Partnerships for Broader Impacts Design (BID)
Universities and Science Centers Partnering to Support Scientists in Public Engagement Work

Goals:
Support durable institutional partnerships
Support better BI experiences in the community
Support better BI proposal components submitted to NSF
Increase perceived value of engagement across university campus

The research:
How can our understanding of cross-institution partnerships (e.g., culture, practices, structural characteristics) help advance BI design and implementation?

The premise:
Public engagement-based Broader Impacts work requires a wide range of knowledge, skills, and resources. Often, these assets are held by different individuals at different organizations. By connecting individuals and organizations that hold these various assets, we can increase capacity to do this work, and do it better.

Organizational Level not Individual:
The BID project worked to build partnerships that were based on the priorities, strengths, and values of each organization. These partnerships took time and attention to build and to nurture. Each organization was challenged to think carefully about where in the organization the partnership should be housed, and to establish broad awareness and buy-in so that the partnership was clearly supported by the organization, rather than relying solely on the commitment of a particular individual.

The work:
Three partnerships formed at the start of the project, and worked collaboratively to co-design a set of tools, designed based on strong partnership practices, that would support BI-focused partnerships. Six additional teams (each two or three partnering organizations) joined the project to test out the tools, and to work to establish their own durable partnerships.

Sharing our stories of partnership:
The project’s nine teams tested the BID approach to partnership in a wide range of institutional contexts. Our original intention was to produce a set of tools that could be easily adopted by any other partnership. The project’s three core teams created these tools, and the six additional project partners tested their usability. We quickly learned that the tools alone were only a small piece of the puzzle: the story of each partnership, and the context in which each tool was used, was far more helpful for newer partnerships.

Interactive–Partnership Tools & Stories:
https://popnet.instituteforlearninginnovation.org/bid-home/

We were not trying to:
Design/prescribe a model
Assess the quality of the BI statements or activities themselves “Solve” BI!

Additional project partners:
Explora and the University of New Mexico; Fleet Science Center and the University of California, San Diego; NC Museum of Natural Sciences, the Museum of Life and Science, and Duke University; the University of Minnesota and the Minnesota Zoo; Dartmouth College and the Vermont Institute of Natural Sciences; the University of Colorado and CU Science Discovery

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