

IDENTITY & COMMUNITY IMPACT ACTION PLAN

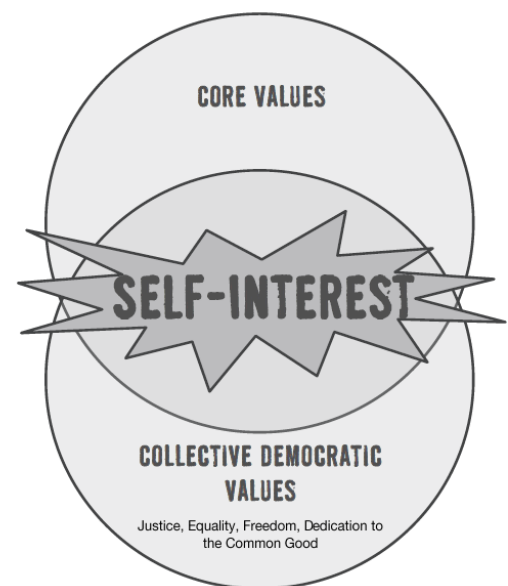
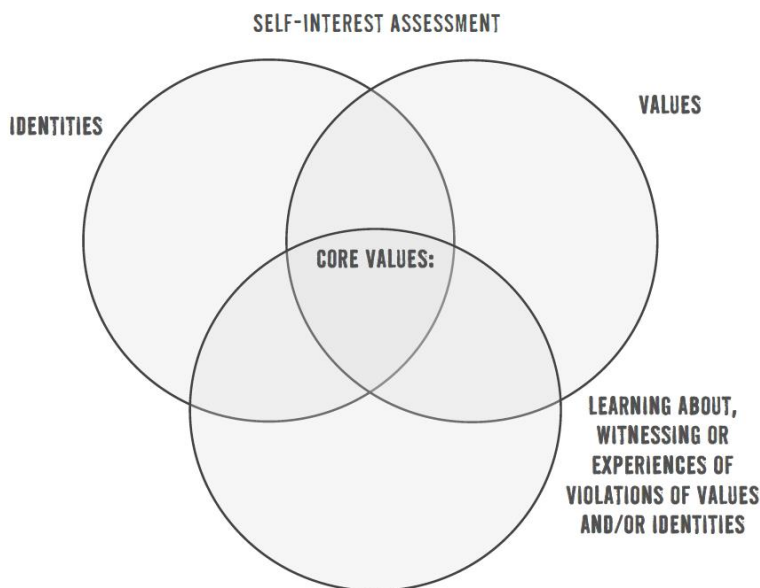
Self Interest

Self-interest is about “the self among others.” Distinct lines are drawn between self-interest, selfishness and selflessness. As a concept, it sits between selflessness (the denial of the self) and selfishness (greedy, stingy conceit). It’s a concept that is connected to self-preservation.

Self-interest can be understood as the intersection between your core values and our shared democratic values, equality, justice, freedom, dedication to the common good, etc. It is important to understand what underpins our core values. Core values are often derived from the intersection of three concepts: our identities, our values and learning about, witnessing or experiencing violations of these values and/or identities. Core values alone however are not the same thing as our self-interest. Our self-interest manifests when we enact our core values in public ways, when we work with others to create change.

Why Does Self-Interest Matters in Community Organizing?

Understanding our self-interest ensures that we know where our motivation to act derives from, what underpins our desire to work for change. It will help you answer the question of why, why are you motivated to work in the community? To engage with others? Additionally, if you can tap into your own self-interest you can more effectively work with others by identifying the intersection of their self-interest with your own, thereby creating constructive space to work with each other. Without an understanding of who you are, what you believe in and what you are willing to become unpopular for, it’s impossible to create **relationships** with others and to make it through the thickets of public life. Without that deep understanding of what motivates us, it becomes that much easier to walk away, or get burned out.





Identity & Community Action Plan

Core Values	
Campus /Community Commitments that <i>currently reflect</i> your Core Values:	Core Values that are <i>not currently reflected</i> in your Campus/Community Commitments:
1.	1.
2.	2.
3.	3.
Specific steps I commit to – here and now – that will build a stronger connection between my Core Values and Campus/Community Commitments:	
In the Next 3 Days:	
In the Next Week:	
By the End of Winter Quarter:	