

# Today's Presenters



**Dr. Audrey Barbakoff**

CEO of Co/Lab Capacity,  
and co-author, *The Twelve  
Steps to a Community-Led  
Library*



**Amita Lonial**

Deputy Director,  
Tacoma Public Library



**Mia Henry**

Founder and CEO,  
Freedom Lifted

# Building Relationships with Underserved Communities

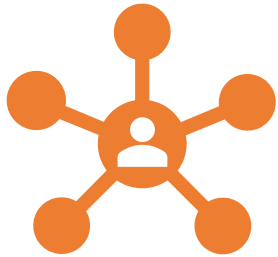
Dr. Audrey Barbakoff  
Amita Lonial  
Mia Henry

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**co/lab capacity**

# Why relationships with excluded communities matter



EDISJ



Building community  
knowledge



Reaching new users



Relevance &  
accountability



# What does an authentic relationship look like?

- Start with respect.
- Engagement, not outreach. Listen instead of promoting - learn about strengths, gifts, and aspirations.
- Transformational, not transactional. It's about people and process, not product.
- **Commit to sustaining the relationship.**



# Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD)



Everyone has gifts.



Everyone cares about something.



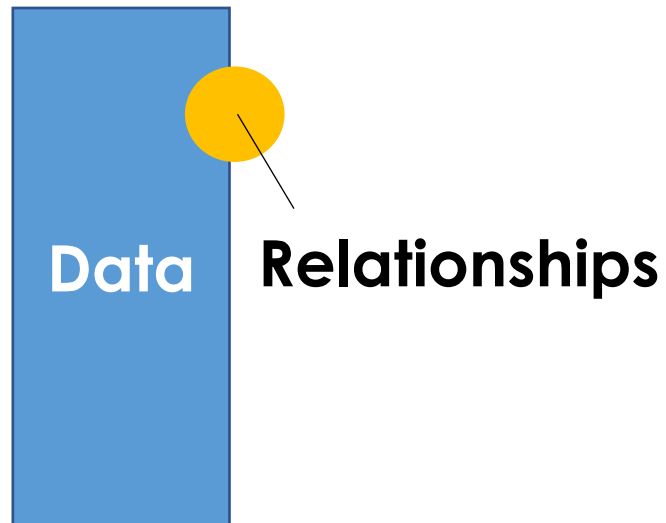
Asking and listening are more powerful than telling.



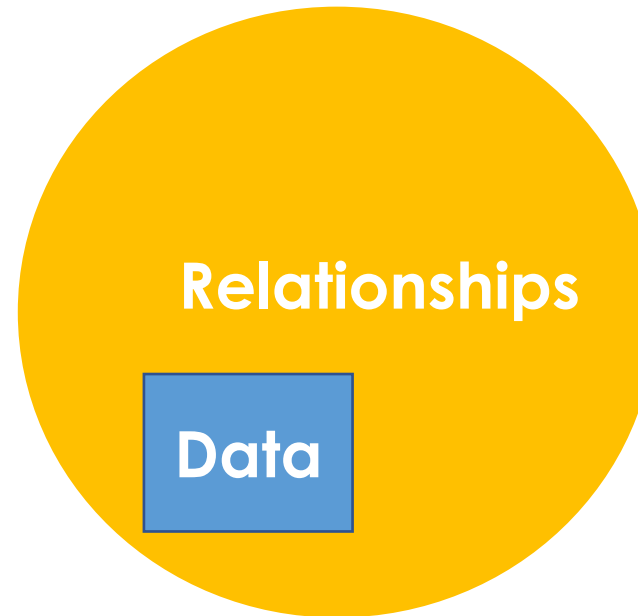
Everyone has agency and shares ownership. No giver/taker divide.

# How do we know what our communities want and need?

## Colonial Ways of Knowing



## Relational Ways of Knowing



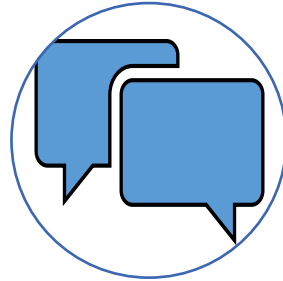
# How we build relationships: sharing power



Inform



Consult



Involve



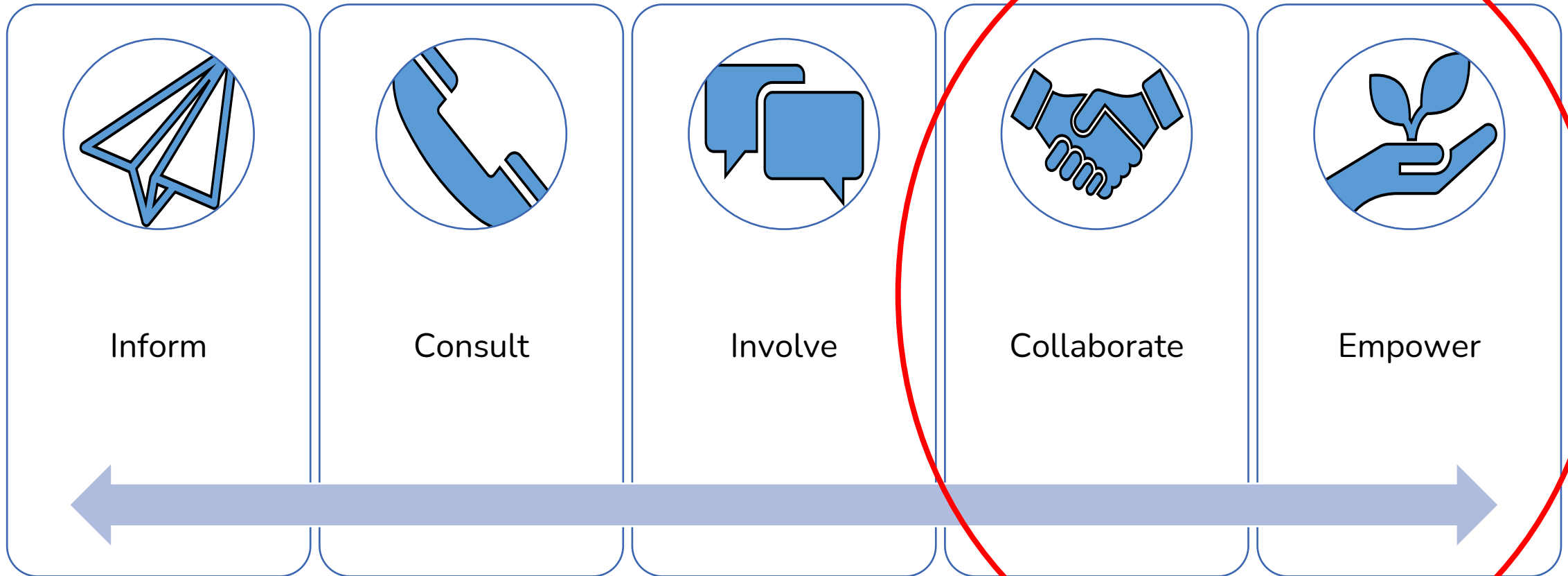
Collaborate



Empower



# How we build relationships: sharing power



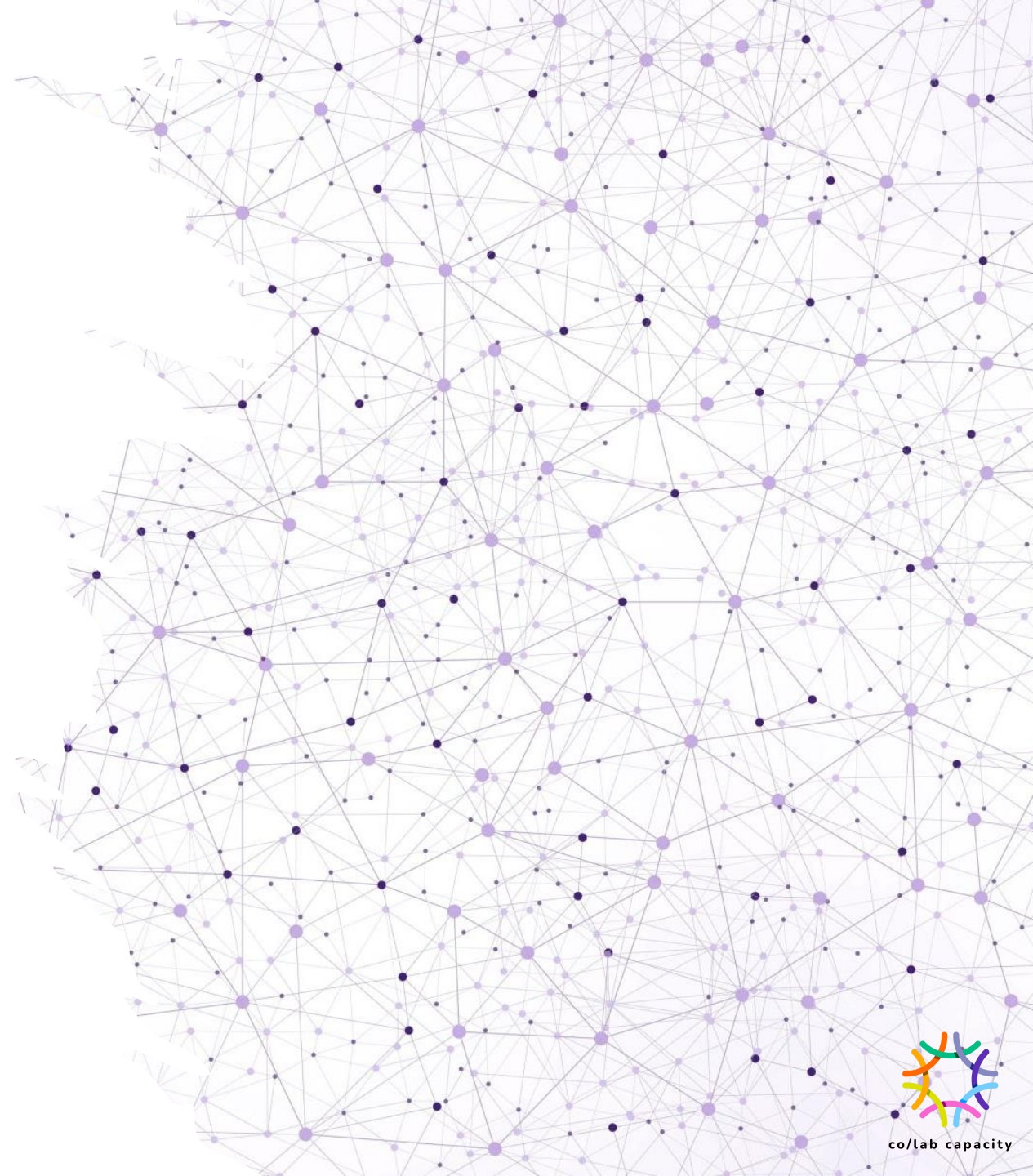


# Tool: asset mapping



**“Nothing about us  
without us is for us.”**

The people who will use a service or be impacted by a decision should co-create it.



# Discussion



# Thank you!



**Dr. Audrey Barbakoff**

[audrey@colabcapacity.com](mailto:audrey@colabcapacity.com)

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**Amita Lonial**

[alonial@tacomalibrary.org](mailto:alonial@tacomalibrary.org)

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**Mia Henry**

[mia@freedomlifted.com](mailto:mia@freedomlifted.com)

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Lifted