

We know that any individual can play multiple roles and that no single person can do everything that is included in any one role! So, the purpose of this checklist is for you to see how what you love to do connects to these role categories. And, to see whether your network has all the roles covered. If not, no worries - you have an opportunity to invite some more folks to help.

As you go through these role checklists – check the activities that you enjoy or are passionate about doing:

Conveners/Facilitators create the conditions for those doing on-the-ground work to find ways to leverage opportunities and share resources with each other.

- 1. Convene the network for regular face-to-face relationship building and networking – keep track of network members and invite new members; send out notices and reminders
- 2. Prepare for gatherings and either act as facilitator or ensure there is someone who can facilitate to help gatherings be effective
- 3. Welcome and orient new network members so they can more easily find a way to connect their passion, needs and resources to the network's shared purpose
- 4. Help people understand principles and concepts of working in networks and translate those into practice
- 5. Help network determine strategic directions by helping surface key themes and opportunities
- 6. Work on communications so people know what is happening and how to connect

Connectors ensure that the work of the network is vibrant and exciting by involving and weaving key relationships into network conversations and the projects on the ground.

- 1. Invite and engage people to learn about their dreams and interests and connect them to others who can help them
- 2. Help people identify challenges and introduce them to others who can help
- 3. Encourage people with skills and resources to connect to people with needs
- 4. Learn about projects happening throughout community that are advancing the purpose of the network and connect people and projects – encourage people to share learning and resources
- 5. Make personal introductions for people who would benefit by working together
- 6. Help people bring innovation and new perspectives into their network by adding new people to their network
- 7. Pay attention to who might be missing in the conversations/work on the ground and invite those people to engage

Project Coordinators/ Volunteers organize and implement projects that deliver the purpose of the network.

- 1. Organize and coordinate projects – checking in on what is working and what is not
- 2. Encourage cross-organizational involvement and identify where new resources might be added from these collaborations to leverage project success
- 3. Ask the broader network for help and offer resources with a focus on doable projects
- 4. Encourage people to see conflicts as opportunities to develop breakthroughs
- 5. Encourage people to share about their project with larger networks
- 6. Help people reflect on successes & failures and understand the underlying “patterns of success”
- 7. Create dignity and respect for all involved – develop trust among project participants

Guardians pay attention to what is needed for the whole of the network to thrive.

- 1. Support, encourage, and mentor those working to strengthen the network
- 2. Encourage others to become connectors and conveners and take responsibility for increasing the health of the network
- 3. Stand back to see the big picture and identify patterns, needs, resources and opportunities
- 4. Look for patterns in the network: where there is energy, where there is isolation and help develop strategies to deal with those aspects of the network
- 5. Create learning communities to capture and share the learning
- 6. Think about support systems that the network needs to thrive
- 7. Pay attention to ways to connect the network to the broader community
- 8. Help connect projects to new and existing resources in the community and encourage new collaborations

Which role are you most comfortable playing?

Are there others you would like to explore?

Are all the roles (connector, convener, coordinator, guardian) being covered in your network? If not, who could you invite to play a missing role?