RE-IMAGINING AMERICA: DAYTON OHIO
The Collaboratory is an independent, non-governmental, non-profit civic innovation lab that operates on the guiding concept that individuals, not institutions, build relationships, collaborate and lead the facilitation of community change. The Collaboratory, which was founded in 1992 in Chicago, has a long history of developing and implementing nationally-recognized collaboratively-developed civic innovation initiatives across multiple sectors.
With its extensive history of innovation and development, the Dayton, OH MSA is an ideal site for research and development of a new socio-economic system.

*DAYTON, OHIO METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREA INCLUDES MONTGOMERY, GREENE, MIAMI AND PREBLE COUNTIES.
“We believe it is possible for Dayton to draw upon its existing citizens to create and build a better community where everyone matters, and people can live their purpose and realize their full potential.”

- Peter Benkendorf, Founder of The Collaboratory
America’s struggles were well-documented in the 2018 Frontline/ProPublica documentary “Left Behind America” which presented Dayton as the manifestation of what has happened to too many great American cities and the people who live there... they have been left behind.

There is widespread agreement among academics, those struggling despite working multiple jobs, and the super rich like Ray Dalio, Marc Benioff and Nick Hanauer:

The existing socio-economic system is not working for the vast majority of Americans.
Re-Imagining America: Dayton Ohio will utilize a collaborative process to create a new socio-economic model that will provide greater well-being and prosperity for all the region’s citizens.

We will use quantitative and qualitative research, system dynamics, and collaborative planning to create pilot projects in eight interrelated action areas identified by our community.
ACTION AREAS

• REGIONAL ECONOMY AND EMPLOYMENT

• CRIMINAL JUSTICE

• ENVIRONMENT

• TRANSPORTATION

• HEALTH AND WELLNESS

• HOUSING

• EDUCATION

• MEDIA
RE-IMAGINING AMERICA: DAYTON OHIO
ACTIVITIES AND TIMELINE

Diagnosis
- Quantitative/Qualitative Research
- System Dynamics Modeling
- Promote, Identify, and Directly Involve Citizens in RIA Process
- Citizens Possibility Report
- Metrics Development Planning
- Subject Matter Work Groups Formation

Planning
- Subject Matter Work Groups
- Pilot Projects
- Design and Implementation

YEAR 2

Pilot Projects
- Analysis
- Scale Up
- Review of Pilot Projects
- Selection of Most Viable for Expansion

YEAR 4

YEAR 1

YEAR 3

YEAR 5

Scale Up
- Implementation Measurement
- Well-Being Index Survey

Pilot Projects
- Design and Implementation
- System Dynamics Update
- Well-Being Index Survey
Changing how community and economic development success is defined and measured is the heart of this initiative. The Collaboratory has engaged The Gallup Organization to develop a customized application of their Well-Being Index. The Index measures quality of life and citizens’ experiences through five domains: Purpose, Social, Financial, Community, and Physical. We will use this index to convey our community's perspectives in terms that are broader than strictly economic indicators.
Daytonians are more than just numbers. Citizen-Driven Participation, led by The Collaboratory, will be used to gain insights and understanding of attitudes, awareness, hopes, dreams and pain points of the region’s citizens. It will include multifaceted approaches and opportunities for citizens to drive the needed change using the talents, skills and interests of the community. Opportunities will be led by The Collaboratory in a variety of ways:

- An interactive website
- Community conversation
- Social change projects
- Brainstorming sessions
Using System Dynamics, we will build models to study the causal relationships affecting well-being and simulate the net effect of policy and programmatic initiatives.

The modeling process facilitates understanding of the complex social, political, economic and ecological dynamics present in real world problems.

The result: Better forecasting of the outcomes of proposed solutions.
This three-pronged approach to data collection and system design will enable The Collaboratory to accomplish the following:

**OPEN SOURCE MATERIALS**

Produce a digitally accessible dataset and methodologies on the well-being of the region’s citizens available to communities or individual seeking to Re-Imagine America.

**INCREASED ENGAGEMENT**

Facilitate greater citizen engagement with the regional development process by including their ideas and concerns in the creation of new possibilities.

**PILOT PROJECTS**

Locally-designed solutions and initiatives that address the pain-points and opportunities revealed by the data.
Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission (MVRCP) is the federally designated Metropolitan Planning Organization. MVRCP will provide data, analysis and planning support.

Dayton Metro Library will host focus groups, individual citizen interviews and working groups throughout their network of branches.
HOW YOU CAN HELP

The Collaboratory and its partners are seeking $5 million in leadership philanthropy to fund this five-year initiative at which point the overall project is set to end with a Supernova, with any number of new initiatives underway and the Well-Being Index moving in an upward direction.

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“You never change things by fighting against the existing reality. To change something, build a new model that makes the old model obsolete.”

- Buckminster Fuller
RE-IMAGINING AMERICA: DAYTON OHIO is an initiative of Involvement Advocacy d/b/a The Collaboratory, an independent non-profit organization. For additional information please contact:

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