What is Civic Engagement?

Civic engagement is the process of helping people be active participants in building and strengthening their communities, whether defined as a place or a shared identity or interest.

It's a spectrum of ways people can participate in self-governance, from interactions with government to voluntary associations, and everything in between.

At its best, civic engagement provides personal fulfillment and builds trust throughout communities.

It's a really personal and values-oriented experience.

Broadly speaking, **the values associated with fostering civic engagement…**

ARE ABOUT

- ☑ Trusting and respecting how a community wants to take action for itself
- ☑ Creating agency and power in people, particularly those most affected in a community or by an issue
- ☑ Nurturing or fostering, heathier, stronger, happier places to live
- ☑ Engaging community members in a process
- ☑ Promoting transparency and participation

ARE NOT ABOUT

- ☒ Forcing an opinion or agenda on a community
- ☒ Disempowering or silencing people
- ☒ Eroding or undermining a community
- ☒ Forcing a political agenda
- ☒ Promoting corruption or exclusivity

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Philanthropy for Active Civic Engagement