

TOP 10 TAKEAWAYS

What's Next EKY?! Community Connections: Why Connections Matter

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1. To get your idea off the ground- start by gathering a few more people who also believe in your idea and are willing to put their reputation and energy behind it.
2. Gather input from others in your community to understand their vision and needs. What's Next EKY?! Regional Partner, CEDIK, has tools available to help with community brainstorming and decision-making and can assist with community design projects. [Click here](#) to learn more.
3. Make other people feel important. To demonstrate to them that you are listening and value their thoughts, write down their ideas as they share them with you.
4. Do a crowdfunding campaign to raise money and gather public support for your project. Interested in learning from a WNEKY?! Community Partner with experience hosting a successful crowdfunding campaign? [Reach out to Dan & Mindy Click](#), founders of the Grayson Gallery & Art Center.
5. Don't pass on opportunities to introduce yourself and tell your story. Welcoming someone to your space or community goes a long way, and it's a great opportunity to introduce yourself and the cause you're passionate about. Stories are powerful and when people connect with them, they're more likely to remember the great community project you told them about! Encourage them to ask you questions about your work.
6. To develop new partnerships with other organizations or groups, do your research. Find out what their goals are and think about how your goals align to build off mutual interests. Think of some good questions to ask them.
7. Try not to "gatekeep" resources-- helping connect others to resources can lead to more resources for everyone in the long-run.
8. Give people the chance to say "no"! They can't say "no" unless you *ask them* (to volunteer or invest in your idea). By assuming they will say no, you rob them of the opportunity to say "yes."
9. Measure and communicate the impact that your work is having on the community. Show the partners that have supported the work the benefit that their partnership had!
10. Don't let naysayers get you down. Connect with others regionally doing similar work. Join the WNEKY?! Facebook group [here](#).