

The gifts of and inspiration behind Asset-Based Community Development



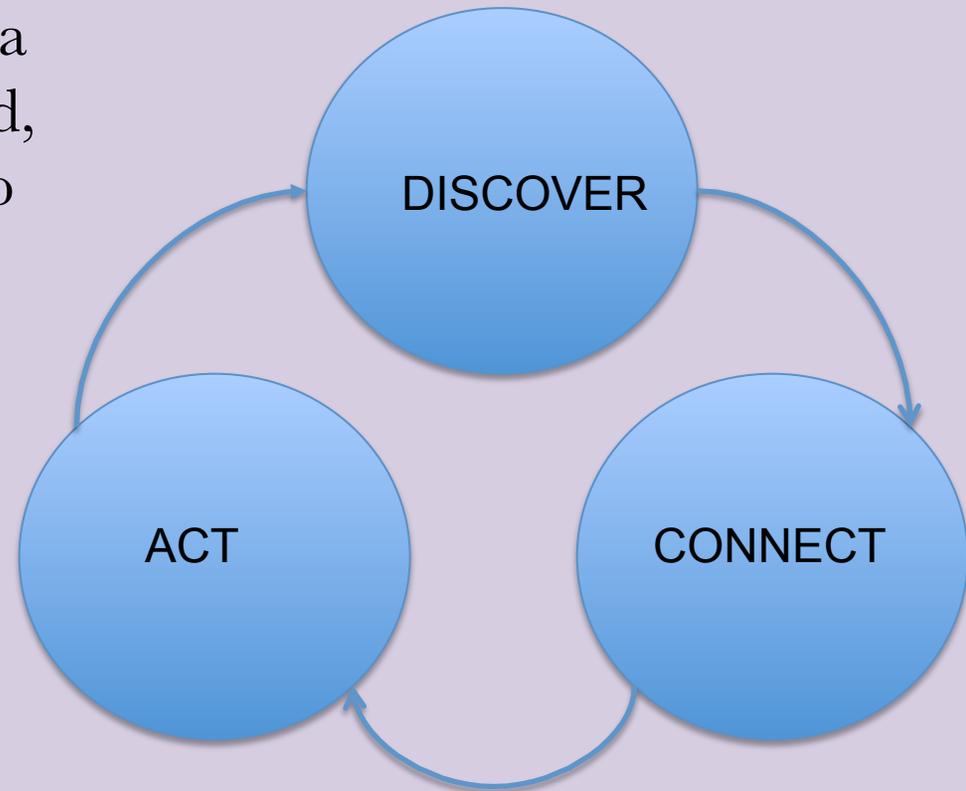
**IAN PRESTON
HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FELLOW
THE UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS**

ABCD: tenets

- What is an asset? What is it not?
- Gift/resource vs. liquid asset, etc.

ABCD: a process

- ABCD is an iterative process where all of the assets of a community are discovered, shared, and acted upon to better the community.



ABCD: tenets

- [The traditional approach to problem-solving: Identifying a need and reacting to it.]
- [ABCD approach: something more may unexpectedly come of it.]

ABCD: tenets

- Gift-mindedness
 - Each person has a gift to offer (and they are happy to offer it!)
 - *“Every single person has capacities, abilities, and gifts. Living a good life depends on whether those capacities can be used, abilities expressed and gifts given.”*
 - John McKnight

ABCD: tenets

- Doing with, rather than doing to your neighborhood.
 - Honors and respects indigenous wisdom and leadership.
 - Asks, “What do people care about, enough to act on it?”
 - *The best people to deal with a problem are the people most affected by the problem.*

Communities of Shalom

- South Memphis Shalom Zone
- Highland Heights Shalom Zone
- Making it Happen Shalom Zone

- We must ask ourselves, “What are we called to do?”

Case Study: Walter Gates and the South Memphis community gardens



Case Study: MemFix

- Leveraging existing assets and inviting the community to show what is possible on the block!



- Turn to your neighbor for a moment to identify and discuss what assets exist within the community or neighborhood that you come from.

- What are some assets that you or your neighbor might not have thought are assets?

- How will you return to your own community and inspire others to embrace an asset approach?
 - Choose one value or belief that you share with someone else.