# STORIED COMMUNITIES, COMMUNITY STORIES

## CONVERSATION GUIDE

MADE POSSIBLE THROUGH THE GENEROUS SUPPORT OF THE KRESGE FOUNDATION

We hope that residents, practitioners of community-based development organizations (CBDOs), and staff at organizations that support CBDOs will find value in our Storied Communities, Community Stories research + can continue to unpack how findings might connect back to their work moving forward. Some of this might be around conducting additional research or refining resident engagement practices, but we also believe that open conversation about these topics can have immense value in their own right.

We would encourage readers to initiate conversations around resident voice in their own communities. If that kind of dialogue is already happening, we encourage you to take steps to deepen + sustain it.

**ThirdSpace offers the following prompts for just those kinds of conversations:**

## RESIDENT PROMPTS

+ How well do we collectively understand what our CBDOs' priorities + offerings are? Do those priorities + offerings seem aligned with our understanding of what residents here want?

+ What might we do as a group to support CBDO work + help it evolve? /What kinds of support would be most helpful to us to do that?

+ What might we do as a group to support our community even outside of partnering with our CBDO? Are there other residents or other stakeholders that we think might be interested in joining us? What would they need in order to get involved with us?

## CBDO-LEVEL PROMPTS

+ What practices do we have in place for engaging residents in substantive, longer-term ways? Are there specific points when we pause in our work to refine those practices + make sure they're still serving both the residents + our organization?

+ Do we currently engage residents in conversations, planning, or implementation of work related to systems change or root cause work (such as around community development policy or narrative), either within our organization, the community, or the broader community development ecosystem? Are there specific challenges to engaging residents around this topic?

+ What kinds of supports can we provide to residents, beyond direct service provision, to make sure they can engage in our work in the ways they want to + the ways we want them to? Beyond funding, what would we need in place to make sure those supports are available + sustained?

## PROMPTS FOR ORGANIZATIONS THAT SUPPORT CBDOS

*(such as Governments, Foundations, and Intermediaries)*

+ Do we currently have processes + practices in place that work to increase CBDOs' ability to substantively engage residents? Are there things we could do to strengthen these processes + practices?

+ What processes + practices do we have in place that might hinder CBDOs' ability to substantively engage residents? Are there ways that we could refine those processes + practices to remove barriers to participation (or to at least minimize harm caused by lower levels of engagement)?

+ What roles do residents in the community (or communities) we serve currently play beyond the borders of their own neighborhoods – for instance, in local, regional, and state community development strategy? What roles would they want to play, if given an opportunity, and how do we know that? What kinds of supports could we provide to make that a reality, and what would we need in place to make sure those supports are accessible + sustainable?