

The Historygram Process

Purpose

This process gives the entire community an opportunity to view the number and types of changes that have occurred and gives people a chance to take the best parts of the past with them as they move into a new, uncertain future.

Benefits

- ✚ People feel appreciated for their experience, wisdom and perspectives
- ✚ Changes are informed by what has and hasn't worked in the past and why

Materials needed

- ✚ Multiple colors or flipchart markers
- ✚ Large pieces of shelf paper, butcher paper, flipchart paper, tagboard, foamboard
- ✚ Magazines (optional)
- ✚ Photos (optional)
- ✚ Scissors (optional)

Process

1. Bring together a diverse group representing many sectors and members of the community. Include people who have been around a long time as well as those who have recently moved to the community.
2. Group people according to when they began living in the community. Call these "eras".
3. Have each group develop storyboards showing the following information from their era:
 - a. Major initiatives and their goals
 - b. Major crises or turning points
 - c. Symbols, ceremonies and traditions
 - d. What was happening in the world
 - e. What was happening in the community
 - f. A name or title for the era
 - g. Values they want to take from that era into the future
4. Have each group share their storyboard.
5. Capture the values separately so they can be developed as part of the vision for the community's future.
6. Have the group as a whole summarize the learning by identifying themes, patterns and cycles that have made up the community's history. Identify patterns they want to continue or stop.

Source: *The Handbook for SMART School Teams*, page 218

