The Institute for Urban Policy Research at The University of Texas at Dallas

DATA!
WHAT IS IT GOOD FOR?

Dr. Timothy M. Bray
"Rationally, let it be said in a whisper, experience is certainly worth more than theory."
Amerigo Vespucci
What is This?
You Are Here!

What is a data initiative?
Data Initiatives... Defined

- Data Initiatives are “Necessary but Not Sufficient.”
- Data Initiatives, Data Streams, and Community Change.
- Data Initiatives in the Democratization of Data framework.
Democratizing Data – What Does This Mean?

- Democratize
di-ˈmä-kə-ˌtīz
  - To make democratic.
  (Merriam-Webster)

- Democratic
de-mə-ˈkra-tik
  - Relating to, appealing to, or available to the broad masses of the people
    [designed for or liked by most people]
  - Favoring social equality: not snobbish
    [relating to the idea that all people should be treated equally]
  (Merriam-Webster)
Successful Data Initiatives
Power Derives from the Community

- Successful initiatives embrace community engagement.
- Successful initiatives permit, to the extent possible, for locally derived conclusions and recommendations.
Support is Key

Financial Support
- Operating Dollars
- Adoption of Data by the Funding Community

Programming Support
- Program Commitment to Use the Data
- Actual Data Driven Decision-making

Communal Support
- Data Drives Community Collective Action for Change
Audience is Key

- Foundations
- Corporate Community
- Academic Community
- Government Agencies
- Non-Profits
- Community Groups

Transcend
One Key Role

- Every initiative needs a champion.
- More than one is desirable…
  - From different fields
  - From different cultures
  - From different neighborhoods…
DFW IDEA Youth Ambassadors

- If you build it, will they come?
- Youth Participatory Action Research
  - Six-week Intensive Group and Independent Research
  - Poster Presentation
  - Slide Show
  - Play
Citi Community Leadership Initiative

- Using research and information to increase the sustainability of non-profits that serve low- and moderate-income clients

- CCLI Demonstration Projects:
  - Urban Issues Workshop
  - Summer Workshop Series
  - Undergraduate Student Engagement
  - Community Leadership Academy
Data Initiatives Open Doors

They allow the once impossible to become possible…
Done Right, We Can…

- Tell a story…
- Dig deeper…
- Understand the mysterious…
- Debunk myths…
- Figure out what we know that just ain’t so…
The North – South Gap

- A multi-year commitment
- Impartial Research + Advocacy
- 10 Drops in a Bucket
- Data informs change...
- Data motivates change...
- Data doesn’t make change happen...
The Wholeness Index
Successful Initiatives Face Challenges

The political and financial climate are just the beginning…
Typical Challenges Faced…

- Political Challenges
- Financial Storms
- The Non-Profit Reality
- Mission & Scope Creep
Specific Challenges to Data Initiatives

Timeliness  Accessibility  Utility
The Keys to Realizing the Vision Beyond the Data Initiative

- Partnership
- Purpose
- Potential
Questions...