



Vibrant communities and small towns combine their own character with opportunities for residents and visitors to socialize, shop, learn, eat, drink, and be active. If you are considering creating an event, project, or initiative in your community, please reflect on the following questions as you get started.

For this worksheet, "community" is defined as a group of people living in the same place or having a particular trait in common. This could mean a neighborhood, a church group, a group of people who care about a particular issue - the term can be applied many ways.

Additionally, consider the importance of finding a "champion" for your project. Someone with the interest, resources, and energy to promote your project will be of great value as you move forward with your project.

<p>What is something that is unique to my community (i.e. special food, historical event, geographic landmark, etc.)?</p>	
<p>Are there now or have there been events or initiatives that have featured this aspect of your community?</p>	
<p>If previous efforts to feature or capitalize upon this aspect of your community did not succeed, what factors prevented their success? Do your plans address these factors?</p>	
<p>If you are focusing on an historic resource or asset, does the asset have any legislation ordinance, or special status that protects it (or that could protect it)? You can find more information at: http://shpo.sc.gov/Pages/default.aspx</p>	
<p>What physical amenities and resources exists in your community?</p>	<p>For each amenity that exists, please assign it a rating between 1 and 5 (1 representing low quality, and 5 representing the highest quality).</p>
<p>Parks and/or public green space</p>	
<p>Annual fairs and festivals (food, beer/wine, music, dance, visual arts, etc.)</p>	
<p>Farmers Market(s)</p>	
<p>Community garden(s)</p>	

Sporting events	
Public art display(s)	
Walking/biking trails	
Other	
What physical amenities or resources are missing in your community (think about surrounding towns or places you enjoy visiting for inspiration)?	
What "people" resources exist in your community that could support your project?	Please assign it a rating between 1 and 5 (1 representing minimal support, and 5 representing of the highest support).
Volunteer groups (churches, seniors, Girl Scouts, etc.)	
Community leadership (neighborhood associations, city/county councils, local government officials, etc.)	
Rotary clubs	
School groups	
College interns	
Various committees (are there event committees that already exist in your area? Check with your local government first)	
What level of funding exists in your community that could support your project	Please assign a rating between 1 and 5 (1 representing a minimal level of funding, and 5 representing a significant level of funding)
Corporations and educational institutions that have sponsored other community events	
Community granting foundations	

Other	
Is there a non-profit organization that is aligned with the purpose or nature of your event who might be interested in supporting it?	
What events does your community currently support or host that seem to garner community enthusiasm? How is the enthusiasm of the community gained?	
What digital resources exist in your community that could support your project?	
Is there a URL/website for your city or region?	
Are there popular blogs about your city or region?	
Are there popular social media sites for your city or region?	
What transportation and utility resources exist in your community that could affect your project?	
Does your community have a good public transportation system?	
Is your community close to a major highway or interstate?	
Is parking available near potential event venues? Is parking free or does it require payment?	
Is there existing utility infrastructure (sewer, water, electricity, wifi)?	
Is there walkability around potential event venues?	

Consider your community's unique aspect and its existing and missing resources. Where does your plan fit among these? Are you duplicating something which already has been tried in your community? Are you filling a need? How can your community's existing people, capital, and digital resources support your plan? Do your community's transportation resources help or hinder your plans? Think about how you can use your answers to the above questions to shape your event, initiative or project.

This Community Assessment is part of the **How-To Guides for Community Vibrancy**, an initiative of Ten at the Top's Community Vibrancy Task Force. The task force includes stakeholders from across the Upstate with a goal to maintain and reinvigorate the vibrancy in our region's small towns and urban areas. For more information about Ten at the Top, please visit www.tenatthetop.org.
Last Updated: September 2, 2015