

Community Bootcamp 2023

A program of the Western Community Assessment Network



March 23 & 30

April 6,13, 20, 27

January 17, 2023

Dear Community Members,

The Western Community Assessment Network (WeCAN) is a partnership between University of Idaho Extension, Idaho Rural Partnership, Montana Economic Developers Association, Montana State University Extension, University of Wyoming Extension, and the Wyoming Business Council. We started working together in 2018 to support and enhance Community Review programs in each state. See the WeCAN site <https://www.communityreview.org> for information about our work.

Early in the pandemic, we wondered what we could do together to provide additional help to rural communities. Conversations with members of the WeCAN design team and WeCAN PLNs in the three states led us to conclude that expanding the local leadership base, opportunities to apply leadership skills, building capacity to finance local projects, and collaboration and project implementation skills are most needed in small communities. From our experiences conducting Community Reviews we also know that improving quality of life, building connections among community members, arts, culture and engaging youth in community building activities are the kinds of projects topping resident priority lists. Compared with projects like big infrastructure, many of these can be done with relatively low levels of capital investment and through collaborations among ordinary citizens and service organizations.

The WeCAN Community Bootcamp program will guide communities from project identification to implementation in a series of virtual workshops in March and April. These 1.5 – 2-hour evening sessions will include a short workshop delivered by experts from around the country, as well as peers from communities in Idaho, Montana and Wyoming sharing experiences with implementing placemaking projects. Each session will also include community breakouts when your team can apply what you just learned to a project in your own community. We will help guide you through the steps each week, provide coaching after the series is over, and match funds you raise to make your project happen.

If you would like to participate, please complete this simple application by 11:59 pm on February 24th, 2023, and send it to [marcimiller@uidaho.edu](mailto:marcimiller@uidaho.edu).

*NOTE: We are selecting only five communities from each state for this opportunity so submit applications ASAP!*

**WeCAN Community Bootcamp**

**DETAILS**

**BOOTCAMP AGENDA**

* Several short stories of successful placemaking projects will be shared by rural community leaders that made things happen in their communities. Teams will be introduced to user-friendly planning approaches as well how to brainstorm and prioritize ideas for your community.
* Building a Networks and Telling Stories. Kathleen Minogue, founder of Crowdfund Better and Crowdfund Idaho, will share with you how to create stories that make local organizations and individuals want to invest in your project and how you can identify and build a powerful network of support in your community or region.
* Financing Community Projects. Darin Saul and Soren Newman will teach you how to develop a funding toolbox that helps you find the money and other resources to make your project a reality.
* Ready, Set, Launch Your Project. Bringing it all together in a simple blueprint and engagement plan for success. University of Wyoming’s Julie Daniels will lead this interactive session.

**COMMUNITY BENEFITS**

* Apply all this learning to a community project that the community team works on together. You’ll leave the bootcamp with a plan for completing your project and inspiration, motivation, team support and ongoing coaching to help that happen.
* Communities that complete the Community Bootcamp are eligible for **$500 in matching funds** to support their selected project.
* Up to $200 to support costs associated with venues and video conference technology. Workshops will be delivered virtually but community teams will come together in their communities for the workshops (we can help you to identify a location if assistance is needed).

**COMMUNITY REQUIREMENTS AND EXPECTATIONS**

The virtual gathering is designed to be as inclusive and expansive as possible for each community. Therefore, communities wishing to participate must complete the included application demonstrating community support. Complete and return the application to Marci Miller ([marcimiller@uidaho.edu](mailto:marcimiller@uidaho.edu)) by February 24, 2023.

Best Regards,

Lorie Higgins, Community Development Specialist & WeCAN Director

University of Idaho Extension

**WeCAN Community Bootcamp**

**APPLICATION**

Community: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Individual Completing the Application: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Sponsoring Organization (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ City/Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Organizing Committee**

Please let us know who will be assisting with the planning and organizing of your community’s local event. We would like to have names, email, mailing address and phone numbers of two or three people who will be assisting with the site planning. We will communicate with this group about all aspects of this event.

1) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

2) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

3) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Share your community’s “why” for participating.**

Very briefly (5-6 sentences) share your community’s reasons for wanting to participate in this event and your ideas/vision for planning and conducting your local event. What are the outcomes you hope for?

**Collaboration/Community Partnership Roster**

Having people from all parts of your community participate is the key to a successful Community Bootcamp experience. To get more than “the same ten people” to attend, it is best to make sure that a broad and representative range of different people are informed and involved.

There are many ways to partner to make your Community Bootcamp experience a success (i.e., getting a project off the ground following the Bootcamp series). Some groups you might consider asking for help include your community foundation, school, local media outlets, healthcare, civic organizations, senior centers, chamber of commerce, youth organizations, law enforcement or faith-based organizations.

Brainstorm and identify six potential partners in your community who may help to create a successful team. Four MUST sign below as a commitment to hosting or participating in your local gathering.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Individual, Group or Organization  Name | Interest/Role | Possible  Contributions  (Assets they bring) | Signature of Commitment |
| 1) |  |  |  |
| 2) |  |  |  |
| 3) |  |  |  |
| 4) |  |  |  |
| 5) |  |  |  |
| 6) |  |  |  |

Return your application by February 24th to:

Marci Miller ([marcimiller@uidaho.edu](mailto:marcimiller@uidaho.edu))

Don’t hesitate to contact us with questions!