## Adaptive Engagement

CAPTURING THE BEST ELEMENTS OF ENGAGEMENT IN A DIGITAL-FIRST WORLD







# What are your favorite aspects of in-person engagement?

Conversations

Immediate follow-up and clarification of responses

personal connections

Opportunity to build relationships, make new ones and connect with people I know

Questions answered quickly

neighbors talking to neighbors

looking at the physical reaction and emotional reactions of persons

Meeting interesting people

One on one convos



# What are your favorite aspects of in-person engagement?

Discussion

The personable component of it

Meeting community members

Conversations

Looking people in the eyes and conversing

break down barriers

seeing their physical reaction to discussions

easier to connect

the personal aspects of seeing people face to face



## What are your favorite aspects of in-person engagement?

accountability- sometimes calls or emails go unanswered

Seeing and meeting community members

Informal connections

meaningful connections

2-way exchange of information

Interacting with people. Hearing first hand accounts and stories. Allowing the ability to educate and correct misunderstandings.

Gauging emotions and reactions

Happy hour afterwards

**Building relationships** 





# What are your favorite aspects of in-person engagement?

Personal connection

Talking directly with people

Informal conversations before and after

Reading body languages

non verbal communication

Observing/feeling/participating in group energy around an idea.

Personal connection

making connections

Being able to discuss and ask questions!



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Personal interaction

body language

Being able to answer people's questions

The informal chit chat part where people see you as a person

seeing peoples reactions

Can read others body language along with what is said

Making a connection with people.

**Building relationships** 

Conversations



## What are your favorite aspects of in-person

engagement?

The snacks!

Real People

personal connections

Social interaction

Having conversations with people in the community

**Build relstionship** 

Ability so solve issues and get community buy in

Talking it through

Personal connections and being able to read their facial expressions.



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Physical conversation with body language and facial recognition

Making eye contact

Immediate feedback from stakeholders.

**Personal connections** 

the interaction itself and understanding issues

Reading the room

Facial expressions & body language.

Large maps!

Diversity



Clarity

Connections

serendipitous moments

Person to person understanding and convos

Able to understand emotion/reaction of the topic

See someone's face and their reactions

Seeing someone's perspective change as you talk to them. Changing their minds or seeing them expand their perspective/mood.

social interaction and hearing the narratives instead of just seeing the data

Building relationship



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Ability to address false rumors

energy and engagement of people when together

Drawing on maps

**Funny stories** 

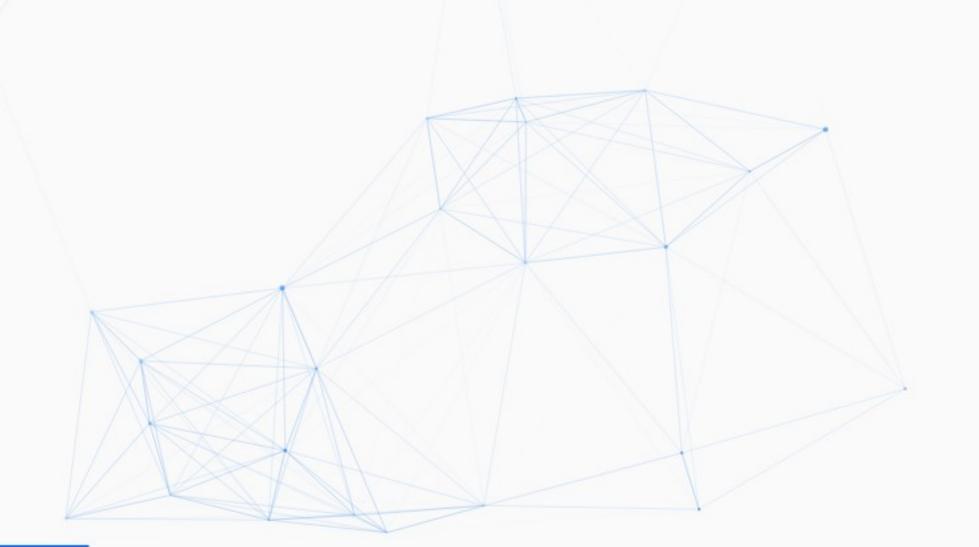
Meet familiar faces and inspire each other with chatting

it seems to bring in more people

learning different perspectives

hearing new ideas

Seeing facial expressions and body language reactions. Impromptu discussions.





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Collaboration

personal connectionsseeing body language

engagement?

Personal connection

The ability to hear from people of all corners of the world

**Enthusiasm** 

Actually seeing the expressions up close on other human beings' faces -- "reading" them

The chance to connect with project partners informally.

Being able to better read body language

Hearing comments of other attendees





Personal connection

engagement?

Meeting new people.

Extracurricular conversation that feeds into direct conversation

Conversation

The support and buy-in for innovation

Getting people together for unexpected conversations

Hands-on activities.

non-verbal ques

building relationships



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Dialogue

engagement?

Immediate follow up conversation

Discussion

Meet peopl

Face to face

Conversations

Getting to hear what matters most to people

Transfer of knowledge; EQ on person's intent

Providing imediate personal feedback



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Conversations and connections

build relationships

Hearing new perspectives

back and forth

organic conversations that take different turns

meet interesting people

Face to Face contact with participants. Excitement of the roomDiscussion

Personal connections

Energy.



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Opportunity for in depth discussions

engagement?

Following up on ideas and questions

questions answered quickly

Conversation

Ability to do a deeper dive with follow up questions, discussions.

interactive design

Full attention of participants

I remember faces better than bames

Body language



# What are your favorite aspects of in-person engagement?

Finding out why they think the way they do

Building trust

Closer connections

Discovering new facts and opinions

casual conversations

Energy

Learning from each other

Spontaneous interaction

Personal connections



# What are your favorite aspects of in-person engagement?

Non verbal cues

real interest in the community and what's happening there

Engaging face to face

You can get a better understanding of the non-verbal signs that someone is expressing. Also, you can often speak a bit more off the record as opposed to a Zoom meeting, where you can't pull someone off to the side.

Understanding different cultures and backgrounds.

**Building relationships** 

The snacks!

being relatable to people

spontaneity



# What are your favorite aspects of in-person engagement?

Learning what people are thinking

Interaction

collaboration

**Community participation** 

Establishing personal relationships

Meeting people

focused attention, consensus building, non verbal communication

Meeting people with opposite aims and sorting the problem together.

Accountability





engagement? Being able to ask questions. And "why" The unspoken body language Give and taken Showing empathy Identifying community isdued Listening being able to interact with participants before and confrontation travel time after - many people are shy



# What are your favorite aspects of in-person engagement?

usually suspects control event

logistics

People that talk at you but don't listen

Talking to people at Happy Hour

**Bullies** 

people sometimes dont feel comfortable sharing their thoughts

no one showing up!

It becomes a opportunistic situation for the public to complain off topic

a few people dominating the conversation



# What are your favorite aspects of in-person engagement?

When people don't accept valid data as valid data. Facts aren't debatable

poor attendance

Notices on public websites

Night meetings!

6 people showing up

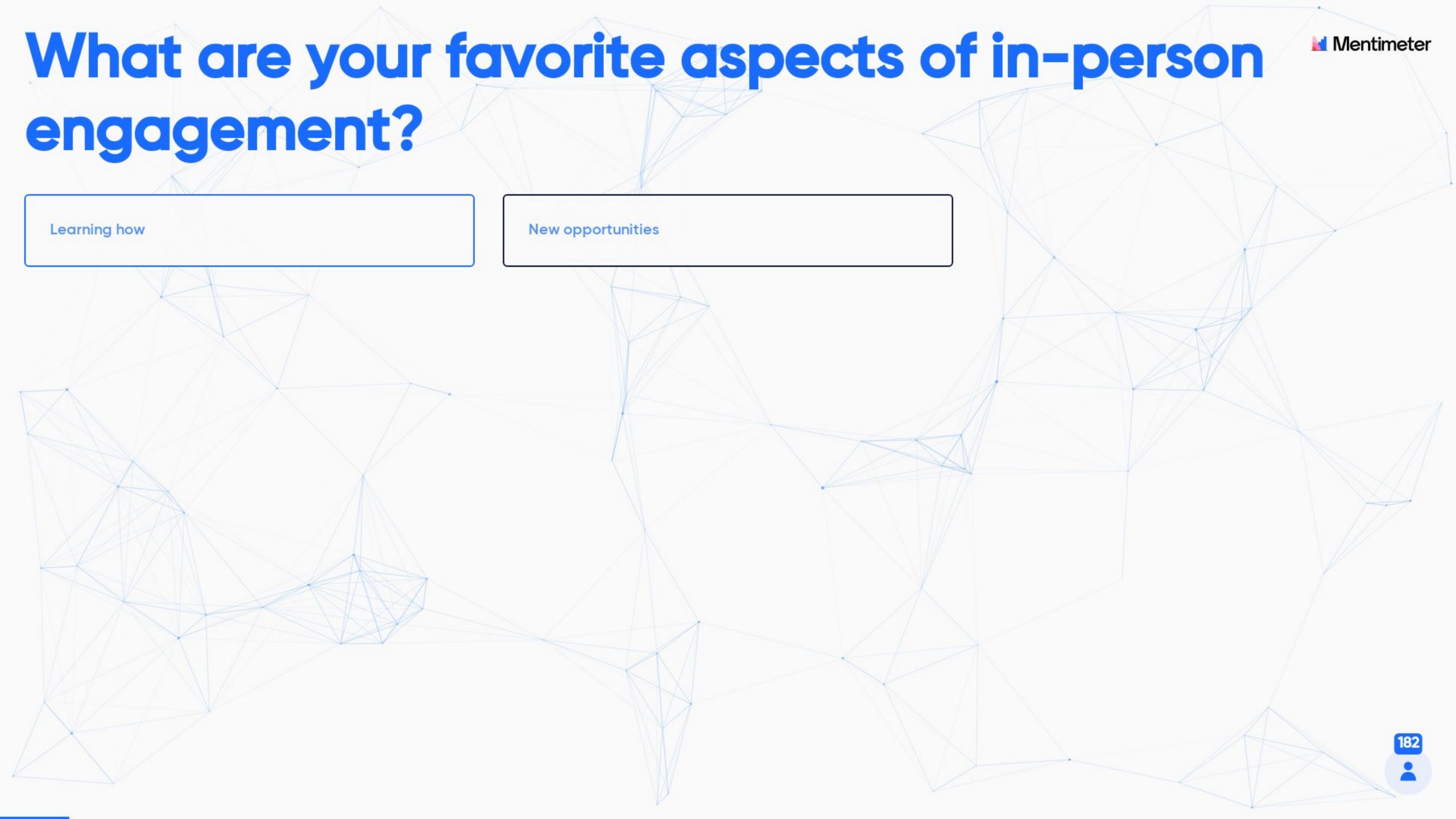
Interactive web sites that remain accessible after the event

Angry people

start earlier and provide longer time for feedback

Manners.







# Key Components of In-Person Engagement



### Start with "Why"

### The Golden Circle

#### WHAT

knows WHAT they do. These are products they sell or the services

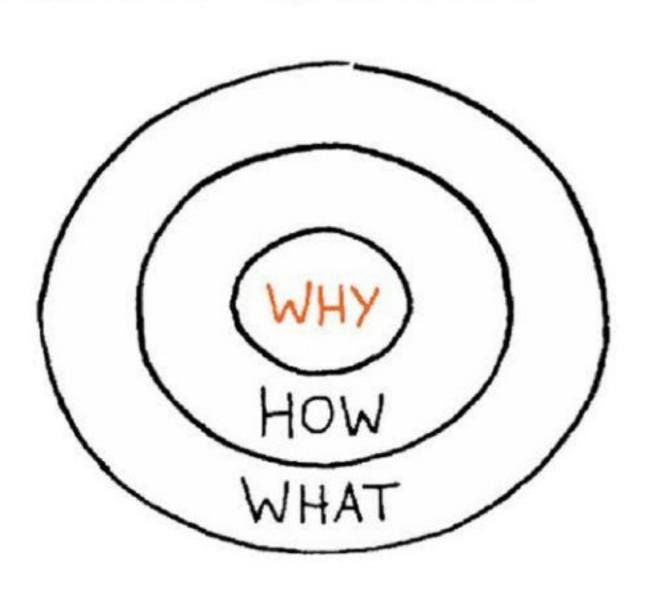
#### HOW

Some organizations know HOW they do it. These are the things that make them special or set them apart from their competition.

#### WHY

Very few organizations know WHY
they do what they do. WHY is
not about making money. That's
a result. WHY is a purpose, cause
or belief. It's the very reason your
organization exists.





The Golden
Circle of
Community
Engagement...





# Personal Connection and Community Buy-In

- Personal connection with other community members
- Sense of an invested community
- Recognition of diverse ideas and perspectives
- Expansion to underrepresented demographics









### Accessibility

- Access to conversations with local and regional subject matter experts
- Small group discussions in settings that promote dialogue and mutual understanding
- The ability to read body-language and respond
  - Are we missing half the conversation?





### Validation

- Opportunity to meet others with similar views
- Confirmation that your input was heard by decision-makers or community leaders
- The ability to see and hear a response
  - Has our laugh track been muted?



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I like talking to people

**Happy hour** 

verbal abuse

Angry people

Physical touch

awkward conversations

the "scary" people

Beratement

Angry participants.



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The loudest voice taking over

sometimes you don't want to engage

**Getting** covid

Confrontation

close talkers

conflict

time investment

**Turnout** 

Long drives home in the dark and snow afterward



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Awkwardness:-)

Too much animosity

Being singled out

See same people I've seen before

**Vocal miniorty** 

Arguments

Grandstanding people

**Potential Conflict** 

angry people



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want to listen

Commute time

Having to go somewhere

uncomfortable angry people

Often takes more time

Being talked at

"squeaky wheels" overpowering others

Inconvenient times or travel

**NIMBYs** 



rude people

Not being able to properly communicate why something is a good idea.

travel and setup timegetting stuck in bad conversation

There are always a few people who won't let you go. They monopolize my time.

off topic complainers

Small number of people dominating conversation

Taking heat about drainage when we need to talk about planning

racist people

Folks that are nasty



### What are your least-favorite aspects of inperson engagement?

tendency to reduce to personal attacks

Inability to listen

Angry people

confrontation

difficulty finding time to attend

Tuning out

spitting

low attendance

Disruptive people



### What are your least-favorite aspects of inperson engagement?

Stress

High amount of white guys, homeowners

Overtaking the meeting with one speaker

Yelling

Same people always show up

the long drive to the meeting

negative attitudes

vacant room - no one attends

When people try to jump the rails and go on a random tangent



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confrontation

People leaving early

Collaboratively planning is almost impossible

No one shows up

Lack of listening to one another

Juggling attendance with busy schedule

Giving up my evening from home.

one people taking the mic long time

People not turning up



Disporportionate representation

People that just want to complain

frustration of participants not being able to participate

When one person or a group take over ameeting

Token engagement just to get it out of the way.

time taken travelling there and back.

citizens that want to use the forum for another topic

The vocal minority can out talk the general majority

Anger



### What are your least-favorite aspects of inperson engagement?

beratement, loud voice taking over

**NIMBY blinders** 

Non-participation

People who won't stop talking.

Group think

people who attempt to discredit the process

Having to really watch your body language, especially facial expressions, when someone expresses a stupid idea.

negative nelly's

Watching kids



### What are your least-favorite aspects of inperson engagement?

Loud people opposed to everything

No one shows up

Grand standing

Its exhausting. You have to be "on" all the time.

Disrespectful behavior

Conflict

I'm an introvert...

People going on about things unrelated to the actual topic

Being put "on the spot"



### What are your least-favorite aspects of inperson engagement?

Conflict

lack or turnout

beratement , angry person, people getting rude

Limits to only those who "have time"

Dealing with unreasonable people that won't act politely

Often takes more time

Conflict

The same 25 old white guys show up. Single issue participants.

people just there to vent



### What are your least-favorite aspects of inperson engagement?

Creeps

disorganization

Being talked at

Participants not taking in info objectively

People showing up to share grievances

Presentations that drag on. Listening to consultants who seem out of touch with stakeholders

people with an axe to grind only

Not being able to solve a person's "problem".

Folks with a preconceived agenda



### What are your least-favorite aspects of inperson engagement?

I can't leave. Even if meeting is over, they chase me down and keep me in the parking lot. I always back in for quick getaway.

transcribing all the public comment afterward

**Parking** 

Timing of meetings (usually in the evening)

**Dominating voices** 

Lack of access to people with disabilities

**Vocal minority** 

**Bullies** 

Planning for the right type engagement



### What are your least-favorite aspects of inperson engagement?

Meetings for no reason over and over

Not a safe environment to share ideas

Night meetings!

Few attendees. Same ones attend. Only those w the extreme viewpoints attend. Not the majority.

Racist people

Lack of turnout, angry uninformed people, what's snow?

inconvenient

Failed equipment

**Argumentative** 



No one showing up

STP same ten people / the usual suspects

Not recording the results

Grandstanding

Lack of interest

When no one shows up

Close talkers

Difficulty of addressing the anger especially when they make stuff up

Driving to unfamiliar locations late at night.



### What are your least-favorite aspects of in-

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person engagement?

Know it alls

lack of participants

So much complaining

**NIMBYs** 

Disrespectful attendees

same people showing up all the time

Derailing a meeting

Close minded individuals

People not willing to listen



### What are your least-favorite aspects of inperson engagement?

Evenings and no one seems to think I have a family.

People not reading or participating

When the smartest guy in the room shows up

People who don't understand institutional racism and how it manifests in communities of color

Angry participants. Confrontation. Arguments. Listening to mansplainers- and I'm the only woman or maybe one of two.

**Grand standing** 

people on their phones

Confrontation

Lack of others



Lack of civility

**Drained afterwards** 

You have to drink when you get home

Gender bias treatment - insulting, speaking to the men, not me

More robust follow up, so people feel like the time they spent participating was worthwhile

Disconnection

Offer meetings in various languages



# Replicating In-Person Engagement Online: Take the Good and Leave the Bad

#### Real-Time Response

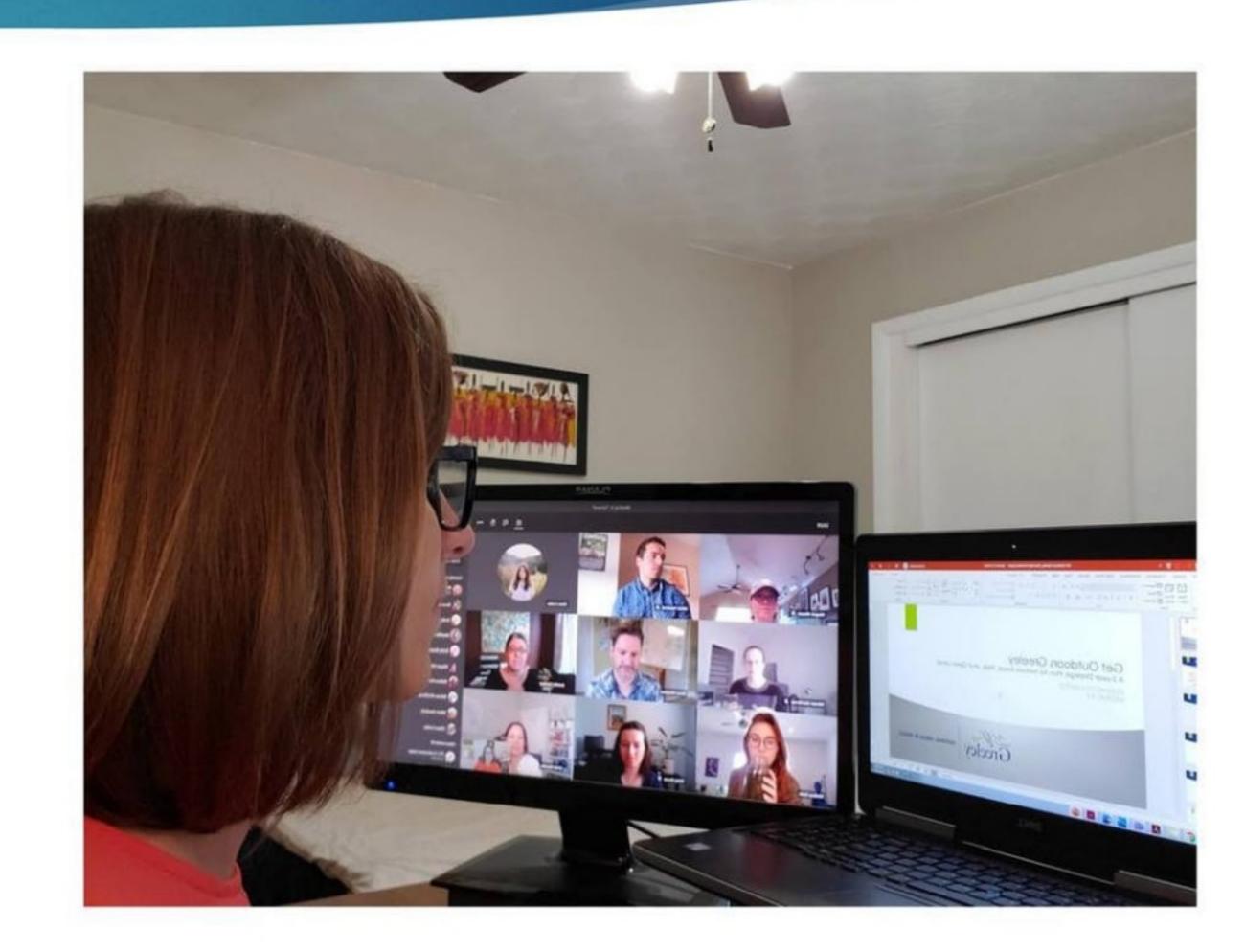
- Using Mentimeter, Bang the Table, Mural, Konveio, SMS capabilities, or other engagement platforms to provide real-time feedback on community input
- Identify the most pressing issues and immediately target key conversations
- Facilitate live discussion through chat features





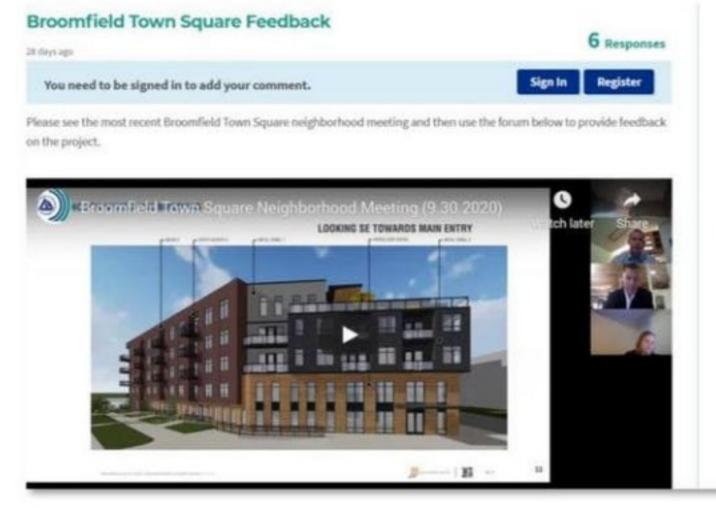
#### Face-to-Face Connection

- Encourage video or audio public comment submissions
- Stakeholder roundtables held via video conferencing
- Digital open houses and document review periods
- Intimate personal stories via video and storytelling features
- The power of the written word



#### Staging

- Use clear and concise timelines to show the process online
- Make sure people have access to documents, minutes and videos that help to create on- and off-ramps





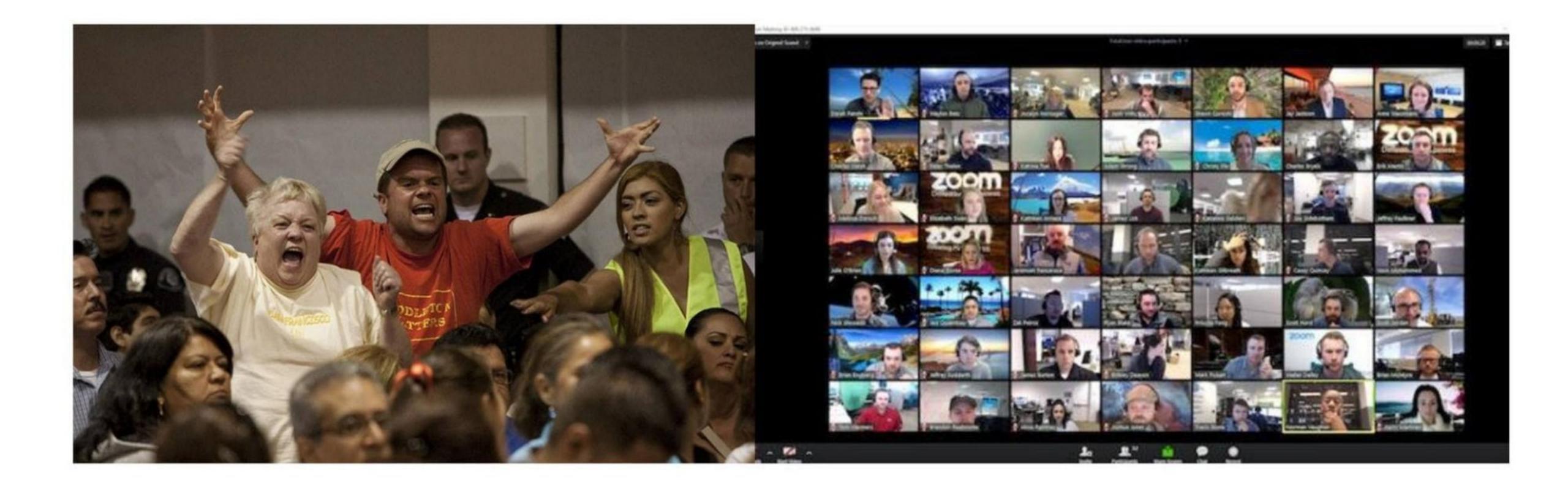


#### Use a Variety of Tools

- Synchronous + Asynchronous
- Deep Dive + Surface Responses
- Multiple Choice + Essay
- Maps + Non-Maps
- Images + Text
- Right Brain + Left Brain
- Break Down Surveys



### Optimizing Outreach



### How do we improve engagement? How can it become Mentimeter better, safer, and more fruitful? increased transparency prior to a meeting Equity multimedia think like a participant, not a planner Include everyone and use an equity lens Improve listening engage all age groups; youth have really good ideas use more interactive tools Just use emojis that are often ignored or hidden

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Less token engagement by higher ups. We just need to "get this out of the way" and more focus on involving all groups.

Make it engaging and exciting

Multiple tools and social media outreach

Video

Have it be more than perfunctory! People on all sides need to feel invested.

upvoting tools

access diverse populations

hybrid approach (digital and in person)

talk less, listen more





Combo of styles to reach a variety of people and perspectives

Encourage webcams, if possible.

How to improve/enhance/increase trust

have elected officials/community leaders advocate the event

Plain language

Mixture of online and in person

multi-generational

outreach to more diverse audiences

Clear information and instructions for engagement



# How do we improve engagement? How can it become better, safer, and more fruitful?

Increase types of engagement to capture all (Diverse) **Translated materials** Internet access for all perspectives. Conflict resolution Inclusion clear ground rules More interactive tools personal conversations, follow ups 1-1 Flexibility



partner with schools and other institutions

Coordinate multiple efforts seeking input rather than making community attend 5 different meetings

Give poor people free smart phones

Hold meetings outside of normal work hours

Bring the conversation to the people

Even playing field

Digital divide barriers to be overcome

TikTok

You have to meet people where they are., whether that is digital or in person. Small break out digital sessions.





how can this be done in a community where residents speak multiple languages?

Seeking out different people who might not otherwise

talk to various populations

Start with goals and consider creative solutions

attend a community meeting.

outreach to those without Internet access to make sure process is more inclusive

Prioritize those who stand to be most impacted

Know that some people's digital connections are poor.

Equitable access to opportunities to engage and diversify the tools and methods to improve the opportunities

mute button



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engagement sites, promote them!

Engaging to get people to respond or just show up

make it engaging

low income access to computers

interactive tools

use verbage that creates an open and positive environment; it starts with the presenters

don't forget those without smartphones!

Make sure the technology is accessible and works

We need to commit to the process internally and not do token engagement.



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Reduce political influence

Keep everything positive

Follow up - make sure people know they were heard.

Ask the right questions - be clear on the Why and clear on decisions already made

varied approach depend on audience trying to reach

Need to have good slides. You have been cutting in and out.

use both social media and standard media like tv

Less presentation, more discussion

lalk with, not to





more mailings

start earlier and have longer time for input

Walking tours,

diversity of folks reached and tools used, as each individual has a different preferred method of involvement

Lots of visuals

More times to do meetings. Not just 1 at 6PM.

reach more diverse audiences

Improve reaching all stakeholders

internet access everywhere





Use multiple tools to engage different stakeholders

Personal conversations

Offer at convenient times

door to door engagement

Provide different forums/platforms for people to provide input

try to make it fun

Integrated live and digital

Think about goal, make the type of engagement most useful

don't require sign-up on website/questionnaire





interactive meetings, not webinars

Social responsibility on how we talk on digital platforms. A better civil conversation.

**Outdoor Pop-up meetings** 

Getting politicians to listen to the input.

Become better listeners.

Let people participate on their own schedule

casual conversations - focus groups

Really need to identify the groups in your target audience who have Internet access and/or who are comfortable using digital tools. Some may not have access due to income or remoteness.

Add a "Like" button



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Audit who is participating and build engagement around missing voices

I like the idea of putting up videos that people can review at any time.

diversify

Like the online tools

Incentives for people to engage & participate

Use transit system to help with messaging (on-bus ads, etc)

Pop-up and demonstation products

Arm our senior citizens with tech

SEAMLESS - online forms/surveys



#### How do we improve engagement? How can it become



You need to have clear directions. Code of conducts. And methods to keep people "on task" and not on "their agenda"

better, safer, and more fruitful?

On topic. Never anonymous.

Hybrid

SocialPinpoint

Make sure you make sessions accessible. Seniors don't go out at night nor do they like the CBD.

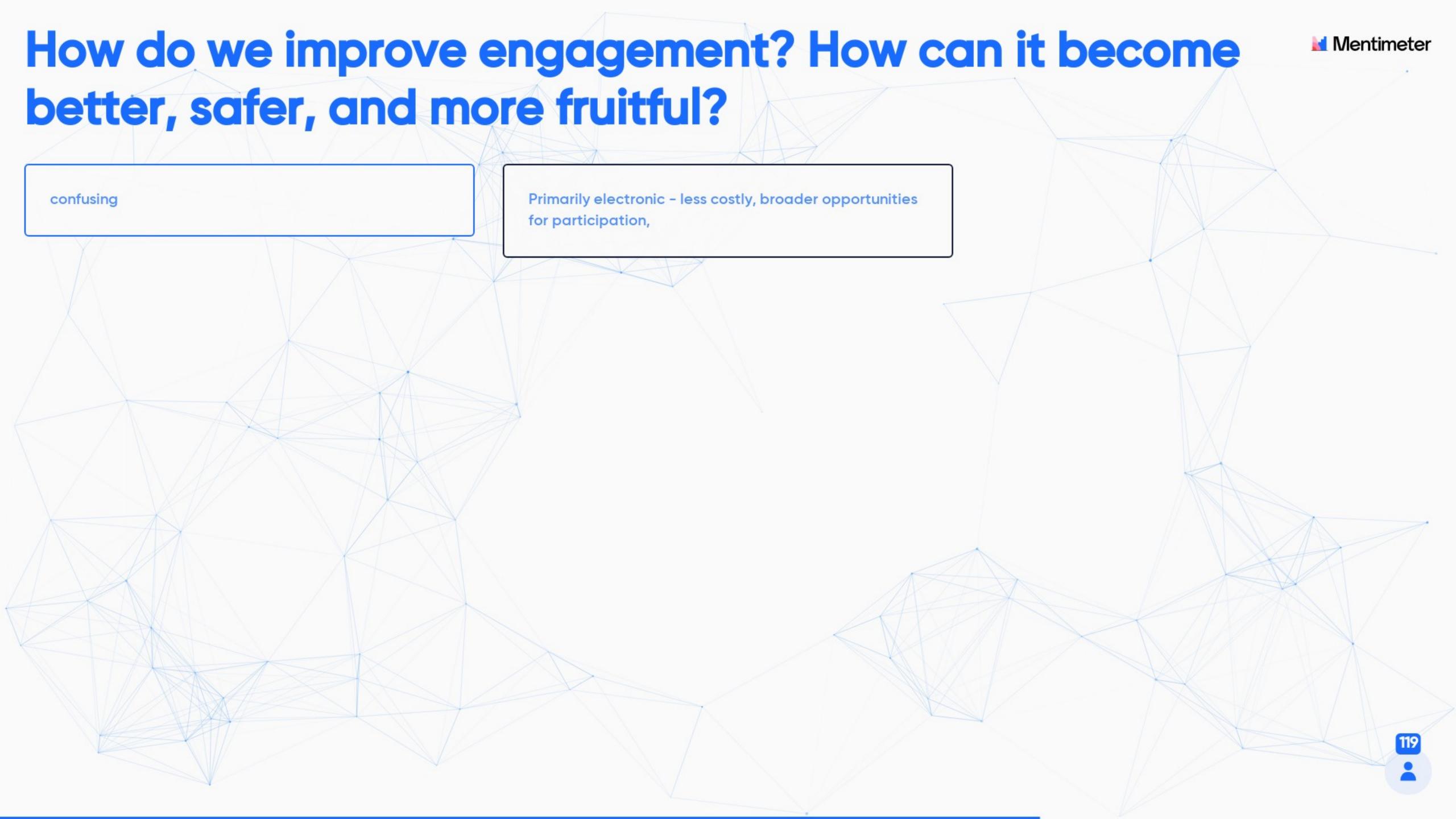
It will be safer if digital. Will fuel conspiracy theories.

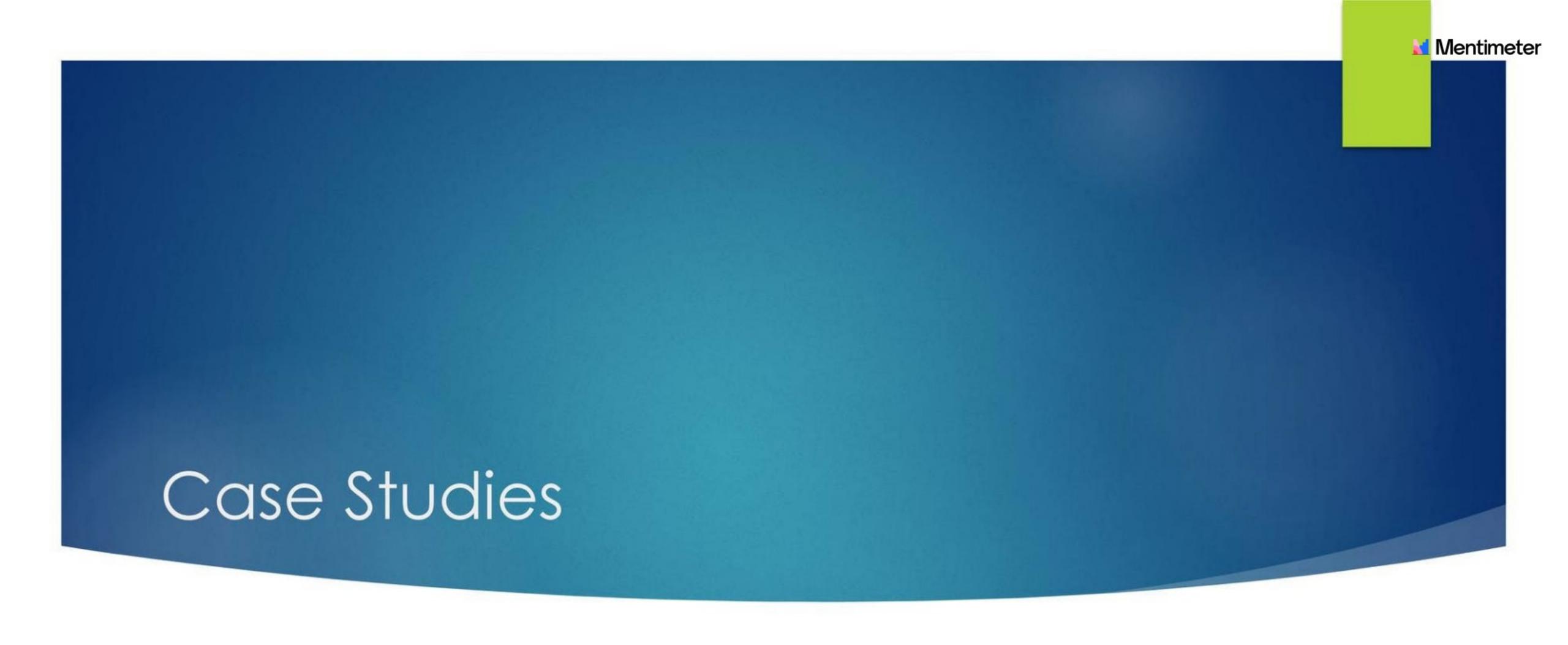
Keep it positive. Describe the positives of proposals, not just the negatives

Civil

hybrid

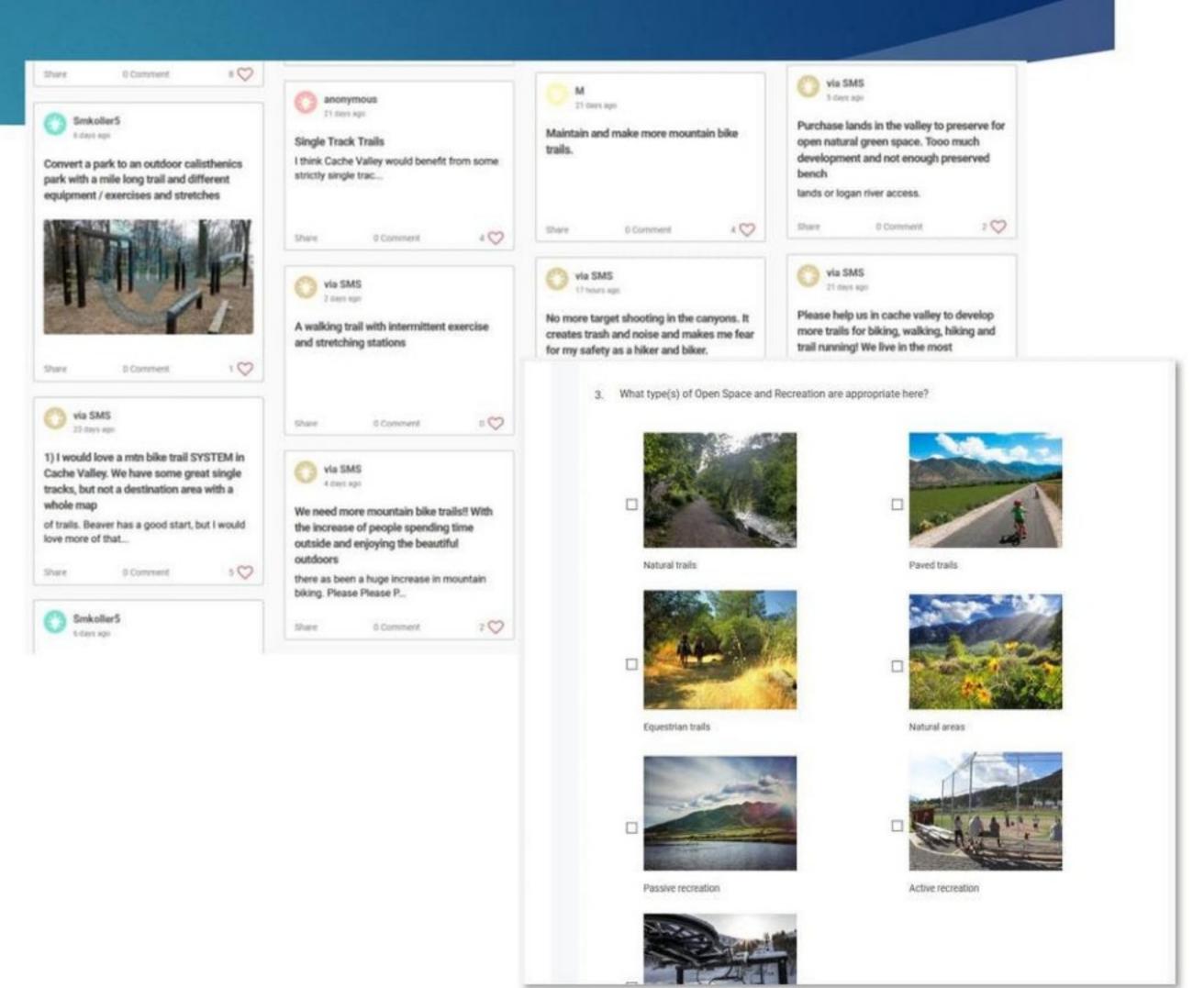






#### Imagine Cache, Cache County, Utah

- Bang The Table's platform allows for an "all-in-one" approach to digital engagement across three projects, using:
  - > SMS
  - Questionnaires
  - Mapping Tools
  - Visual preference questionnaire

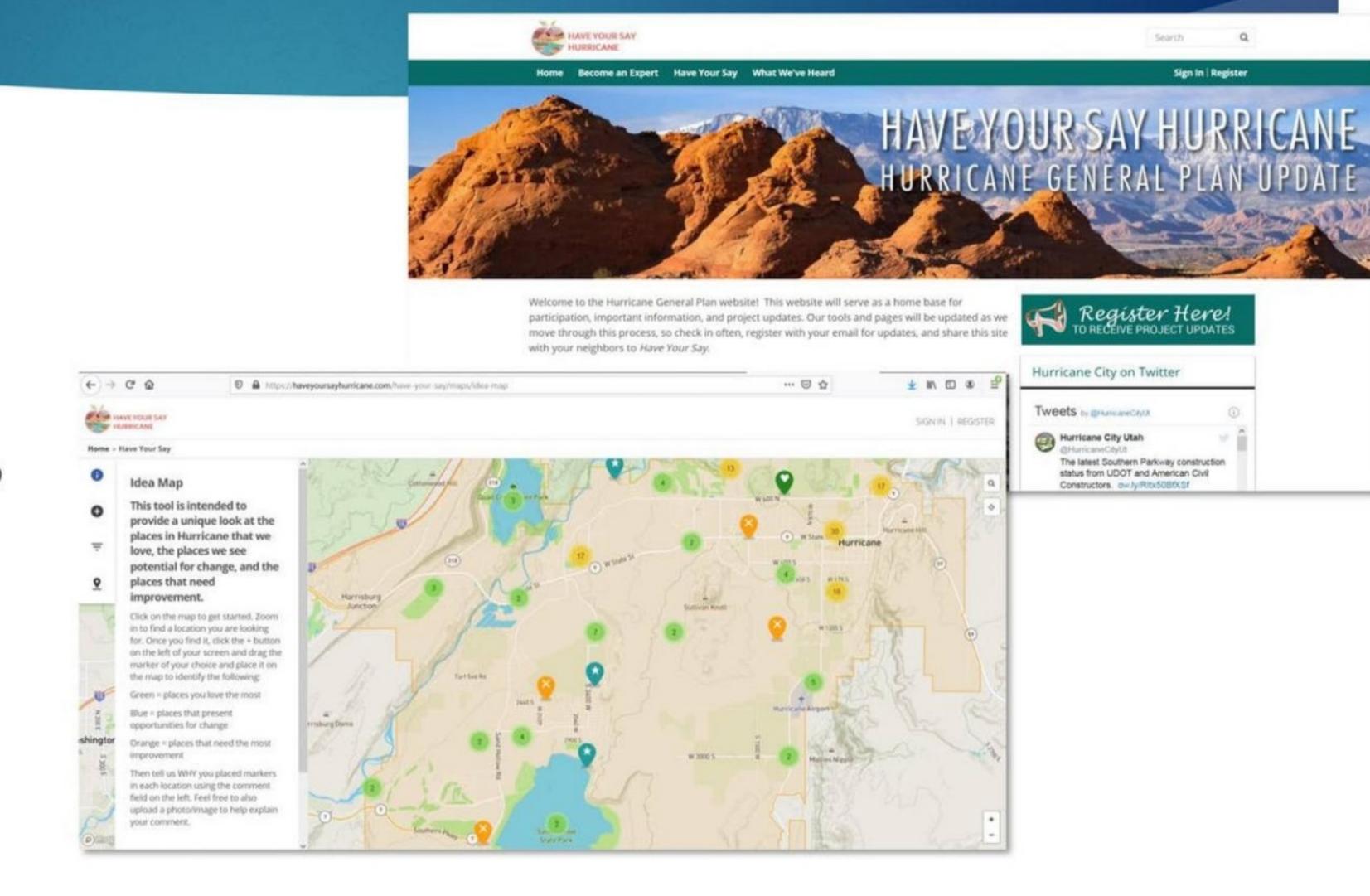


Search

Sign in Register

#### Have Your Say Hurricane, Utah

- Integrated Twitter Feed
- Automated Project Lifecycle
- Interactive Community Idea Map





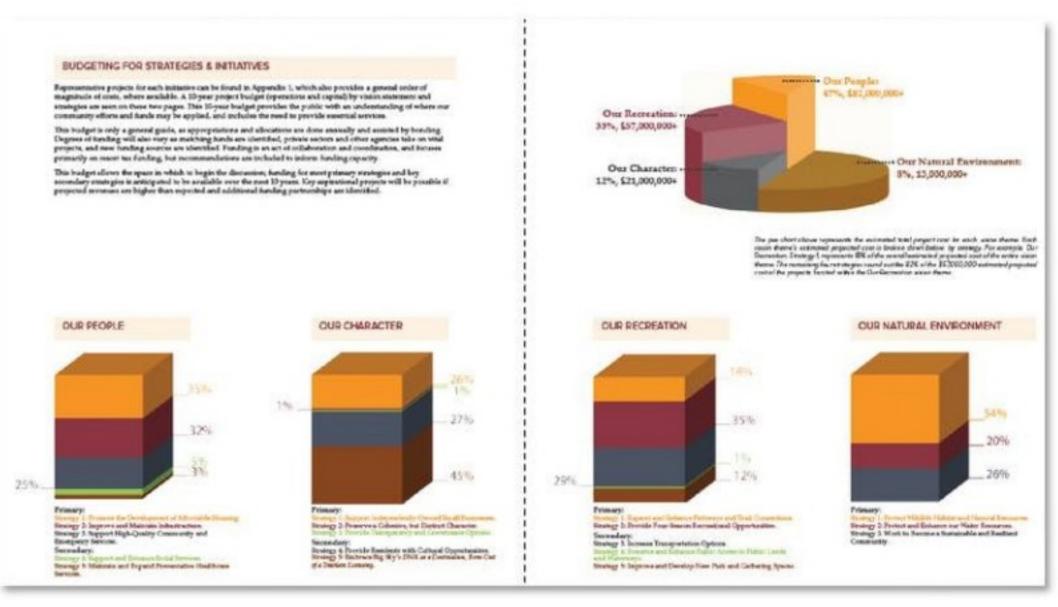
#### Our Big Sky, Montana

- Channeling high numbers of in-person engagement into digital participation
- Using a variety of tools and techniques to develop a funding structure for community priorities

What projects, developments, or partnerships would you like to see happen in Big Sky?







### In three words or less, what does engagement look like in the post-covid environment





