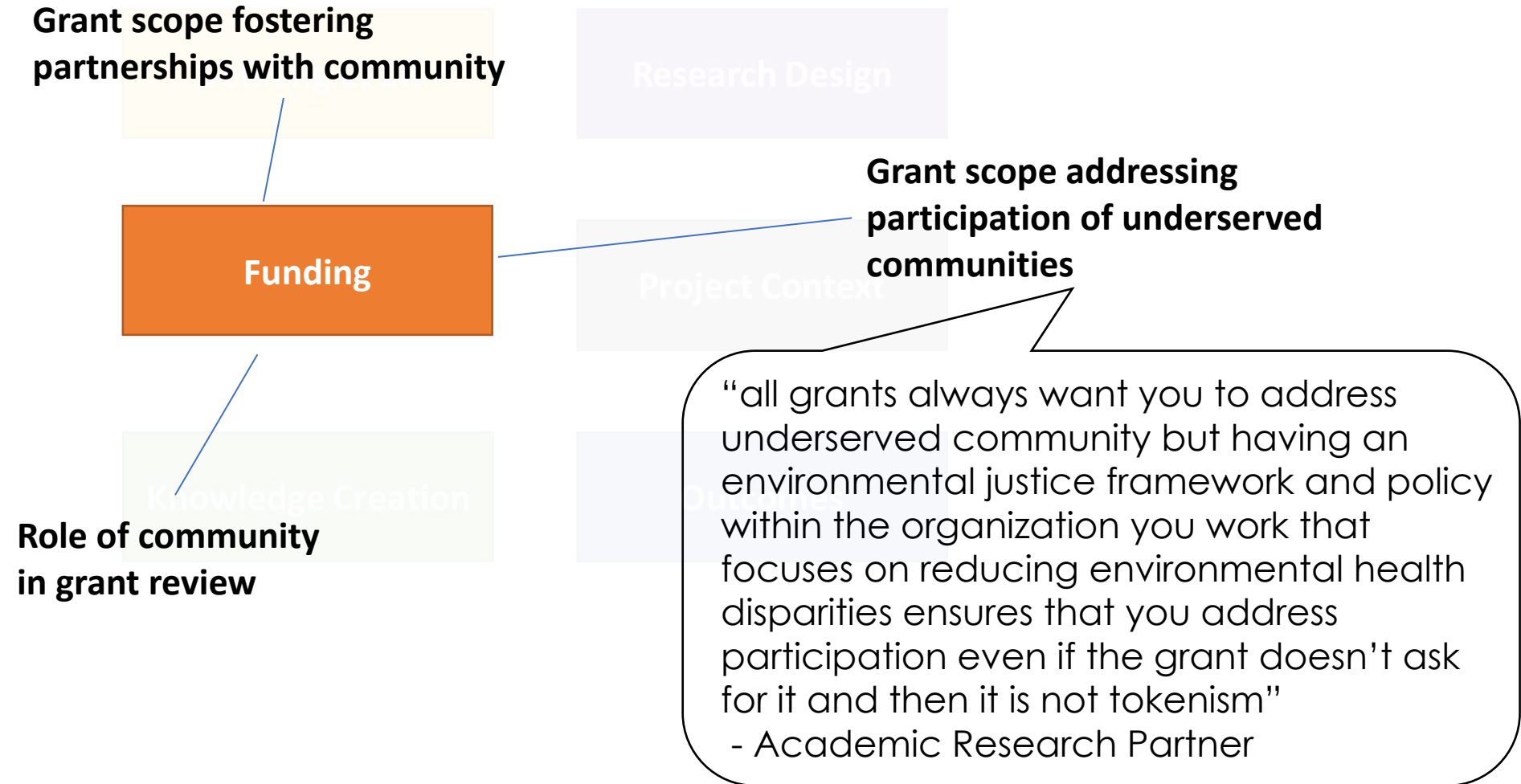
"ours is a historic community (freedman town) but we also became aware of our environmental history" – Community Partner

"To address EJ for us community engagement is of high priority. To first engage and know the environmental issues from the community" – Academic Research Partner

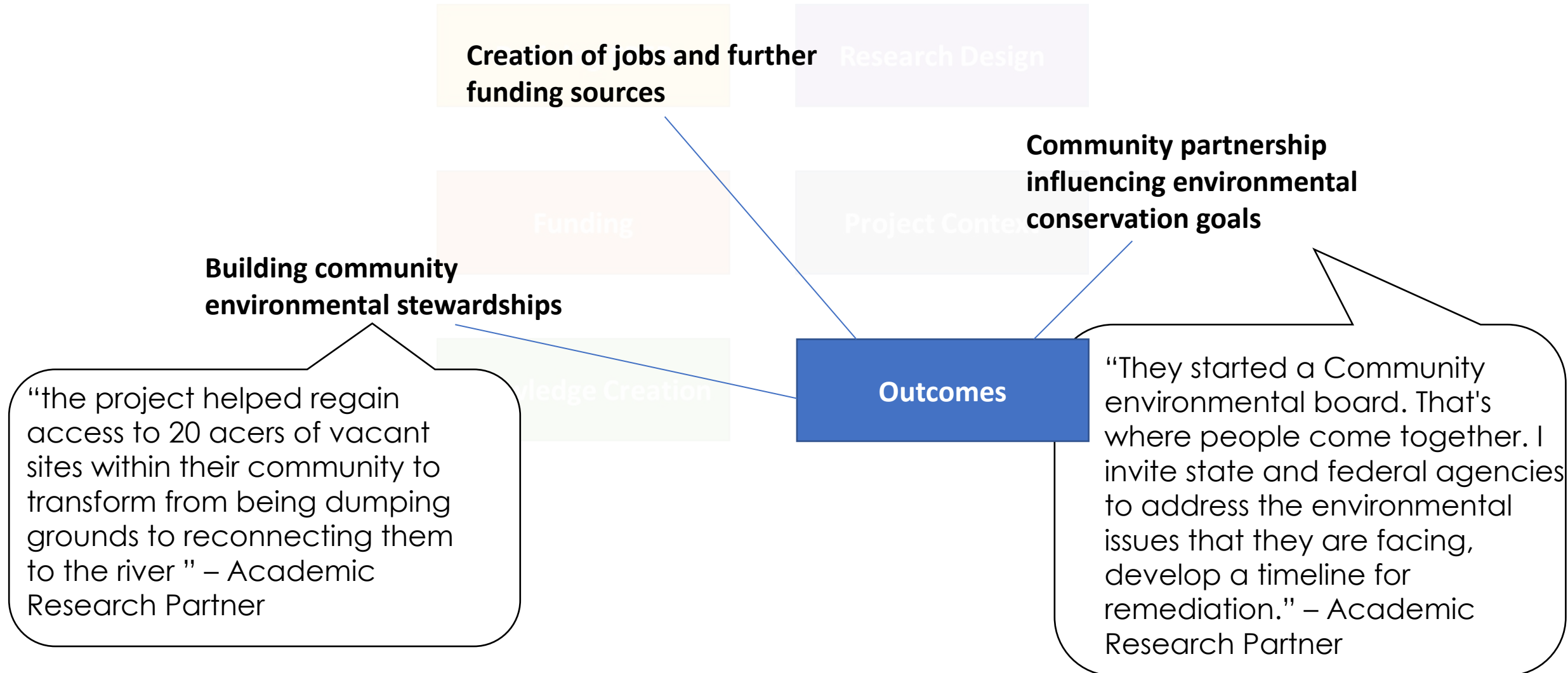
Essential attributes that address CPER within larger topics



Essential attributes that address CPER within larger topics



Essential attributes that address CPER within larger topics



Recommendations

Topic	Main Attributes for interview questions
Defining CPER	Choice of Partnering community
	Environmental Justice (EJ)
	Environmental Significance
	What does the community want to know
Research Design	Sharing Decision-Making Power
	Co-learning
	Mutual Ownership
Funding	Grant scope fostering partnerships
	Grant scope addressing partnership with underserved community
	Role of community in proposal review
Project Context	participating members and socio-demographics of study area
	Environmental impact on study area
Knowledge Creation	Everyday knowledge for the community
	Academic knowledge to advance EJ Principles
Outcomes	Building community environmental stewardships
	Creation of jobs and further funding sources
	partnerships influencing environmental conservation goals

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Findings

Identifying high impacted but low influence communities

Addressing EJ principles within academic institutions

Cultural and historic relationship of the community to the study area should be documented in detail to understand the pattern of environmental change

In most cases grants are interested to address underserved communities but the partnerships should not be for tokenism

Neighborhood Association leaders and community champions are partners that also have strong biases

Research outcomes should help address everyday practices of the community and provide voice for systemic changes

Create long term relationships within the academic Institution to provide subject experts on multiple topics

Community advisory boards, create a network of consortium of communities locally to help address each others concerns and share expertise.



Thank You and keep the partnerships going!



If you would like to recommend any academic-community partnership based environmental projects or would receive the full report with recommendations - please contact me!

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