

CommonKnowledge

Common Knowledge Group facilitates new partnerships that generate new possibilities. At this season of Thanksgiving, help us celebrate the fruits of our collective efforts using more inclusive and innovative approaches to improving individual and community wellbeing.

Common Ground on Housing

San Mateo County's Home for All and four extraordinary city teams worked with us to pilot more inclusive approaches to community engagement. Together with partners, each city developed more forward momentum for housing decisions. A primary finding is that a far broader cross section of each community is interested in housing solutions, especially affordable housing solutions for families that live and work in the community, than had previously been evident to city officials.



Equally important outcomes have been increased awareness among community members about the multiple dimensions of the issue, their interconnectedness and reduced misunderstandings and stereotypes about "others."

Community members appreciated the opportunity to learn together and have indicated a desire to stay involved. Some examples of their feedback:

"People are more interested than I realized in creating a more diverse community. I am encouraged!"

"Let's keep this healthy, productive, open, inclusive dialogue on track for more of the same going forward."

We're comparing experiences with housing dialogues conducted in other parts of the state and country. Let us know if you want to join the conversation.

Navigating the News

The Pacific Library Partnership asked us to help shape a collaborative process to develop a News Literacy toolkit. Libraries are one of the few institutions that have retained public trust in the information they provide. And most people are looking for help navigating the proliferation of media sources. Yet, the library is not top of mind as a resource when navigating the news.

The project used a multi-dimensional **community driven design process** that involved a forum with librarians and journalists, a library survey, patron focus groups and workshops, and team of librarians that developed and curated a complete suite of materials. Check out the project's **core presentation** that captures the project's key findings all in one place. The public wants help finding quality news and libraries are well positioned to help.



Finding Quality News



Libraries Expand Support for Family Literacy

The California State Library was successful in securing additional funds to help increase family literacy. We were asked to help develop a landscape analysis of how the state library's network of over 100 library-based literacy programs are currently supporting adult learners in their role as parents and caregivers.



Integral to the analysis was an opportunity to interview library directors along with the literacy coordinator and youth services librarians to appreciate how they are partnering inside their libraries as well as out in the community to help more families embrace learning together. The [report](#) findings show that from north to south, urban to rural, libraries throughout California are implementing creative approaches and longstanding best practices to improve outcomes for families. We're excited to see how libraries continue this vital work with the help of additional funding.

What do you really mean by "facilitation"?

Common Knowledge often gets calls for "facilitation support." When a community meeting falls short of its goals, there can be a natural tendency to assume that "better facilitation" would have made the difference. We help our partners look more broadly at the whole process of how people have been invited into the conversation, the design of the meeting and the design of community-facing information that creates some common reference points. These steps help create the conditions that then use skilled facilitation to generate more constructive conversations. Investing in upstream planning pays off in moving your community

further along on the path to shared goals. Common Knowledge provides [trainings](#) for local government, libraries, the civic tech community and public/private partnerships. We'd be delighted to talk to you about your "facilitation" needs.

With gratitude to all of our clients and colleagues and best wishes for Thanksgiving.

From your friends at the Common Knowledge Group:
Susan Stuart Clark, William Cooley, Momy Flores-Bauer, Harriet Mayeri, Victor Reyes and Nancy Fox.



Common Knowledge | 415-454-6500 | info@ckgroup.org | www.ckgroup.org

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