

## HI ISOJI participating activist, readers and interested parties

This is an ISOJI community perspective and a direct response to the question submitted to John Logan, MCF. WHAT DOES MCF WANT TO SEE FROM MC? John's questions are in small print.

ISOJI's short answers and is based on the ISOJI 21-years of experiences with project coordination, start-ups, connecting expertise, talents, and soliciting equity feedback from existing programs, services, operations, managers and CEO's.

We call our set of initiatives "CODE BLUE" which is an accumulation of experiences, observations, existing tools and works in progress that takes us towards a coordinating community tools and systems towards a planning process. Never-the-less the ISOJI narratives will help establish priorities, process and interim objectives priorities

1. What are the goals of the plan?
2. Who is the organization leading the planning effort?
3. What buy-in does that organization have from other key community stakeholders?
4. What are you hoping to do with plan once developed?
5. Who are the prospective investor

### What are the goals of the plan?

The goals of our initiatives (not a plan in the formal sense) are to provide the community and external decision-makers, planners, supportive activist and potential investors, with systems, tools or practices that support communications, strategic coordination, accountability and feedback loops – necessities for a plan.

These are the same ISOJI "keep-on keeping-on" type of activities that resulted in the establishment of the Health & Wellness Center, resource directories, the once viable Council of Organizations, MDT, community land trust workshops, changes in the food/nutrition values for SMCSO, populating our websites with community relevant information and database, convening over 160 monthly public equity update forums, encouraging the California Office of Health Equity to visit MC 5 times, actively serving on the school unification and art-science magnet school initiative, actively trying to raise interest in getting a CDFI credentialed credit union into the shopping center; and most importantly, do what we can to help add capacity and functionality to the CSD. The time has come to support the implementation of pre-planning, exploratory design team.

### Who is the organization leading the planning effort?

The CSD will need much more capacity, shared power, and less conflict of interest by its Board of directors, and time for the new district manager to get a feel community needs and the embedded barriers.

ISOJI can help in designing a collaboratory team, help create protocols for research, data collection, intersectionality (communications), educational outreach, train in "systems thinking" or treat programs, services, operations and projects as "equity-building system.

The CSD, as a start much exercise its authority as an “appointing authority” covering community affairs: committees, agents, special consultants, etc.

### What buy-in does that organization have from other key community stakeholders?

There can't be community wide buy-in for a community plans because one does not exist. ISOJI has extensive response from every organization in and many from outside the community. The results of our work, our neutrality, our volunteers' **unfunded** status, and our belief we should protect the integrity of existing institutions doing good work (including the faith community) put us in a unique position to promote a special type of community cohesion that directly supports intersectionality (love this word). We should be able paint a picture or create a definitive narrative of what a community looks like when internal orgs and their operations support one another.

However; the MCGGV and CDC is one challenge area we are hoping MCF and Supervision can help us solve.

### What are you hoping to do with plan once developed?

We will share our work tools, systems thinking with a formal planning entity. However, the once inhibiting factor is our lack of capacity to do fund development, sustainability planning, or have a CDFI or banking presence working on behalf of the community. There are 5 capital improvement projects that must be collective address because of their collective impact on the community as a whole. Banking is an absolute necessity. Of course, the community will have bring on board the skills and talents that will support the vision of an equity-based, wrap around, integrated community. The approach to achieving this has to be systematic--systemic and long term.

### Who are the prospective investors?

It doesn't matter, who, possibilities, MCF, rich donors, corporate sponsors, large federal grants – they all will want “returns” on their investments, a demonstration how existing assets are being used (John's words) a system of accountability, transparency that underpin “returns” on investments is essential. All investing Boards want to know if their resources and dollars are really making a difference.

I would strongly suggest a system of very visible indicators (backed up by data if warranted for public transparency and info-sharing) that has universal appeal to all stakeholders, especially residents and families in the community.

From our organizations, operating as silos or not, most data goes to their individual funders/sponsors. Funding has never been distributed from a centralize hub (Marin city project 1994-1999 tried) and I've never seen any of the foundations or Feds take to heart the need to forward progress indicators, testimonials, quality assurances indexes directly back into community wide awareness efforts – a community who is looking gentrification right in the face and must have a different relationship with the word “trust”. Trust can be measured through testimonials and other quality of community-life indexes.

ISOJI will never submit, or advise any community institution to submit a community proposal for a plan, unless some very specific tools are in place or being worked on.

One being the reconciliation of hampering differences between local organizations operating in a shared geography like MC.

**PROGRESSIVE KEYWORDS:** coordination, collective impacts, feedback loops, capacity-building, accountability, measures of equity/status, local government capacity, community banking presence, mutually shared values, succession leadership (dev), committed partnerships, existing assets and utilization, council of organizations, housing and home-ownership, gentrification, systems efficiency (systems conscious of itself/explained), definition of social equity that matches community criteria and needs, community land trust, critical monitoring of \*developers, and the need for legal support.

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