Community Visioning
One process to help a group move from vision to action is community visioning. This process entails engaging the community to develop Vision, Mission, Objectives, Strategies, and Action Plans. https://ctb.ku.edu/en/table-of-contents/structure/strategic-planning/vmosa/

Community Forums
Community forums are meetings open to the public that involve residents to provide input on projects, issues, problems, and needs. http://ctb.ku.edu/en/tablecontents/sub_section_main_1021.aspx

World Café
World Café is a structured conversational process in which groups of people discuss a topic at several tables, with individuals switching tables periodically and getting introduced to the previous discussion. http://theworldcafe.com/method.html

Community Surveys
Community surveys help one to gather info about local attitudes regarding precisely defined issues, problems or opportunities. Surveys may be open ended or multiple choice.

Focus Groups
The focus group is a way to gather the opinions/ideas from a small, targeted group of citizens. The intention of focus groups is perhaps more to build a synergy of thoughts and ideas than it is to make projections about the community. http://ctb.ku.edu/en/tablecontents/sub_section_main_1018.aspx

Storytelling Circles
Storytelling Circles provide an opportunity for individuals to share their stories or ideas based on a theme or prompt in a group setting. Ideally, groups are composed so that a diversity of perspectives participate so information is as representative as possible.

Key Interviews
An interview is a conversation with a purpose, designed to help you gather information about peoples’ assumptions/perceptions of community needs or activities. They are useful when looking for in-depth information on a particular topic. http://ctb.ku.edu/en/tablecontents/sub_section_main_1047.aspx

Asset Mapping
Asset mapping is a technique for cataloguing community assets/resources to meet community objectives. The goal is to identify and use assets to improve community rather than focus on problems/needs.
Community Engagement Tools

Thin Engagement

**Story Maps**

Story Maps are a free online mapping tool powered by ESRI ArcGIS online. Ask community members to provide a photo of their favorite place and share why they love that place (or a memory, story, or a wish for the future). Photos are uploaded to ArcGIS online and geotagged on a map that can be shared online. Story maps can also be used to document tours. [http://storymaps.arcgis.com/en/](http://storymaps.arcgis.com/en/)

**Posters & Chalkboards**

These can be posted in high traffic areas asking questions to elicit responses from community members. It is helpful if there is a volunteer present to encourage people to participate. Possible locations include the library, town hall, recreation center, coffee shops, banks, etc. Or, use mini chalkboards to invite community members to respond and take a photo holding their idea. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uebxllrosIMT](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uebxllrosIMT)

**Rich Pictures**

A Rich Picture is a visual representation of a system that depicts all the elements and how they interact. You don’t have to be an artist to do this; in fact, some of the most effective Rich Pictures consist of line drawings, stick figures and arrows. Use cartoons, labels, arrows.

**Post-It Note Flash Mob**

This technique simply enables passers-by to post their thoughts about a particular place, building, or community issue on that structure or place in question using post-it notes. Stickers asking a specific question can also be used. [http://candychang/i-wish-this-was/](http://candychang/i-wish-this-was/)

**Children’s Artwork**

Engaging children through artwork can also be a tool to engage the community. Partner with a school or recreation center to ask children to answer a question and draw a corresponding picture. Use the artwork to decorate places people frequent: town offices, post office, banks, etc.

**More Information:**

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