

LEAD Blog

Home Categories Tags Bloggers Team Blogs Search

LEAD at Rio+20: Putting People First

By Sam Gillick on Jun 19 in LEAD International 0 Comments

What does a sustainable community look like? How do you build one?

These were the kind of questions that we set out to answer at 'Putting People First - Building Sustainable Cities with Communities,' an event run by LEAD in Rio de Janeiro on 16 June 2012.



'Putting People First' was facilitated by Edward Kellow, LEAD International's Head of Learning and Leadership, and showcased the work of three LEAD Fellows: Leo Martins Dias (Brazil), Anton de Wit (South Africa) and John Lewis (Canada).

Over the course of the event, participants were also encouraged to tell each other about their own communities. The room buzzed with conversation as people talked passionately about where they came from and compared experiences.

Leo gave a touching personal account of seeing the problems of the favelas first hand as a child and the challenge of doing something about it as an adult.



Anton talked about communities in Port Elizabeth, Republic of South Africa. Many of the people living on the flood plane in Port Elizabeth would not play a part in improving their communities: they refused to move from their squalid living conditions into temporary accommodation so that they area could be improved.

The engagement of these communities was important to Anton but as a white man trying to engage with a predominantly black area, he needed to have local champions. This different engagement strategy accompanied using unusual methods to survey the communities, such as storytelling.

John followed by talking about his project, Bow-to-Bluff. It acts as a bridge between a communities and government around a transportation corridor issue in Calgary, Canada. In order to engage with the local communities, he tried to create an open house event at a storefront in a central location.

By talking to people in a way that was convenient to them, rather than asking people to come to him, John was able to build a stronger and more inclusive relationship with communities. In addition to sourcing information with the notice boards, John also ran a series of workshops with the communities to engage them on a more personal level.

At the end of these successful three hours, the Fellows were bombarded by questions and the participants were even willing to stay in a rather stuffy room for a further 30 minutes to find out more about LEAD.

Like 3 Send

Tweet 5

0

+1

Tags: Port Elizabeth, Favelas, Calgary, cities, sustainability, communities, Rio+20, Putting People First, LEAD International, LEAD Southern and Eastern Africa, LEAD Brazil, LEAD Canada, LEAD

Rate this blog entry 5 stars 2 votes

CRITICAL FRIENDS INTERNATIONAL: COORPORATE STAKEHO...

My experiences at Rio+20 by Pedro Nogueira - LEAD ...

Author: SAM GILICK, Related Posts, Trackbacks

Comments

No comments made yet. Be the first to submit a comment

Leave your comment

Comment form with fields for Name, E-mail, Website, and a Submit Your Comment button.