

Grantlines: Partnering Local Projects

A workshop for community groups to build partnerships for their projects

What is the *Grantlines: Partnering Local Projects* Workshop?

Grantlines: Partnering Local Projects is a workshop for community groups who are interested in developing partnerships for local projects within and beyond their communities. The Workshop covers practical and proven ways for community groups with local projects to develop the foundations for effective partnerships with those who share an interest in their community. It is based on *Grantlines: Partnering Local Projects* community guide (June 2014) and is part of Turnstone Projects Grantlines service.

Why would a community group attend a Workshop?

Locally-based volunteer groups and associations who seek to bring about positive, long-term change will often benefit from establishing partnerships with others within and beyond their community. When local projects, guided by community groups, join with organisations already connected to or interested in the community it can bring additional energy, publicity, expertise, resources, profile and connections. It contributes to the impact of the project, brings value to the partners in the work they do and support the community's sustainability. This Workshop helps build the bridge between the community and potential partners in a considered way.

What is covered in the Workshop?

The Workshop is divided into two modules: About the Project and About the Partners. In each module, community groups are guided through processes and activities that will develop or review their project and identify potential partners for collaboration. The Workshops can be tailored to a particular project at any stage of its development or can have a broader focus and cover a range of projects within the community. The Workshop draws heavily on Turnstone Projects community guide: *Grantlines: Partnering Local Project*. The Guide is provided to all participants and includes additional material, references and activities for community groups to further their projects following the Workshop.

The Benefits of attending a Workshop

The Workshop helps community groups in the following ways:

1. Discussing existing projects, identifying where further information is needed, reviewing project outputs and outcomes, planning, documenting and assigning next steps for the project.
2. Converting these discussions into written material for your project proposal and/or material to promote your community / town / region to a wider audience.
3. Assessing your project as potential partners would.
4. Mapping community assets and identifying linkages as a basis for partnerships.
5. Determining where the potential exists for partnerships and what your project provides each of the nominated partners.
6. Developing the skills and awareness for forming partnerships among participants supporting your community's viability and sustainability.



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Grantlines: Partnering Local Projects helps community groups build or hone their skills in establishing effective and appropriate partnerships beneficial for all.

Partnership project examples

Projects suited to partnerships are those that are long-term or bring about major positive change in a community.

Examples include:

- improving early childhood health and ensure a successful transition to school;
- establishing a community garden to promote healthy eating that also includes opportunities for education and training qualifications, employment and business;
- bringing new life to historical but disused community 'assets';
- providing support for the community during or following industry restructuring;
- supporting an annual arts-based or education-based event that brings a range of people from within and beyond the community together;
- purchasing a significant item – historical or contemporary – that helps build the identity of the region and boost its tourism potential; and
- helping a community centre that provides a broad range of services – from maternal health to migrant resettlement – with additional resources and planning to accommodate increasing demand.

There are, of course, many other projects that benefit from having strong partnerships. What projects have in common is a need for collaboration in order to address the often complex and challenging issues involved.

This Workshop and Guide promotes an asset-based approach

The Workshop uses an approach to partnerships that is about leveraging from existing assets within the community. Assets can mean any business, organisation, association or individual already connected to or interested in the community. People and organisations with a connection to or interest in your community are often keen to contribute. In many cases they will already be contributing but they may also be looking for new, different or more sustainable ways to engage. The Workshop, and with the support of the Guide, aims to help community groups identify these groups and make these connections.

The benefits of undertaking an asset-based approach include:

1. Providing a detailed and systematic approach to identifying potential partners.
2. Ensuring all members of the community group are clear about who is being approached and what is being requested.
3. Identifying those potential partners who share similar values, culture and focus with the community.
4. Informing the broader community about your project by preparing clear and compelling information about what you are doing and why.
5. Building a collaborative model of engagement with the broader community.

Workshop detail and costs

A workshop is six hours and can be held at a time that most suits those attending. The intention is to make the workshop accessible and costs are kept to a minimum. Included in the costs are refreshments, catering and a copy of the Guide. Often local sponsorship by interested organisations, partners or other contributors are sought from within the community to reduce the costs for attendees. There are up to 15 places per workshop. Please contact Rebecca Iliffe to discuss a workshop.

About Turnstone Projects and Rebecca Iliffe (MA IntRel UNSW, BAppScAg Melb)

Rebecca Iliffe established Turnstone Projects in 2003 to work with companies, organisations and communities where shared interests exist. Turnstone Projects works in three related areas: Grantlines, partnering people and projects for good; asset-based regional investment attraction; and project development.

Rebecca began as a professional wool classer in shearing sheds across eastern Australia, followed by early stage processing and facilitating technical training for international users of Australia wool. She then spent over ten years working with government and industry in business and community in development and investment attraction roles in rural and regional areas. She is an experienced presenter and facilitator.

Rebecca has a strong interest in and engagement with philanthropy both as a grant seeker and grant maker. With her husband James, and the involvement of their two young sons, their small family trust supports innovative education-related projects in metropolitan and rural areas across Australia.