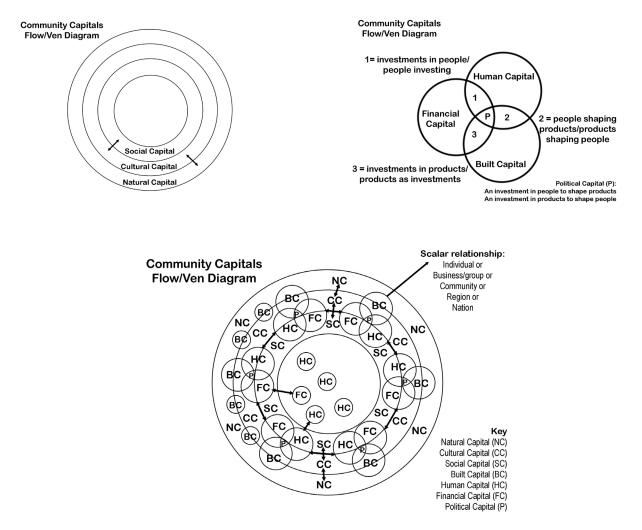
Community Capital Assets Inventory

Understanding and leveraging the assets within a community is a foundation of the Informed Development process. An Asset Inventory helps communities identify but more importantly leverage their assets to foster authentic and sustainable community development. The attached inventory templates provide a structured approach to cataloging assets according to community capitals, ensuring a comprehensive understanding of the community's strengths and opportunities.

Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD) and Community Capitals

Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD) is a methodology developed by John L. McKnight and John P. Kretzmann that focuses on identifying and utilizing the existing strengths and resources within a community. Rather than concentrating on deficits, ABCD emphasizes the positive attributes and capabilities of individuals, associations, and institutions. Two key principles of ABDC are 'everyone has gifts' and 'relationships build a community'. This approach aligns with the community capitals framework developed by Cornelia Butler Flora and Jan L. Flora, which categorizes assets into seven types: natural, cultural, social, built, human, financial, and political capital. This framework helps communities understand and leverage their strengths for sustainable development. *The following illustrations were developed by Barman for the Capital Asset Inventory*.



Natural Capital

Natural capital includes the quality and quantity of natural and environmental resources such as land, water, air, and biodiversity that can be leveraged for community development. This encompasses place-based natural amenities, landscapes, and materials. Practitioners can use the *Natural Capital Assets Inventory Sheet* to document:

- Greenspace and Greenways: Parks, urban forests, street trees, and monumental trees.
- Water Resources: Rivers, lakes, waterfronts, and hydrology.
- Geology and Soil: Minerals, landforms, and soil quality.
- **Outdoor Recreation**: Trails, campgrounds, public land, and opportunities for activities like hunting, fishing, biking, and hiking.

Leveraging Natural Capital: As an example, a community with abundant natural areas and waterways could leverage those assets to promote eco-tourism. Informed Development actions in this case could include promoting eco-friendly tourism initiatives, creating educational programs about local biodiversity, and establishing conservation projects. Actions could also include working with a local photographer or photography class and/or asking the public to photograph your natural assets, and then using the images shared in your advertisements and marketing campaigns.

Natural Capital and the other capitals: Natural capital can enhance cultural capital when natural landscapes serve as sites for cultural events and natural resources serve as inspiration and materials for cultural crafts. Natural capital can strengthen social capital when a community comes together around the quality and quantity of natural and environmental resources and/or conservation efforts. Natural capital can be made into built capital by serving as the local building blocks for construction and materials for maker businesses. Natural capital can strengthen human capital by providing an outdoor laboratory full of environmental and agricultural education opportunities. Natural capital can increase financial capital when scenic and recreational landscapes attract visitors and residents, bringing new money into the community.

Cultural Capital

Cultural capital refers to inherited values, norms, beliefs, and traditions that can be leveraged for community development, as well as material goods with historical or cultural significance. The *Cultural Capital Assets Inventory Sheet* helps document:

- Ethnicity and Shared Identity: Language, traditions, and cultural history.
- Arts and Culture: Artists, musicians, dancers, and cultural events.
- Historic Preservation: Museums, historic sites, and culturally significant places.

Leveraging Cultural Capital: As an example, a community with a rich cultural heritage can preserve traditions and then leverage these to attract visitors. Informed Development actions in this case could include organizing cultural festivals, creating heritage trails, and supporting local artisans. Actions could also include hiring local artists to celebrate your culture through public art. This could be in the form of murals, sculpture, temporary works of art, performance pieces, poetry contests or live concerts. You could provide artists with your cultural inventory and see what inspires them. Further, you could reach out to your local historical society, museum, tourism board or history teacher to flesh out stories identified in your inventory.

Cultural Capital and the other capitals: Cultural capital can conserve natural capital and preserve built capital when conservation and preservation are a culturally held value, belief, and/or tradition. Cultural capital can boost financial capital by serving as an attraction for tourism. Cultural capital can create social capital by bringing diverse people together around a sharing or exchange of values, beliefs, and traditions. Cultural capital can strengthen human capital when preserving and teaching traditional skills.

Social Capital

Social capital encompasses the connections among people and organizations that facilitate community action. The *Social Capital Assets Inventory Sheet* includes:

- Social Networks: Relationships, trust, and group memberships.
- **Community Organizations**: Civic and service organizations, youth groups, and trade associations.
- **Community Engagement**: Volunteer rates, shared vision, and gathering places.

Leveraging Social Capital: As an example, a community with strong networks can leverage these to mobilize resources and support collective action. Informed Development actions in this case could include supporting community networks, creating networking opportunities, and establishing an entrepreneurial ecosystem. Actions could also include reaching out to individuals, businesses and partners who are part of your engaged public and asking them to serve as social influencers for you. Let them share stories of connections and relationships for your newsletter, website or social media. Encourage others to champion your cause and cheerlead for your program in their own words.

Social Capital and the other capitals: Social capital can strengthen built capital when improving public spaces through volunteer efforts (placemaking). Social capital can mobilize financial capital through fundraising campaigns. Social capital can increase human capital through a sharing of knowledge and experience. Social capital becomes political capital when networking to influence rules, regulations, and standards or to access resources.

Built Capital

Built capital consists of infrastructure and physical structures necessary for community functioning. The *Built Capital Assets Inventory Sheet* covers:

- Buildings and Spaces: Public buildings, housing, healthcare facilities, and industrial parks.
- Transportation and Utilities: Roads, rail, airports, parking, lighting, and utilities.
- **Community Centers**: Downtown areas, business niches, and complementary circulation systems.

Leveraging Built Capital: As an example, a community with comprehensive and well-maintained infrastructure can leverage this to attract businesses and residents. Informed Development actions in this case could include maintaining public facilities, fully utilizing existing infrastructure for new development, utilizing transportation networks, and improving physical structures including commercial spaces. Actions could also include working with a local photographer or photography class and/or asking the public to photograph your built assets. Use these images in your attraction campaigns. You could also create or rework a walking tour that focuses on your built history.

Built Capital and the other capitals: Built capital can enhance natural capital by facilitating sustainable access to natural spaces. Built capital can strengthen social capital by serving as communal gathering spaces. Built capital can attract financial capital through sale and by stimulating further business investments. Built capital can improve human capital by providing better access to services including education and training.

Human Capital

Human capital includes the attributes of individuals that enable them to contribute to community development. The *Human Capital Assets Inventory Sheet* documents:

- Health and Education: Health indicators, educational attainment, and training programs.
- Skills and Talents: Entrepreneurial, creative, and skilled individuals.
- **Leadership**: Leaders, leadership development programs, and engaged workforce.

Leveraging Human Capital: As an example, a community with skilled workers can leverage this to attract businesses and foster innovation. Informed Development actions in this case could include offering training programs, supporting local entrepreneurship, and creating mentorship networks. Actions could also include creating a campaign to showcase and celebrate your outstanding entrepreneurs through interviews and features stories. You could ask them why they are in business, what inspires them, who their heroes are, what their goals are, etc. You could then utilize your print and social media resources to share these stories with the public.

Human Capital and the other capitals: Human capital can enhance social capital when attributes include networking skills and leadership. Human capital can expand built capital by providing skilled labor for community construction projects. Human capital can attract financial capital through wages earned and saved and through skilled investments.

Financial Capital

Financial capital involves efforts to build wealth and financial resources for community projects. The *Financial Capital Assets Inventory Sheet* includes:

- Personal and Business Wealth: Income, savings, business capital, and tax revenues.
- **Investment**: Public-private investment dollars, grants, and local financial incentive programs.
- Funding Sources: Community banks, micro-loan funds, angel investors, and crowdfunding.

Leveraging Financial Capital: As an example, a community with access to funding can leverage this by reinvesting in its residents, environment, infrastructure and services. Informed Development actions in this case could include securing and offering grants and incentives, attracting investors, and establishing and mobilizing community funds.

Financial Capital and the other capitals: Financial capital can improve natural capital by funding conservation and environmental restoration efforts. Financial capital can improve social capital by funding social networks. Financial capital can expand built capital by funding building projects. Financial capital can strengthen human capital by funding education and training programs. Financial capital may strengthen the political capital of individuals (political contributions) while it may also weaken the political capital of the community.

Political Capital

Political capital refers to the ability to influence and enforce rules, regulations, and standards and to access resources. The *Political Capital Assets Inventory Sheet* covers:

- **Civic Engagement**: Transparency, inclusiveness, and participation in civic decisionmaking.
- Leadership: Engaged elected officials, candidates for public office, and civic leaders.
- **Public-Private Partnerships**: Collaboration between government and private sector.

Leveraging Political Capital: As an example, a community with influential and connected leaders can leverage this to secure funding and public support for community development projects. Informed Development actions in this case could include engaging in policy advocacy, building coalitions, and participating in local governance.

Political Capital and the other capitals: Political capital is in some ways the governance portion of social capital. A political network is a social network organized to influence and enforce rules, regulations, and standards and to access resources. Political capital influences natural capital by influencing and enforcing environmental policy (rules, regulations, and standards) and by influencing distribution of natural resources. Political capital influences built capital by influencing and enforcing fiscal policies. Political capital influences financial capital by influencing and enforcing fiscal policy and by influencing distribution of financial resources. Political capital influences financial resources. Political capital influences financial capital by influencing and enforcing fiscal policy and by influencing distribution of financial resources. Political capital influences human capital by influencing education policy.

How to Perform a Community Capital Assets Inventory

Performing a community capital asset inventory is best accomplished by engaging the community in both a field exercise and a workshop. The following steps outline the process:

1. Preparation

 Recruit Volunteers: Engage community members with diverse interests and experience that reflect a wide variety of community interests and organizations. Ensure that youth can be involved and are supported throughout the process.

- **Train Volunteers**: Provide an overview of the inventory process and the value of each type of capital.
- **Gather, Customize and Distribute Materials**: Community Capital Asset Inventory Sheets and these instructions, maps, local research and reports.

2. Community Engagement and Public Relations

- **Press Releases:** Keep the public in the loop regarding the efforts of the Informed Development Team and the Capital Asset Inventory effort. This and the survey are effective strategies to recruit volunteers.
- **Survey:** Consider administering a community survey that will complement and ground the Capital Asset Inventory while engaging the community. Possible questions include:
 - 1. What are the basic values of the community? How does __ reflect your values and the values of others?
 - 2. Why is __ special to you personally?
 - 3. What meaning does __, in whole and in part, hold for you?
 - 4. What are your greatest memories of __?
 - 5. What aspects of __ do you take great pride in?
 - 6. What about __ should be protected or preserved?
 - 7. What are the best stories (history) connected to __? What stories are communicated to the public or visitors?
 - 8. Name 3 places you like to take out-of-town visitors.
 - 9. Name 3 public places you like to gather with friends and neighbors.

3. Field Exercise

- **Divide into Teams**: Assign volunteers to Community Capital Teams (e.g., Natural Capital Team) based on their interest and experience.
- Evaluate Assets under each form of Community Capital: Each Community Capital Team will use the respective Community Capital Asset Inventory Sheet to document the presence or absence of the listed assets under their assigned capital. At the discretion of the Informed Development Team, they may also be assigned to grade the strength of each asset or rank assets by order of strength based on their value to community development. The goal is to reach consensus but this likely won't be possible. Documenting varied opinions is also valuable for Informed Development. Teams should use their own experience with the assets for this task along with available maps, research and reports, and survey results (see above). They may also choose to engage the community at large by hosting discussion events.
- **Observation**: Community Capital Teams are encouraged to visit, observe, and experience less familiar assets when appropriate and possible.

• **Detail Strongest Assets**: Community Capital Teams should use the space provided to document further detail including names and descriptions for those assets considered strongest or that provide the greatest community development opportunities.

4. Workshop

- **Chose a Location**: Workshop location should be accessible and neutral. Let local media know about the event (e.g., press release).
- **Review Findings**: Gather all Community Capital Teams to share and discuss their findings. Share the complete collection of compiled Community Capital Asset Inventory Sheets with all Teams, including the Informed Development Team, in advance of the workshop. The sharing of Team findings is an opportunity for everyone to be informed, not to micromanage or critique the work of other Teams.
- **Correct any Glaring Errors or Omissions**: In rare instances, the review of findings may uncover assets that were not originally identified or considered. Significant omissions, or errors, can be corrected on the inventory sheets at this time.
- Brainstorm ways to Leverage Strongest Assets: Now is the time to look for patterns and relationships across the Community Capitals and among the assets identified. In small groups or roundtables discuss and document those patterns and relationships and ways to leverage the strongest assets under each community capital. At the end of the workshop, create a master list by having each table or discussion group report back to the room. If time allows have everyone vote on their favorite assets and/or favorite leveraging strategies.

Leveraging Assets for Development

The goal of the Community Capital Asset Inventory is to identify and utilize these assets to support Informed Development actions. Actions may include:

- 1. **Inspiring Shared Vision**: Use the Community Capital Asset Inventory to inspire a shared vision for the community's future, emphasizing the unique strengths and opportunities identified. In this way the Community Capital Asset Inventory process serves as preparation for the Vision Exercise/Workshop, helping to align community goals and aspirations.
- 2. Informing Market Position/Competitive Advantage: Leverage the identified assets to strengthen the community's market position and the competitive advantages of the local market. Highlight unique assets that distinguish the community from others and attract businesses and visitors.
- 3. Informing the Community's or District's Brand: Utilize the Community Capital Asset Inventory to craft a brand that reflects the community's unique assets and stories. The brand should communicate a compelling identity. Place Branding is purposeful and targeted Place storytelling.

- 4. **Informing Marketing and Promotional Efforts**: Use the Community Capital Asset Inventory to inform marketing and promotional efforts, including events and advertising campaigns. Showcase the community's assets in promotional materials to attract visitors, residents, and businesses.
- 5. **Informing Community and District Design Choices**: Incorporate the identified assets into community and district design choices, creating structures and spaces that build off those local assets, reflect local values, and communicate the local brand.
- 6. **Informing Business Improvement and Attraction Efforts**: Use the Community Capital Asset Inventory to inform business improvement and attraction efforts. Identify gaps in the business mix and attract businesses that complement and enhance existing assets.
- 7. **Documenting and Sharing Results**: Share the results with the community through newsletters, social media, and public displays to ensure transparency and engagement.

By systematically inventorying and analyzing the community's assets, the Informed Development process can result in a comprehensive list of strategies that leverage these assets. This approach not only enhances the community's economic potential but also fosters a sense of pride and ownership among residents, leading to a more vibrant and resilient community and an improved quality of life. By following these steps and leveraging your community's strongest or most unique assets, you can achieve authentic and sustainable community development.

Asset Inventory Sheet – Natural Assets/Capital

Quality and quantity of natural & environmental resources that can be leveraged for community development. Place based natural amenities, natural context, natural landscapes and materials.

Examples: ✓, rank or grade	Natural Strengths	Ways to Leverage
 Greenspace, greenways Urban forest, street trees, monumental tree 		
□ Forest, timber		
□ Water (quality & quantity), hydrology □ Rivers, lakes, etc.		
□Waterfront		
□ Geology, minerals □ Soil, land		
 Farms, ranches Topography, landforms (hills, mountains, valleys) 		
□Climate		
 □ Air quality □ Scenic landscapes, views/vistas 		
 Biodiversity, ecology Wildlife (species, populations, 		
endangered/threatened)		
□ Natural places that hold meaning, significance		
□ Outdoor recreation		
opportunities (hunting, fishing, biking, hiking,		
canoeing, camping) □Trails		
□ Outfitters □ Campgrounds		
Public land		

How do your Natural Assets/Capital interact with your Cultural and Built Assets/Capital? Do your Natural Asset/Capital interact with your Social, Human, Financial, or Political Assets/Capital?

Asset Inventory Sheet – Cultural Assets/Capital

Inherited values, norms, beliefs, & traditions – plus material goods produced that have historical or cultural significance – that can be leveraged for community development. Place based 'flavor' reflective of local values; preserved, developed, & communicated cultural & historic resources; art (dignity, drama, whimsey).

Examples: \checkmark , rank or grade	Cultural Strengths	Ways to Leverage
🗆 Ethnicity, shared identity		
□ Families (quantity, quality)		
□ Traditions and how they are		
passed down (voices) Traditional skills, artifacts		
\Box Traditional food		
□ Traditional music		
□ Traditional dress		
\Box Work ethic		
Cultural history/stories		
preservation/interpretation History museums & 		
associations		
Culturally significant places		
\Box Arts and culture groups,		
organizations and institutions		
Artists, musicians, singers,		
dancers, writers, poets,		
actors, comedians, carvers,		
quilt makers, furniture		
makers, instrument makers,		
chefs, etc.		
\Box Arts and culture events &		
festivals		
🗆 Entertainment (other)		
□ Public art		
Art museums, galleries		
☐ Music/comedy venues		
□ Performing Arts Centers,		
theaters		
🗆 Culinary kitchens,		
restaurants □ Studios, workshops, art		
schools		

How do your Cultural Assets/Capital interact with your Natural, Built and Social Assets/Capital? Do your Cultural Asset/Capital interact with your Human, Financial, or Political Assets/Capital?

Asset Inventory Sheet – Social Assets/Capital

Connections existing among people and organizations that help make things happen including community development. Place based bonds and bridges (connections), reduced physical (ADA) and social barriers, options allowing for choice (mixed use, programming).

Examples: ✓, rank or grade	Social Strengths	Ways to Leverage
 Rich social networks Strong network structure, cohesion 		
□ Relationships, trust □ Friends, friendliness		
 Friendships across income gaps, ethnicity, etc. 		
Group membership, identity, spirit of cooperation		
 Rates of volunteering Organizations that enrich the community 		
□ Civic and service organizations		
 Youth groups, senior groups, etc. Trade/business associations 		
 Entrepreneurial ecosystem Mentorship programs 		
□ Connectors (the 'glue' people)		
□ Community attachment, sense of belonging		
Engaged public (individuals, businesses		
and/or groups supporting community development efforts)		
□ Shared vision/goals □ Brand		
Other names or titles for your community (i.e., the big apple)		
□ Gathering places □ Place programming		
Multipurpose, versatile public space (place)		

How do your Social Assets/Capital interact with your Cultural, Built, Human and Financial Assets/Capital? Do your Social Asset/Capital interact with your Natural or Political Assets/Capital?

Asset Inventory Sheet – Built Assets/Capital

Infrastructure – the basic set of facilities, services and physical structures needed by a community – that can be further leveraged for community development. Place based effective and functional physical configuration, clear edge, strong center, complementary circulation system (ped, bike, transit, auto).

Examples: \checkmark , rank or grade	Built Strengths	Ways to Leverage
\Box Built history (buildings and		
spaces)		
Public/community buildings		
and public spaces		
□ Housing (quality & quantity)		
□ Housing options		
Healthcare facilities, system		
□ Industrial/business parks □ Spec buildings		
□ Spec buildings □ Major employers		
Hotels, overnight lodging		
Available built space ready		
for occupancy		
Developers		
□ Infrastructure		
\Box Transportation system (all		
modes)		
□ Airport		
□ Parking (all modes) □ Lighting (all scales)		
□ Ugriting (att scates) □ Wayfinding system		
□ Water & sewer		
🗆 Gas & electric		
□ Telecommunications,		
broadband, etc.		
□ Clear community edge,		
gateway		
☐ Strong community center		
Downtown, NBDs		
□ Business niches/clusters		
\Box Complementary circulation		
system		
□ Traffic including foot		
traffic		
Healthy density		

How do your Built Assets/Capital interact with your Natural, Cultural, and Social Assets/Capital? How do your Built Assets/Capital interact with your Human and Financial Assets/Capital? Do your Built Assets/Capital interact with your Political Assets/Capital?

Asset Inventory Sheet – Human Assets/Capital

Attributes of individuals that provide them with the ability to earn a living, improve a business, strengthen a community, and otherwise contribute to self-improvement, to their families, to businesses, to community organizations, and to community development.

Examples: , rank or grade</th <th>Human Strengths</th> <th><u>Ways to leverage</u></th>	Human Strengths	<u>Ways to leverage</u>
 Entrepreneurial people Creative, innovative people Artists, crafts persons and their unique talent 		
 Active and healthy people (physical, emotional, spiritual) Heath indicators 		
□ Confident (risk taking) people		
□ Skilled people		
Teachers, education programs/systems (formal & informal)		
Educational attainment		
 Trainers, training programs/systems Workforce training, on the 		
job training		
Incubators, accelerators Engaged/attached workforce		
□ Work ethic		
Low unemployment, crime		
 Leaders, leadership development programs/systems 		
□ People of influence, thought leaders, legitimizers		
Engaged/attached public (donors of time and talents)		
□ Diversity of skills, talents, experiences		

How do your Human Assets/Capital interact with your Social Assets/Capital? How do your Human Assets/Capital interact with your Built and Financial Assets/Capital? Do your Human Assets/Capital interact with your Natural, Cultural or Political Assets/Capital?

Asset Inventory Sheet – Financial Assets/Capital

Efforts to build wealth and financial resources available to invest in local people, projects, places or community development initiatives.

Examples: ✓, rank or grade	Financial Strengths	Ways to Leverage
 Personal wealth, income Fair wages Savings Transfer of wealth practice 		
 Business capital, earnings Tax base, public revenues Special assessment/tax districts (BID tax, room tax) 		
 Willingness/track record for investing in development Public-private investment dollars 		
Engaged/attached public (donors of money)		
 Available/accessible sources of financing/funding Capital institutions and their programs 		
(community banks, CDFIs)		
 Micro and revolving loan funds CRA Small Business 		
Loan Originations		
crowdlending Community foundations, private foundations, 		
crowdfunding, charitable giving		
□ Grants □ Local financial incentive programs		
□ Regulatory exemptions		
Percentage of businesses that are locally owned and operated		

How do your Financial Assets/Capital interact with your Social Assets/Capital? How do your Financial Assets/Capital interact with your Built and Human Assets/Capital? Do your Financial Assets/Capital interact with your Natural or Political Assets/Capital?

Asset Inventory Sheet – Political Assets/Capital

The ability to influence and enforce rules, regulations, and standards. Participating in civic discourse on community issues including development. Place based investment in people to shape products and in products to shape people.

Examples: \checkmark , rank or grade	Political Strengths	Ways to leverage
 Transparency in civic decision making Inclusiveness in civic decision making, agency Participation in civic decision making Spirit of equality (aids the above) 		
 Voting rates, engaged electorate Engaged elected and appointed officials 		
 Candidates for public office (quantity, quality) Candidates for appointments (quantity, 		
quality) Engaged government workers Dublic private partnership		
□ Public-private partnership □ Civic leaders		
□ Ability to affect the other six community assets/capital and their distribution		
□ Access to power		

How do your Political Assets/Capital interact with your Social Assets/Capital? Do your Political Assets/Capital interact with your Built, Human and Financial Assets/Capital? Do your Political Assets/Capital interact with your Natural or Cultural Assets/Capital?