
Solidarity Driven Co-design

— Amplifying the voices,
experiences and stories of
marginalized communities —

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Learning/Reflection Objectives

- 1) Participate in an honest conversation about parent involvement in our systems/contexts and define co-design.
- 2) Highlight the expertise, knowledge, cultural practices, and organized power of non-dominant families to construct more equitable systems.
- 3) Provide guiding principles and recommendations to engage our families in systemic transformation toward equity.



People, families, organizations in marginalized communities struggle everyday; it is a way of life that is necessary for survival, and when theorized and mobilized can become a powerful strategy for transformation.

-Linda Tuhiwai Smith, Decolonizing Methodologies: Research and Indigenous Peoples (2012)



What does Family Engagement mean to us?
What is the first thing that comes to mind?
What does it look like in your setting?

- **Share out-Unmute mic or type in the chat**

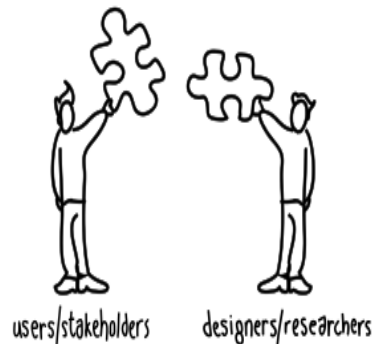
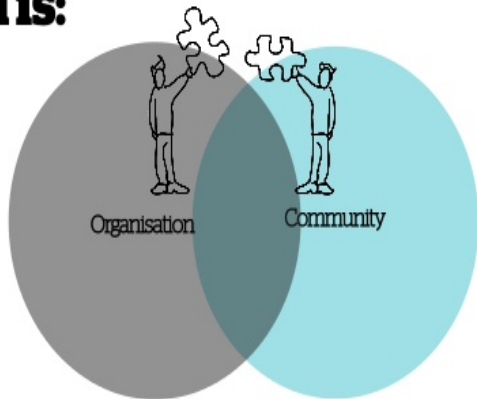


How do we define Co-design?

CO-DESIGN WHAT?

Co-design is:

Working with the community as active participants in the design process, to create shared value



A **democratisation** of the design process



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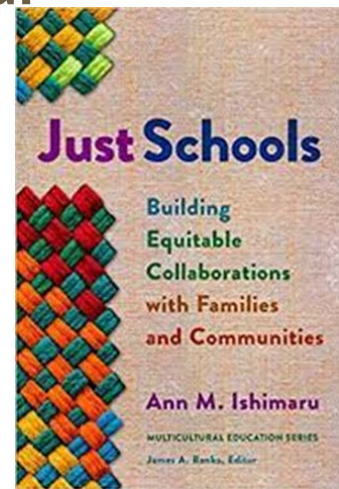
[Educators] can make imagined possibilities of equity a reality, but they can only do so with a different understanding of the power relationships between parents and schools.

(Baquedano- López et al., 2013)



Conventional Partnerships vs Equitable Collaborations

- What does it mean for parents to be “Involved”? What comes to mind?
- Can parents be “involved” too much?
- What “plug-in” activities are we currently using in our schools?
- Parent engagement in your context



One cannot expect positive results from an educational or political action program which fails to respect the particular view of the world held by the people. Such program constitutes cultural invasion, good intentions notwithstanding.

-Paulo Freire, *Pedagogy of the Oppressed* (1970)

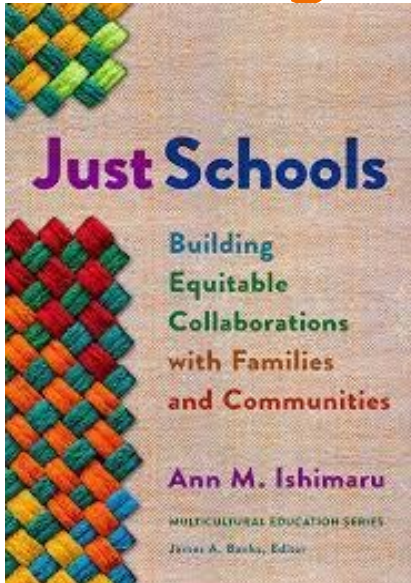


What are the leadership implications of co-design?

- Making room at the table.
- Collaborative, messy process (Educators and families).
- Non-dominant families and communities ARE critical actors in Educational Leadership for Educational Justice.
- Plan WITH families/communities and not FOR them.
- Create spaces for marginalized communities to play key roles in the decision-making process.
- Leadership agility & vulnerability.



4 Key Principles of Codesign



1. Begin with family and community priorities, interests, concerns, knowledge, and resources.
2. Transform power.
3. Build Reciprocity and agency.
4. Undertake change as collective inquiry.



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Codesign Principle #1- Begin with family and community priorities, interests, concerns, knowledge, and resources.

- Know your partners (Context) and be visible.
- Know their names and the names of their children.
- Community walks.
- Initiate and nurture relationships.
- Modify existing structures.
- Invite parents to be co-designers rather than research subjects or informants
- Position parents as key decision makers.
- Be intentional: *Which* parents? *How* is the agenda determined? How will you leverage Familial Expertise to reach your desired outcome and foster solidarities.



Codesign Principle #2-Transform Power

- Beware of positionality.
- Begin with the following: What are the hopes and dreams for YOUR children? What do YOU want the system to look like in 10 years?
- Design, plan and execute with families and not for.
- Identify leaders and leadership within school community.
- Build capacity, invite “leads” to guiding coalition, leadership team, school success team, etc.
- Create roles and responsibilities, offer don’t assign.
- We are not just “training or fixing” parents. Repeat over and over..
- Do not become the “MP.”



Codesign Principle #2-Familias Unidas (Sra. Pastén, Sra. Arellano and Srta. Quintana)

- Could we share about our work in Familias Unidas?
- Why are you (Parents) a part of the group?
- What made you participate? How were you invited? Did that matter?
- How are you working to amplify parent and community voice in your district?
- Advice for administrators and school staff-What do they need to know, so they can empower families?



Codesign Principle #3- Build Reciprocity and Agency

- Identify tool, product, process or strategic action that requires attention.
- The actual process creates a shift from individual parent agency to collective agency
- Parent and teacher co-designing new ways of interacting and collaborating.
- Leverage individual expertise of participants.
- Disrupt institutional scripts.
- Be vulnerable.



Codesign Principle #4- Undertake change as collective inquiry

- Avoid weaponizing data, no trauma on display.
- Engage in Participatory Design Research (PDR) practices.
- Deliberately pose “How can” questions and avoid “how do” questions.
- [Family Leadership Design Collaborative & Co-design](#)
- Co-constructing new knowledge and implementing systemic change.
- Plan, Do, Study, Act
- What is your current Problem of Practice (POP) How did your system decide this? What is your Theory of Action? Who came up with it?



¡Gracias!

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Resources

- <https://www.wabsalliance.org/>
- <https://www.everettsd.org/Page/39021>
- <https://familydesigncollab.org/>