

THE 3 A'S OF PUBLIC LIFE

AUTHORITY

- Holding Authority means having knowledge rooted in the community – understanding people, their lives, where they live, their aspirations and concerns. You hold a deep knowledge of the community.
- Holding Authority means applying this knowledge to inform your decisions; how you design and implement programs; how you conduct yourself. Your actions are pivotal.
- Holding Authority means acting as part of the community as opposed to acting apart from it. You are rooted in public life.

AUTHENTICITY

- Being Authentic means that your words and actions reflect the reality of people's lives. Being Authentic means that you see and treat people in a human way, not as objects to be manipulated.
- Being Authentic means seeking to understand the wholeness of a situation – capturing the different perspectives, ambiguity, and tensions that exist. What you say rings true.
- Being Authentic means genuinely listening to the community in an ongoing way. You can then reflect the community in your work.
- Being Authentic means that the community believes you have their best interests at heart. You exercise a sense of affection for the community.

ACCOUNTABILITY

- Exercising Accountability takes being open to learning along the journey of change. You must account for what you are learning.
- Exercising Accountability takes setting realistic expectations for change and making progress. You must account for your own pledges and promises.
- Exercising Accountability takes understanding and reflecting a sense of public time and rhythms. You can accelerate the natural rhythms of a community, but you cannot violate them.
- Exercising Accountability takes pursuing actions rooted in purpose and meaning for people. You must avoid window dressing or merely undertaking actions that sound appealing.

Welcome
& Aspirations

The 3 A's of
Public Life

Public Capital
Case Studies

Understanding
Community Rhythms

Being a Public
Innovator

Effective Civic
Action

Authentic
Engagement

Open Lab –
Personal Challenges

Personal
Covenant

Notes

Glossary of
Terms

Reading List