



NOW Innovation Forum Newsletter

POWERED BY VITAL VILLAGE

July 20, 2023

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“I really believe we need to dream big. I really believe that in order to create just futures, we have to be willing to imagine wildly.”

Allentza Michel, Powerful Pathways
Guest on *In the Arena with NOW* podcast Season 2

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Welcome to the July 2023 edition of the [NOW Innovation Forum Newsletter](#). We are excited to share opportunities and resources with you! In this edition you'll find:

- A new resource release! *Centering Community Leadership and Power for an Equitable, Sustainable, & Just Food System*
- *In the Arena with NOW* Podcast Season 2 Episode 1 out now
- Summer Data Storytelling Workshop Sign-ups
- Peer Learning Cluster Member Fall Registration

Thank you for your commitment to children, families, and communities and for joining us as we journey through another year together.

Bienvenido a la edición de julio de 2023 del [Boletín Informativo del NOW Innovation Forum](#) (Foro de Innovación NOW). ¡Estamos muy contentos de compartir oportunidades y recursos con usted! En esta edición encontrará:

- ¡Un nuevo lanzamiento de recursos! *Centrando el Liderazgo Comunitario y el Poder para un Sistema Alimentario Equitativo, Sostenible y Justo*
- En la Arena con NOW Podcast Episodio 1 de la Temporada 2 ya está disponible
- Inscripciones para el Taller de Narración de Datos de Verano
- Registración para Miembros de Otoño para los Clústeres de Aprendizaje Entre Pares

Gracias por su dedicación a los niños, las familias y las comunidades, y por acompañarnos mientras navegamos a través de otro año juntos.

Network Highlights

New Resource: Community Food Systems Fellowship Roadmap



Vital Village Networks is thrilled to announce the publication of a new resource, *Centering Community Leadership and Power for an Equitable, Sustainable, & Just Food System*. The roadmap was created by [Vital Village Network's 2022 Community Food Systems Fellows](#), a national cohort of grassroots food system leaders who, over their one-year together, developed a set of collective recommendations and guiding principles and practices for building an equitable, sustainable, and just food system. The roadmap includes strategies for recognizing and addressing systemic barriers to having equitable food systems. It also includes ways to uplift and scale local community wisdom, traditions, and innovations that already exist as solutions and can further advance resilient, just, community-powered food systems. By centering those most impacted in the food systems, these recommendations serve as important areas of collective action and collaboration that can drive more equitable change and transformation in the food systems across Turtle Island - moving those most impacted by inequity from margin to center.

[Download Here](#)

Tune into Season 2 Episode 1: In the Arena with NOW Podcast

What does it look like to make cities more equitable and sustainable? In our first episode of the season, we speak with Allentza Michel, of Powerful Pathways, who has long been leading efforts to elevate community leadership at the intersection of community design, urban planning, and arts and culture work. Tune in and hear more about Allentza's journey, learn from examples of bright spots in Boston, MA, and unpack what it means to shift away from creating policies "for" community and instead design and make policy decisions "with" community. Listen now to part 1 of this two-part conversation, with part 2 coming July 27.



[Listen Here](#)

Upcoming Session: Data Storytelling Workshop Series



Sharing your Story: Thursday, August 3, 5:30-7:00 PM EDT

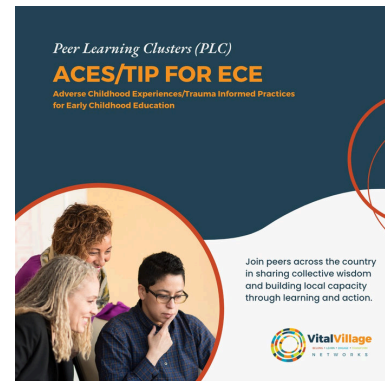
Join Vital Village for our free, virtual Data Storytelling workshop series and build your capacity to create and share stories that support social change using data tools. This learning opportunity is open to all Vital Village and NOW Network resident champions and organizational partners.

[Register Here](#)

Stay Connected: Peer Learning Clusters

Peer Learning Clusters are taking a summer wellness break! We invite you to join us when meetings resume in September, and connect with peers to explore topics on family engagement, and adverse childhood experiences (ACE) and trauma-informed practices (TIP) with other peers.

[Sign-Up Here](#)



In the Village, We all Belong



Support us in our newest campaign, *In The Village, We All Belong*, to ensure a sense of belonging for every child and family. Together, we continue to make significant strides in creating and elevating opportunities for co-creation and systems transformation to ensure an equitable future for all children and families. Thank you.

[Donate Today](#)

The NOW community hopes to stay connected and lift up the work and stories of all of our members. Follow and tag us so that we can virtually highlight the community-led transformation you are leading

#VillageInMind



www.networksofopportunity.org 

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