Civics Academy

Empowering Communities Through Civic Engagement











Arcola Lakes Branch Library

April 7, April 21, May 5, May 19 6 pm – 8 pm 8240 NW 7 Ave. Miami, FL 33150 Westchester Regional Library April 8, April 22, May 6, May 20 6 pm – 8 pm 9445 Coral Way Miami, FL 33165

North Dade Regional Library

April 8, April 22, May 6, May 13 6 pm – 8 pm 2455 NW 183 St. Miami Gardens, FL 33056

Naranja Branch Library April 8, April 26, May 10, May 24

3 pm – 5 pm 14850 SW 280 St. Miami, FL 33032

Learn. Engage. Become an Ambassador.

Become an active resident, learn how to participate in your local government and advocate for your community.

> **Main Library** April 10, April 24, May 8, May 22 12 pm – 2 pm 101 West Flagler St. Miami, FL 33130

OVERVIEW

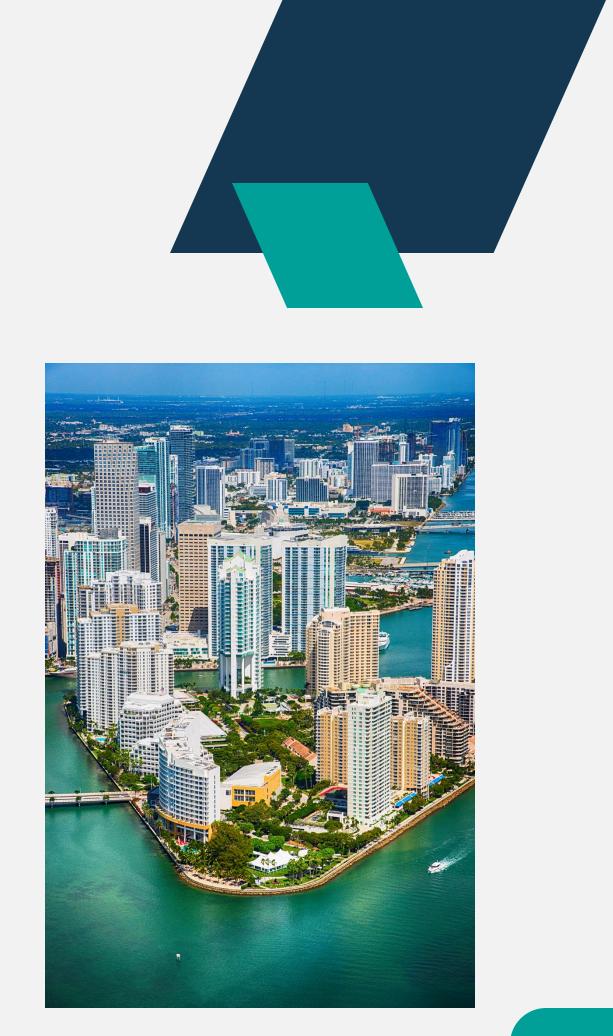
- Strengthening communities through policymaking
- Economic development and community resources
- Collaborations between government, faith-based, nonprofits, and businesses





OBJECTIVES

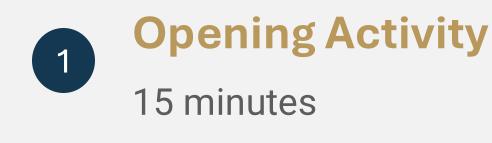
- Identifying Community Assets and Needs
 Participants will assess their local communities by mapping existing resources and
 identifying gaps to better understand areas for development and advocacy.
- Evaluating the Role of Policy in Community Development
 Participants will analyze how public policies, zoning regulations, and public-private partnerships impact neighborhood growth, displacement, and resource allocation.
- **Developing Action-Oriented Community Solutions** Participants will create a three-step community action plan addressing a local issue, integrating advocacy and policy strategies to promote sustainable development and empowerment.





Community Development and Engagement







- Content Presentation 30 minutes
- 3
- Hands-on Workshop 30 minutes



Interactive Discussion 30 minutes

5 Closing Reflection 15 minutes

Session 3 Community Development and Engagement OPENING ACTIVITY

Draw Your Block

Purpose: Connect to your local environment by sketching a quick map of your neighborhood. Pair up or form groups to share insights and patterns on the following. Include:

- Places that you value (park, church, grocery store, school)
- Places that feel underused
- Places with potential for change



Civic Engagement Classes

Agenda Community Development and Engagement



Opening Activity 15 minutes



Content Presentation 30 minutes



Hands-on Workshop 30 minutes



- Interactive Discussion 30 minutes
- 5 Closing Reflection 15 minutes

Session 3

Community Development and Engagement

CONTENT PRESENTATION

What is Community Development and Empowerment?

- **Community Development** refers to a process where residents come together to take collective action and generate solutions to common problems. It focuses on enhancing the quality of life, strengthening local economies, and improving access to essential resources.
- **Empowerment** involves equipping individuals and communities with the knowledge, resources, and skills to influence their own future. It means giving people a voice in decision-making processes and enabling them to shape policies that affect their lives.
- Why It Matters: When people are empowered, they can advocate for change, drive sustainable development, and create more resilient communities.





CONTENT PRESENTATION

The Connection Between Assets, Policy, and Action

- **Community Assets** include human capital (local leaders, volunteers), physical infrastructure (schools, parks), and institutional resources (nonprofits, public services). These assets provide a foundation for growth and resilience.
- **Public Policy** shapes the way resources are allocated, determines access to opportunities, and impacts economic development. Laws and policies can either help or hinder community progress.





CONTENT PRESENTATION

The Connection Between Assets, Policy, and Action

- Action-Oriented Solutions ensure that community voices translate into tangible improvements. It involves grassroots organizing, advocacy, and strategic initiatives to implement change.
- Key Takeaway: Strong communities leverage their assets, engage in policy discussions, and take action to drive change.



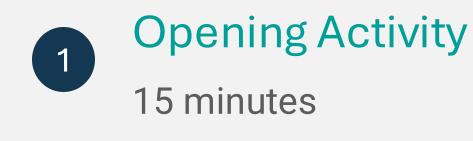


CONTENT PRESENTATION

Why Local Engagement is Critical for Sustainable Development

- Localized Solutions Work Best: Communities understand their own needs better than external
 organizations. Development efforts are more effective when they are led by local stakeholders.
- Prevents Displacement & Inequities: Without active community involvement, development projects may lead to displacement or unequal resource distribution.
- Builds Trust and Civic Participation: Engaging residents fosters a sense of ownership and responsibility. It strengthens democratic processes and enhances accountability in governance.
- Long-Term Impact: Sustainable development requires ongoing engagement, investment in local leadership, and policies that address systemic challenges.







Content Presentation 30 minutes



Hands-on Workshop 30 minutes



Interactive Discussion 30 minutes

5	Closing Reflection
	15 minutes



Community Development and Engagement

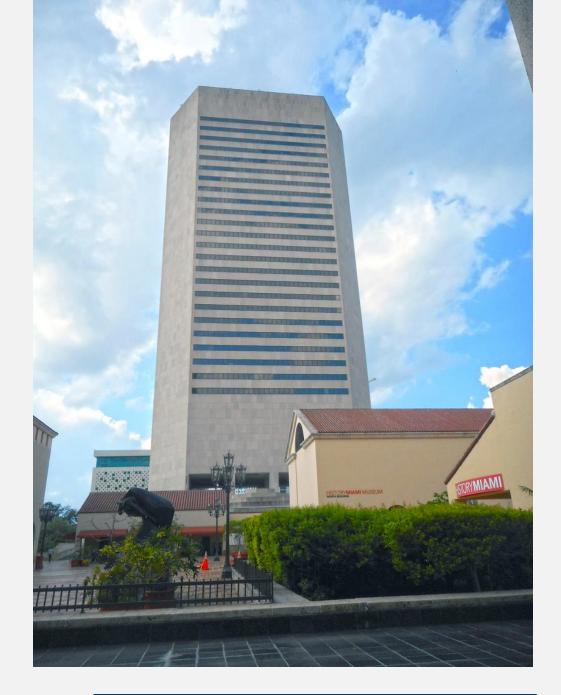
Hands-on Workshop

Case Study: Miami-Dade County's Climate Resilience Initiatives

Miami-Dade County, Florida, has emerged as a leader in climate resilience, proactively addressing the challenges posed by climate change through comprehensive strategies and community engagement.

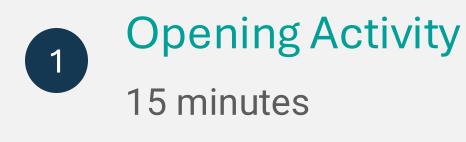
Key Initiatives:

- Climate Action Strategy: The county developed a community-wide plan aiming for net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. This strategy focuses on reducing emissions, creating jobs, and enhancing the quality of life for residents. <u>miamidade.gov</u>
- An Adaptation Action Area (AAA) is a planning tool that allows Miami-Dade County and municipal partners to work directly with community members to create a detailed adaptation plan for a focused area vulnerable to flooding and rising seas. Our current AAAs are focused along the little river (c-7 canal) and Biscayne canal (c-8).











- Content Presentation 30 minutes
- 3
- Hands-on Workshop 30 minutes

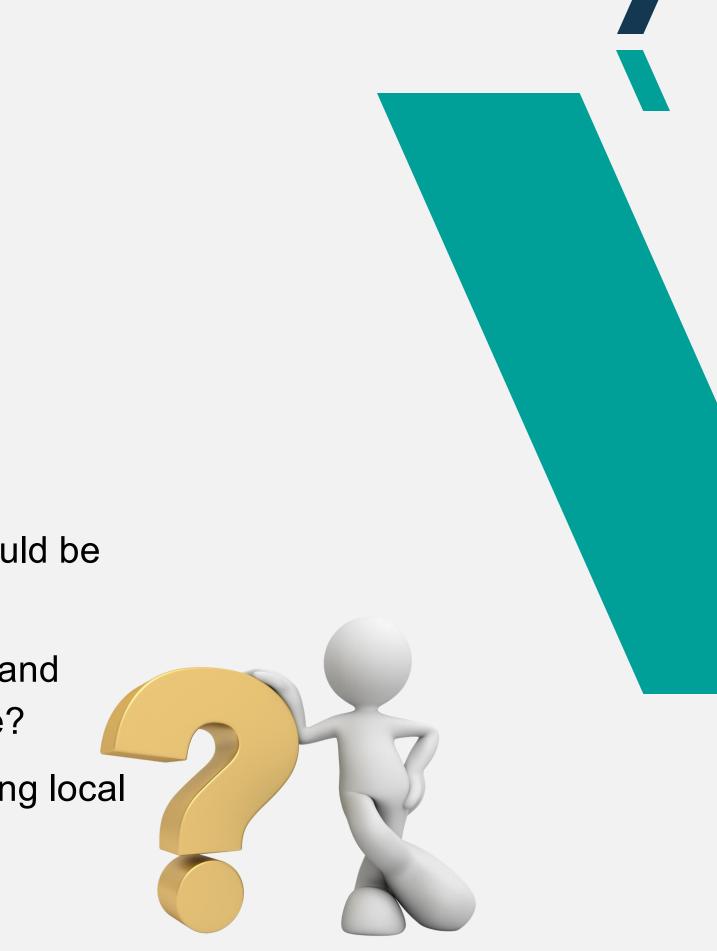


- **Interactive Discussion** 30 minutes
- 5 Closing Reflection 15 minutes

INTERACTIVE Q&A

Discussion Questions

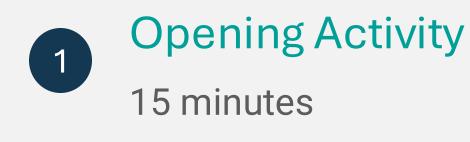
- What are some underutilized assets in your community that could be leveraged for development?
- Have you ever been involved in a local initiative that identified and addressed a specific community need? What was the outcome?
- What are the biggest barriers to community members influencing local policies, and how can they be addressed?





Community Development and Engagement







- Content Presentation 30 minutes
- 3
- Hands-on Workshop 30 minutes



Interactive Discussion 30 minutes



CLOSING REFLECTION

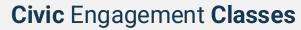
• What's one key takeaway from today's session?

Call to Action:

 What is one concrete step you can take in the next 30 days to drive positive change in your community?







Session 3

Community Development and Engagement

CONTACTS



- Miami-Dade County
 - https://www.miamidade.gov/



- Miami-Dade Public Library System
 - https://www.mdpls.org/



- Community & Education Well-Being Research Center at the University of Miami
 - https://sites.education.miami.edu/cewrc/



- Maurice A. Ferre Institute for Civic Leadership at Florida International University
 - https://www.ferre.fiu.edu













CABA Pro Bono

https://cabaprobono.com/

Catalyst Miami

https://www.catalystmiami.org/

Engage Miami

https://engage.miami/

• Family Action Network Movement (FANM)

https://www.fanm.org/

Sant La Haitian Neighborhood Center

https://www.santla.org/



Mayor Daniella Levine Cava



Learn. Engage. Become an Ambassador.









Board of County Commissioners

https://linktr.ee/MiamiDadeBCC_

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Civic Engagement Classes

Session 3

Community Development and Engagement



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