

# Collaborative Democracy Network

## Summary of Roundtable Discussion

### American Society for Public Administration – National Conference Santiam Room, Columbia River Double Tree Hotel, Portland, Oregon March 28, 2004

On March 28, 2004, several participants in the Collaborative Democracy Network met in Portland, Oregon to explore possible synergies between the disciplines of collaborative planning/policy, political science, and public administration around the theme: "Collaborative Policy and Democracy: Building Capable Institutions of Governance for Network Society."

The premise of the dialogue was that very useful discourses in these disciplines are converging around the potential of collaborative policy for advancing democracy, governance, and civil society. The dialogue sought to identify major themes from the discourses and new directions for research and theory. The dialogue began with introductions and a brief summary of the participants' scholarly and practice interest in the topic.

### Mapping the major streams of thought

The focus of the roundtable was a mapping exercise, facilitated by John Bryson, designed to identify major streams of thought from the three disciplines relating to collaborative democracy. Participants were issued a broad-tip marker and several oval pieces of paper. Upon each oval, participants were asked to write a brief description of a single goal or strategy. John then collected one oval from each participant and placed them on the wall at the front of the room. Goals that appeared to be highly specific or instrumental such as "educate journalists about deliberative democracy" were placed lower on the wall whereas more general or ultimate goals such as "improve public policies" were placed higher on the wall. After several rounds of collecting one oval from each of the 13 participants, the wall contained approximately 100 ovals. Taking direction from the group, John then rearranged the ovals into a hierarchy of main-goals and sub-goals, and drew arrows indicating which sub-goals support which main goals. The resulting diagram is attached as an appendix. The diagram can be interpreted as a map of major themes for research in collaborative democracy, as identified by the roundtable participants, and opportunities for the development of strategies for future action.

### Next Steps

At the close of the session, several participants expressed an interest in pursuing further dialogue in the following ways:

- **CDN Roundtables**

Several participants expressed an interest in using the results of the mapping exercise as a starting point for future discussions around research agendas and possible collaborative research projects. Panels and/or roundtables are planned for the following meetings in 2004 (see attached Venues document for further details):

- International Symposium on Society and Resource Management (Keystone, CO, June 2-6. This roundtable is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, June 3, from 12:30-3:30). Following an informal lunch courtesy of the Center for Collaborative Policy, Bill Leach will review the output of the ASPA roundtable in Portland, and will then lead a discussion of theories underlying the practice of collaborative democracy. The premise of the discussion is that the progress and prestige of research in this applied field is being hampered by a real and/or perceived lack of grounding in generalizable theory and testable hypotheses. Similarly, practitioners are suffering from their difficulty justifying (to clients, stakeholders, and peers) why they employ specific facilitation techniques in specific circumstances. However, the potential for building a coherent theory base is great, and the field is now ripe for a comprehensive self-assessment. The goal of the roundtable is to identify major theoretical traditions from across the social sciences, where theory is mature and frequently cited, where advances in research and theory are currently taking place, and where future research seems promising. Examples include rational choice models, social psychology,

social capital, complex adaptive systems, network theory, Habermasian communicative rationality, interest-based negotiation, the Vroom and Yetton model, etc. If all goes well, the discussion may culminate in an outline for an edited volume summarizing the current state of the art and an agenda for future research. Please contact Bill Leach if you are interested in participating or have comments or suggestions (916-341-3334, bleach@ccp.csus.edu).

- Association of European Schools of Planning (Grenoble, France, July 1-4). Judith Innes and David Booher have organized a roundtable including network participants Maarten Hajer, Patsy Healey, Lia Vasconcellos, Jean Hillier, and Alessandro Balducci. Judith and David will be sharing the output of the ASPA and ISSRM roundtables for the participants at the Grenoble conference and leading a discussion to enhance the work of the ASPA roundtable. Please contact David if you are interested in participating or have comments or suggestions (916-445-2079, dbooher@ccp.csus.edu).
- American Political Science Association (Chicago, September 2-5)
- Association for Conflict Resolution (Sacramento, CA, September 29-October 2)
- Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning (Portland, OR, October 21-24)
- Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (Atlanta, GA, October 28-30)

- **Collaborative Democracy in Higher Education**

Rosemary O'Leary, Lisa Bingham, and Tina Nabatchi agreed to draft a statement calling upon graduate academic programs in public administration, public policy, planning, and political science to include collaborative democracy in their curricula. They agreed to circulate their draft to participants in the network for review and comment. The thinking of the group is to consider jointly publication of the statement as a manifesto in selected professional journals or newsletters.

- **Outreach to Leaders**

Chris Carlson and Greg Wolf agreed to work on draft strategies for outreach to elected officials and/or other decisionmakers. Greg is particularly interested in partnering with other deliberative democracy organizations in doing on-the-ground projects that would connect to one of the leaders in the NPCC network.

## Roundtable participants, March 28 2004

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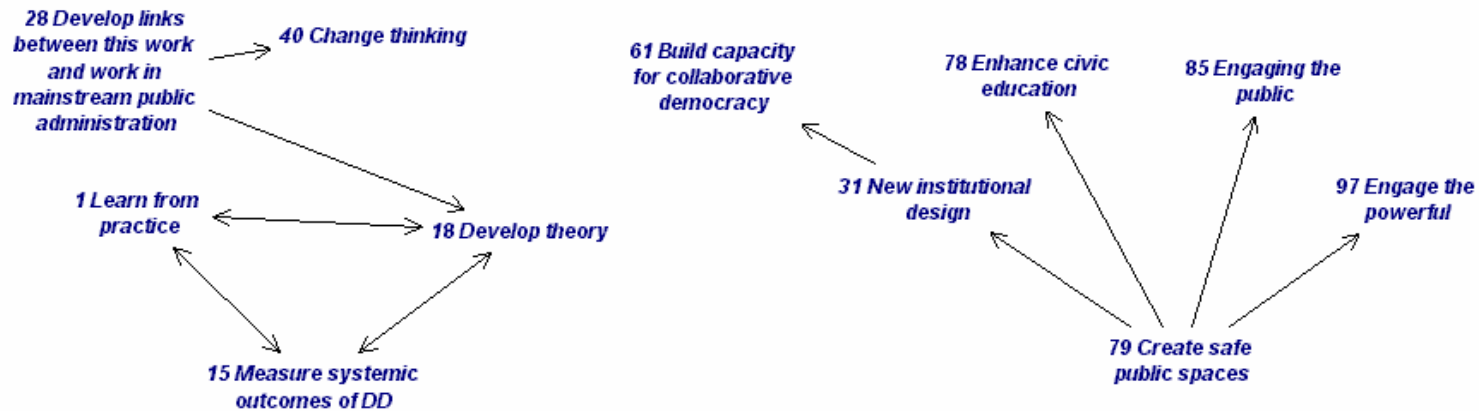
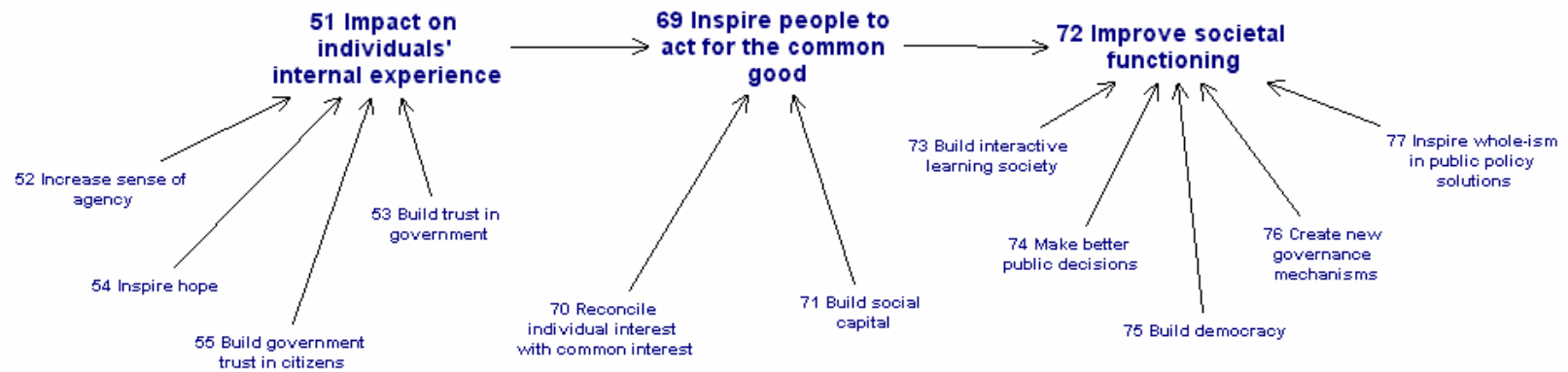
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## Appendix 1

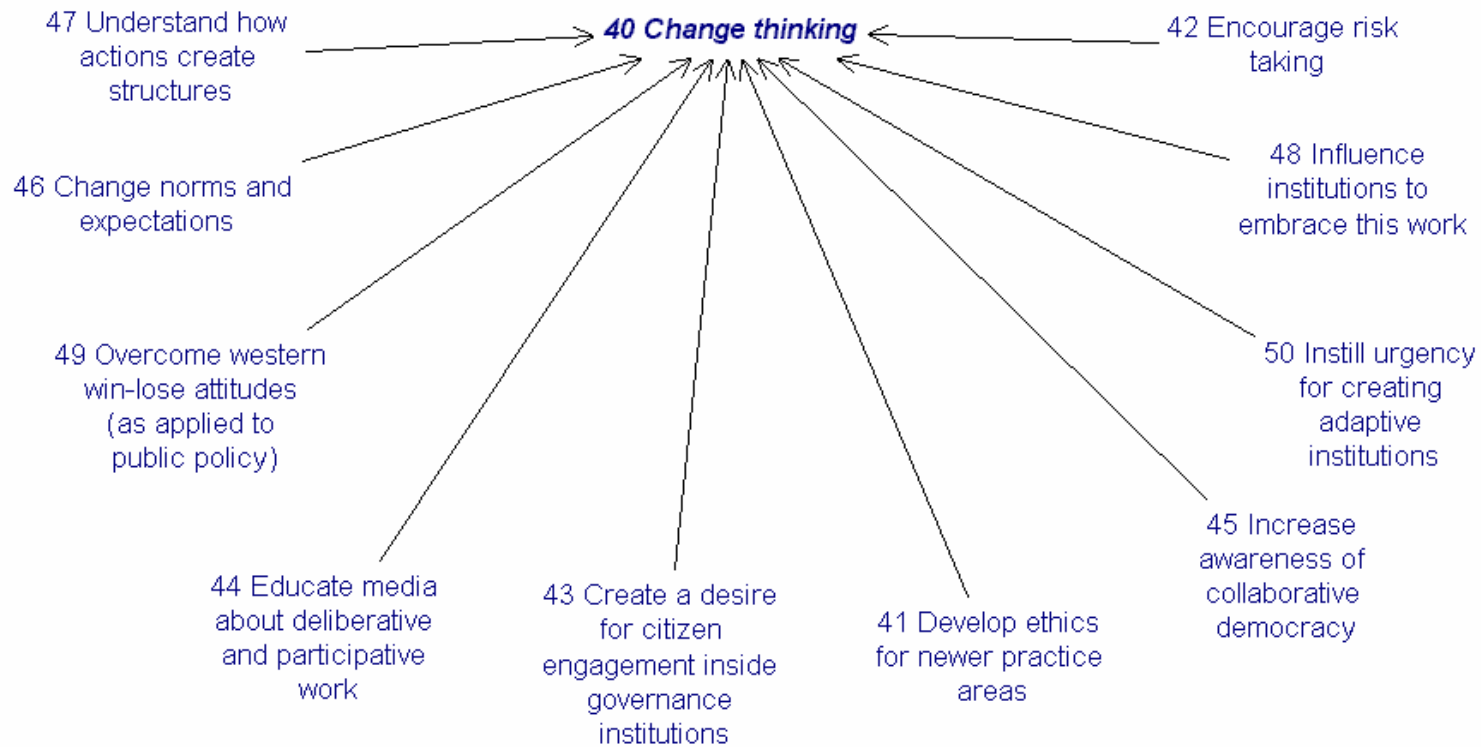
Mapping exercise facilitated by John Bryson  
March 28, 2004

### Participants:

Terry Amsler, Lisa Bingham, David Booher, John Bryson,  
Chris Carlson, Martha Feldman, Judith Innes, Bill Leach,  
Carol Lukensmeyer, Rosemary O'Leary, Tina Nabatchi,  
John C. Thomas, Nancy Roberts, Greg Wolff



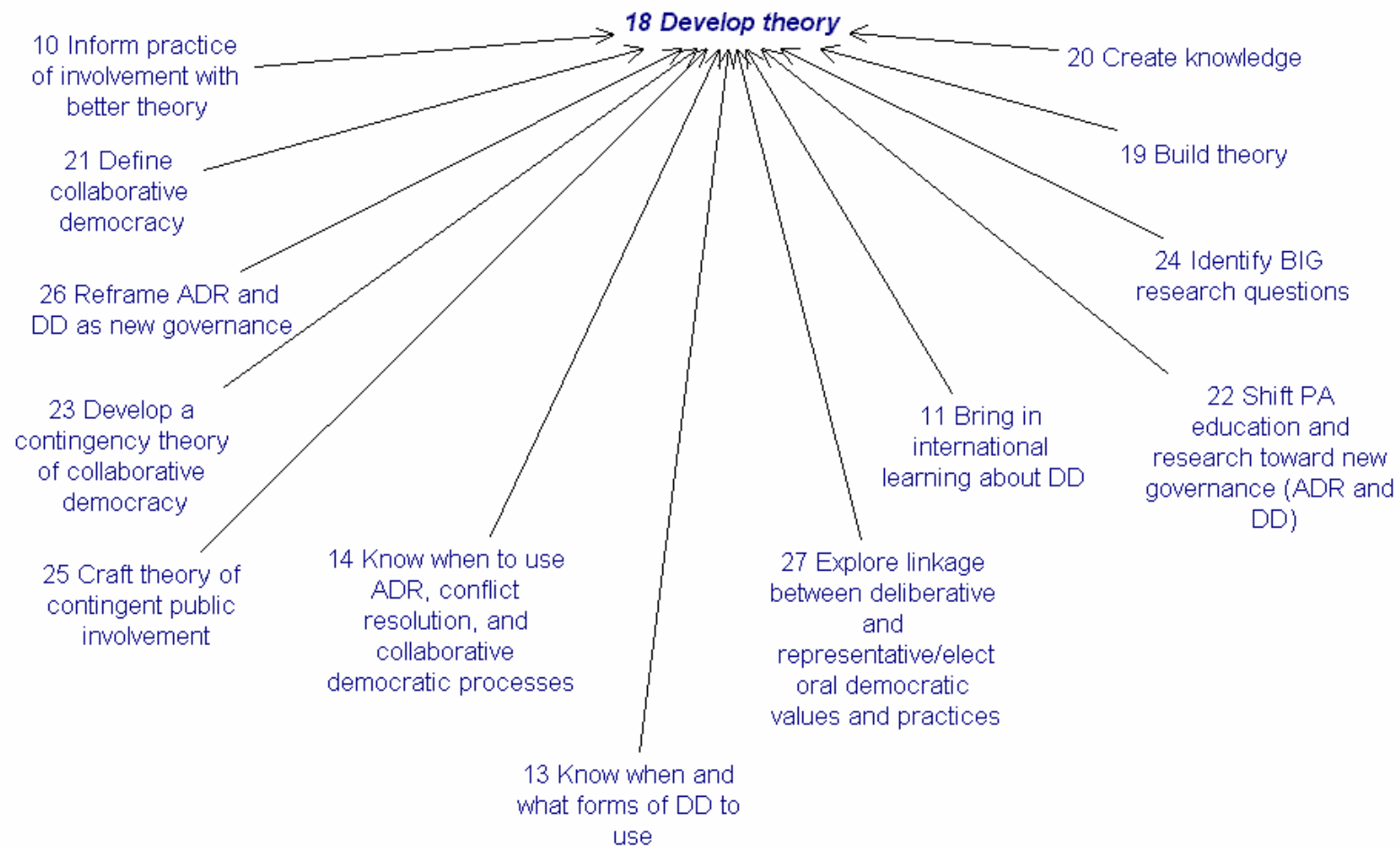
**Goals and Sub-goals of Collaborative Democracy (top half of page)  
and Issues Involved in Achieving Them (bottom half of page)**



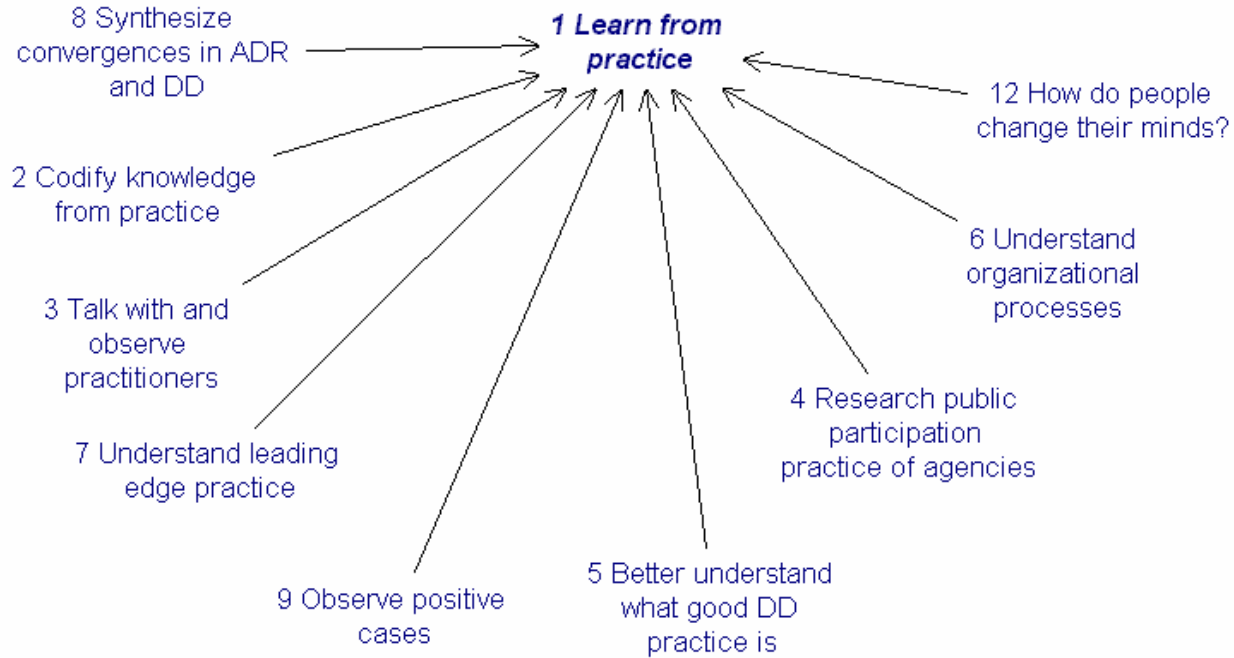
**Issue – Change Thinking**

*28 Develop links  
between this work  
and work in  
mainstream public  
administration*

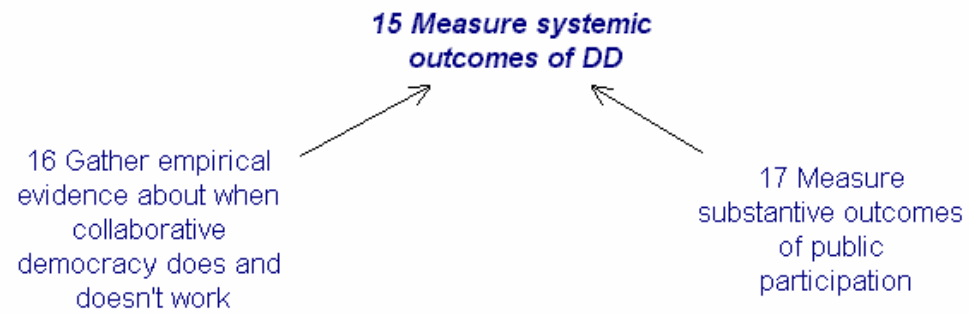
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Mainstream Public Administration**



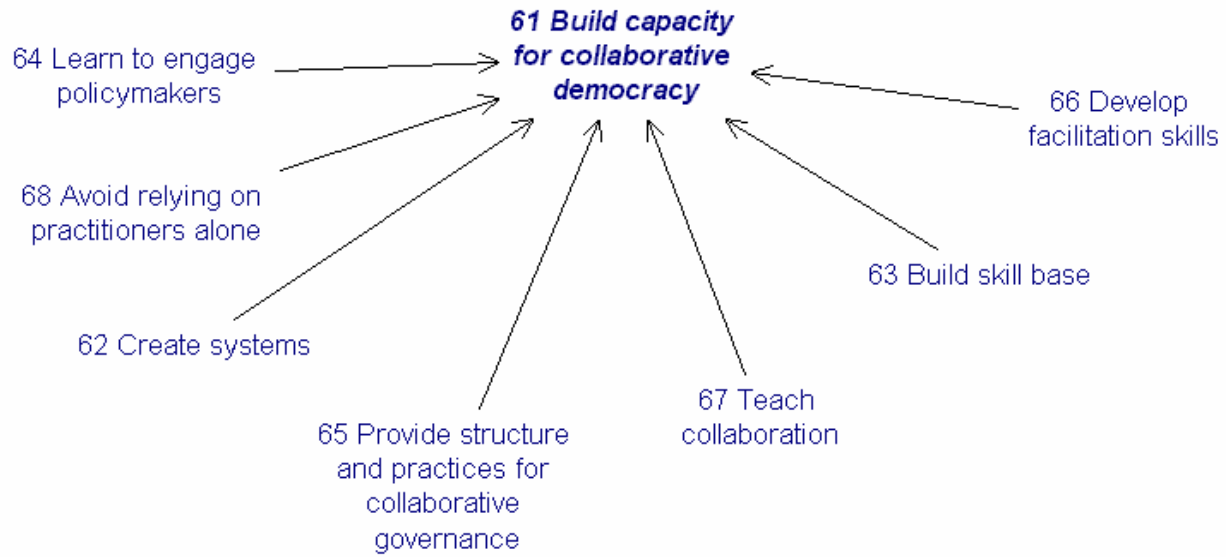
*Issue – Develop Theory*



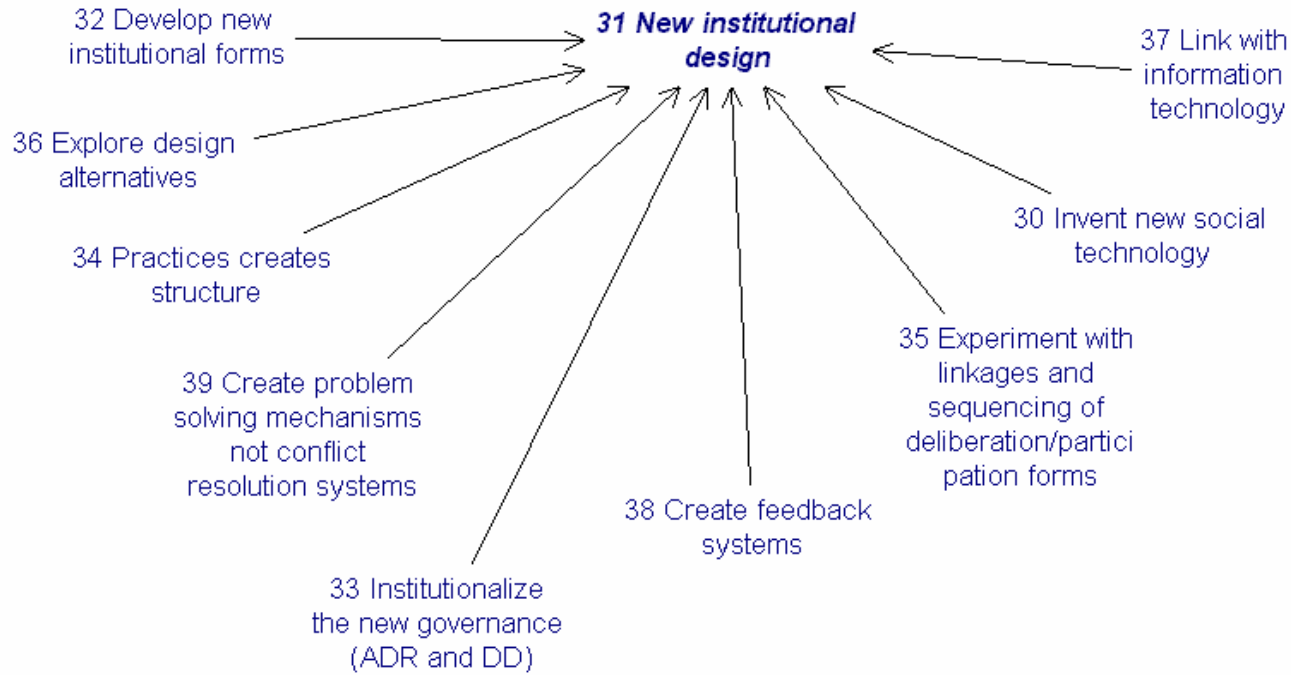
**Issue – Learn From Practice**



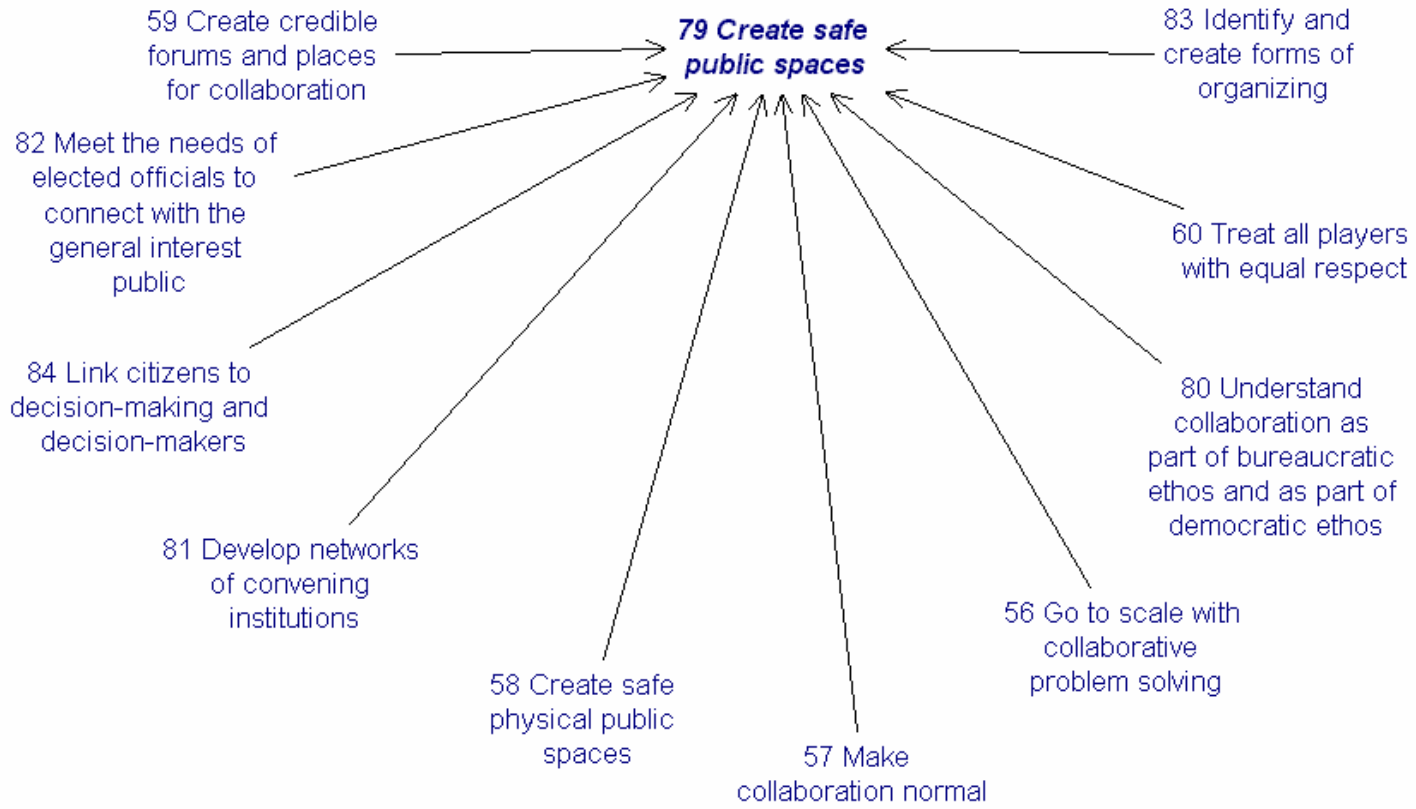
**Issue – Measure Systemic Outcomes of Deliberative Democracy**



**Issue – Build Capacity for Collaborative Democracy**



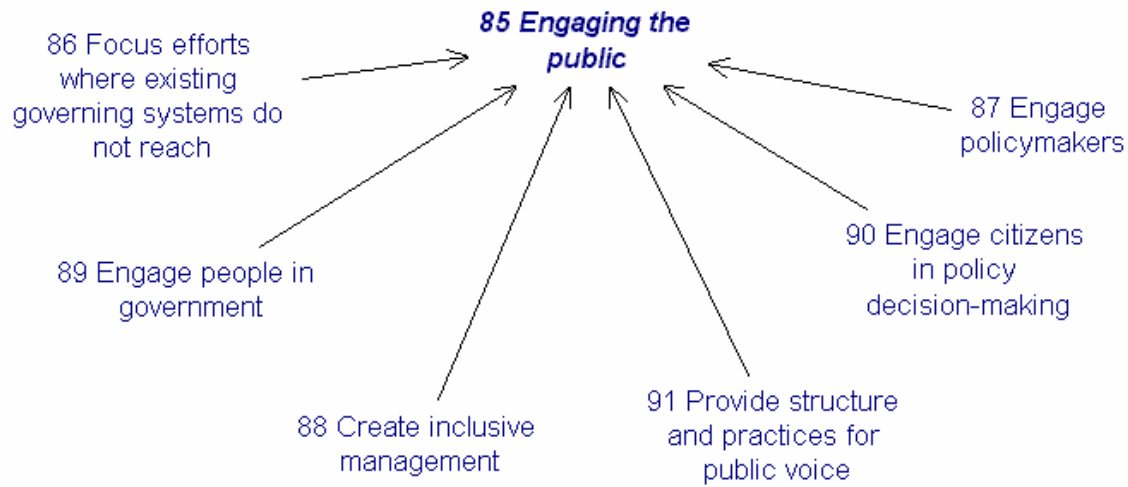
**Issue – New Institutional Design**



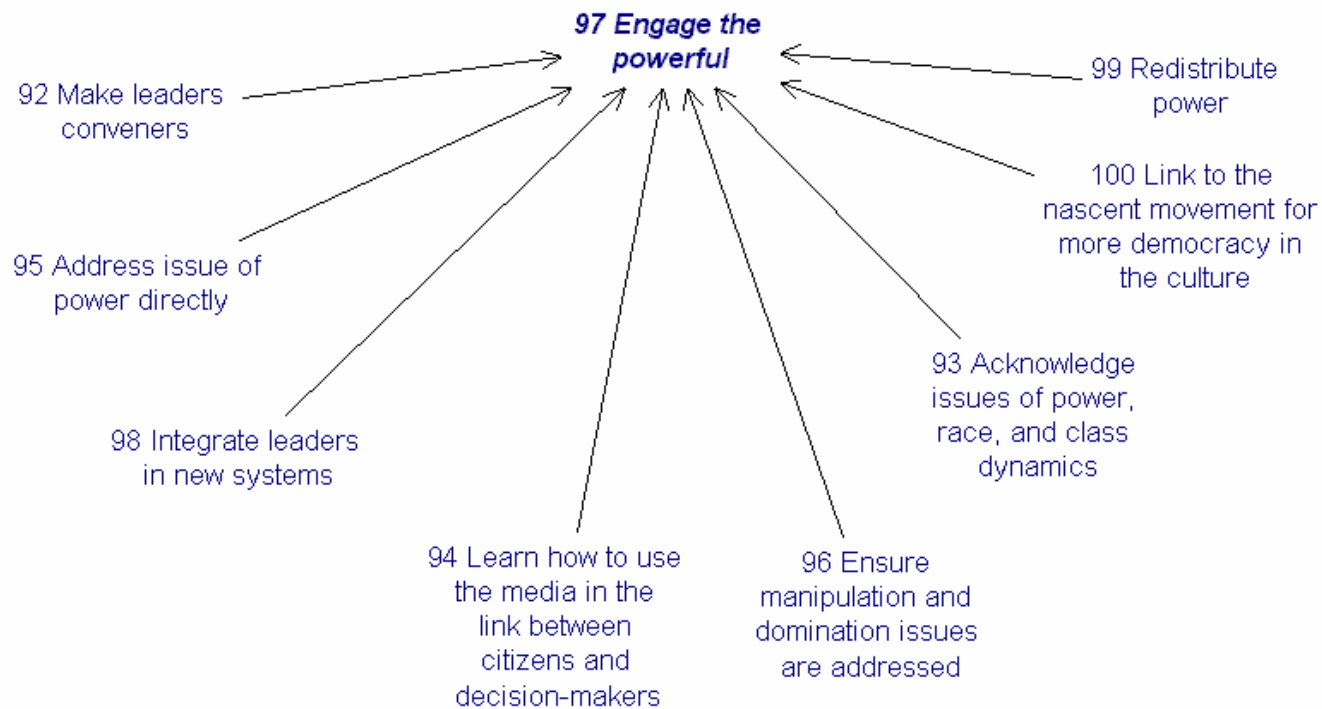
**Issue – Create Safe Public Spaces**

*78 Enhance civic  
education*

**Issue – Enhance Civic Education**



**Issue – Engaging the Public**



**Issue – Engage the Powerful**