Agenda

8:00 – 9:00	Registration Coffee and Pastries	Judd Hall
9:00	Conference Welcome	
9:20	Presentation of VCRD Community Leadership Award	
9:35	Spark Stories: Communities In Action	
10:35	Break	Judd Hall
10:45	Breakout Sessions	Breakout Rooms
Oį	otional Pathways:	Session Type Key:
Li	Community Leadership Skills	Panel
,	Arts & Culture: Building Community, Solving Problems	Workshop
	√ From Idea to Action	Networking
	Navigating Change and Uncertainty	Forum
V	 W1 - Project Management 101: From Vision to Planning to Im (WORKSHOP) An introduction to project management for community revitalization 	

An introduction to project management for community revitalization projects. Learn how to organize around an initial vision, define goals and priorities, navigate funding considerations, and move your project from idea to implementation.

W2 – Arts "Ping Pong" (WORKSHOP)

How can arts, culture and creativity help leaders navigate increasingly complex systems? Join an interactive conversation regarding the positive impact of applying a creative perspective to your leadership practice.

- W3 − Facilitation 101: Essential Skills for Community Leaders (WORKSHOP)

 Strong facilitation skills are key to successful meetings and community conversations. In this workshop, we will share key facilitation skills and strategies and give participants a chance to try them out. Walk away with strategies you can put to use in your next meeting or convening!
- W4 − Community Outreach and Engagement: Building Trust and Impact (WORKSHOP)

 This workshop delves into community engagement strategies, drawing on best practices and case studies from around Vermont. Participants will gain skills, commitments, and techniques for creating trust-based and effective engagement initiatives.

W5 − Wastewater Solutions for Rural Communities: Learning from the Pipeline (WORKSHOP)

Insufficient wastewater infrastructure has often hindered housing or business development in towns and villages as they grow up and away from flood hazards. Work is underway to create a successful project development pipeline for wastewater infrastructure. Learn tips and tricks for advancing, advocating, and understanding what it takes for your Town.

- Youth-Adult Collaboration to Face Today's Challenges (PANEL)
 Youth understand the world around them with very different perspectives, life experience and access to resources than adults. Come hear from youth and adults about how to collaboratively address challenges and what youth need to be successful.
- P2 How to Lead and Operate During Crises and Uncertainty (PANEL)
 Vermont communities are facing multiple crises and it's getting harder to identify reliable information, resources, and services. This creates new challenges that require leaders to think creatively and act quickly with limited information. Hear from community leaders who exemplify how best practices in these conditions.
- ✓ P3 Neighbor-to-Neighbor: Strengthening Emergency Management Plans (PANEL)
 Many communities rely on volunteers during and after emergencies. Come learn from towns that have added more to their Local Emergency Management Plans and come away with ideas that you could consider for your town.
 - P4 Balancing Land Use Needs for Housing, Food Production, & Community Spaces (PANEL)

The amount of land in Vermont is finite. How do we find a balanced approach to what feels like competing needs? We'll identify the drivers of the increasingly complex and often contentious moment and explore strategies to help us navigate into our shared future.

- P5 Vermont's Rural Identities and Future Growth Who is Vermont For? (PANEL)
 Interactive discussion with Vermonters working to build inclusive communities through
 programs, policy, and trainings. Participants will examine the question of "Who is Vermont For?"
 and walk away with a clearer answer for themselves and how their community might answer it.
- N1 Social Networking | Finding Meaningful Connection and Overcoming Awkwardness in Your Networking (NETWORKING WORKSHOP)

HOW we are in relationship with each other matters. Be it a professional partnership or personal friendship, we all want meaningful connections. Traditional networking can feel superficial and focused on what we can get from each other. This session will cover why meaningful connection matters, what barriers come up in professional settings, and offer tools and skill building. Participants will practice these tools in a welcoming and inclusive atmosphere, so you can be yourself as you make new connections.

W16 – Fundraising 101: How to Raise Money (WORKSHOP)

An overview of some of the crucial components of a successful fundraising campaign. Learn to identify your audiences and effectively communicate to encourage their support. Review the elements needed to develop a strong "case for support" to use in grant requests, social media posts, newsletters, and conversations with individual supporters.

12:00 – 1:00 **LUNCH** Judd Hall

W6 − Meet the Resilience Hub Toolkit (WORKSHOP)

Come learn about the Resilience Hub Toolkit—a guide of best practices for disaster response and building climate resilience—compiled by grassroots flood responders. We'll discuss components of resilience, readiness and resilience assessment for your community, and building systems of safety, response, and care for the long run because nobody's coming to save us.

- W7 Including Future Leaders: How to Make Space for Youth Leadership (WORKSHOP) Adults may recognize that including youth leadership is important but may feel that it's hard to achieve. Participants will learn from youth leaders about how community groups serving any age can center youth voice, invite youth to participate in decision making, and inspire and enable youth leadership.
- **W8 Designing our Prosperous Future** (WORKSHOP)

What kind of a community and state do you want to build for future generations? What does it mean to have all that we need within our environmental constraints? Come learn how we can imagine and design for a future where Vermonters thrive.

W9 − Fundraising Conversations − How to Talk with People about Giving to your Project (WORKSHOP)

In this lively workshop, you will learn tips and tricks for reaching out to potential donors for your project. You will learn a framework for how to get meetings and have face-to-face conversations with your friends, neighbors, and community members to invite them to join you as a supporter of your important work.

W10 – How to be the Village: Mentoring, Volunteering, Strengthening Communities (WORKSHOP)

This workshop will provide tools on how to recruit, train, and sustain volunteers through peer-to-peer mentorships, community resilience, connections, and more.

P6 − **Developing a Community Trust Organization** (PANEL)

This panel of community members and statewide leaders will cover strategies and lessons learned on creating a new Community Trust Organization. Learn how Community Trusts support historic preservation, economic revitalization, and community building.

- P7 Vermonters Working Together Across Generations & Identities (PANEL)
 Vermonters recognize the need to bridge generations, differing occupations, and lived experiences. This panel will explore creative solutions for building connected communities through community events, skills shares, welcome packets for new residents, and more.
- Reimagining Local Democracy Traditions: Stories from Craftsbury, Jericho & Beyond (PANEL)

From traditional town meeting to Australian ballot, from hybrid meeting participation to year-round engagement, Vermont's local democracy has never been one-size-fits-all. Citizens' expectations are evolving, and Vermont's communities continue to innovate. Hear inspiring stories and take home ideas for strengthening local democracy to match your community's needs.

№ P9 - Mentorship & Succession Planning in Local Leadership (PANEL)

Vermont's communities are enormously reliant on volunteers, and many are having trouble finding new volunteers or folks to step into leadership roles. Hear from a panel of local leaders with strategies for inviting, engaging, and supporting the next generation of community leaders.

■ N2 - BYOI - Connect with Resource Leaders to Discuss YOUR project (NETWORKING)

A networking opportunity to share your community project/initiative/idea with peers and resource providers and ask for advice, resources, and strategies to move your idea forward.

▼1 – **What do Rural Communities Need to Prepare for the Future?** (FORUM DISCUSSION)

A forum conversation on successes and challenges around strategies to build connection, unity,

and engagement for the future.

2:30 Break Judd Hal

2:45 - 4:00 Breakout Sessions Breakout Rooms

- W12 Advanced Facilitation Skills (WORKSHOP)
 This workshop builds on Facilitation 101 and explores techniques for more complex or difficult meeting or convening facilitation.
- W13 Finding "Both/And" Solutions to Your Community's Hard Questions (WORKSHOP)

 Attend this workshop If you have ever left a local meeting feeling discouraged about how the conversation went and wanting more inclusive, productive, and empowered community dialogue. Learn about why things often go wrong and gain a powerful tool that can help groups work towards outcomes that honor diverging viewpoints.
- W14 − Small Town Economies: Transferable Ecosystem Models for Local Development (WORKSHOP)
 How do small towns build stronger economic ecosystems? We'll look at how local groups can work together and unlock resources. Using real examples like community centers, support programs, and funders, we'll cover easy-to-use tools, how to get different groups on the same page, and simple ways to find and fix gaps in support for rural communities using what they

already have.

- W15 Leadership and Public Service Skills for Artists, Introverts and YOU! (WORKSHOP)

 A workshop on identifying your strengths for being of service, particularly when you may not see yourself that way! We will explore how to capitalize on artistic creativity, introversion as a strength, and why quiet observation can be key to community projects.
- P10 Little Selectboards, Big Problems: Governing Small Towns (PANEL)
 Vermont's smallest towns are powered by volunteers, and volunteer Selectboard members are being asked to manage more and increasingly complex challenges. Join this panel to hear from Selectboard members about the challenges and successes of governing in their communities.
- ► Shared Strength: Local Strategies for Equity and Cultural Connection (PANEL)
 Whether through inclusive governance, mutual aid, or cultural exchange, Vermont towns are
 finding creative ways to stay true to their welcoming values. Join this discussion with municipal
 and community leaders who are strengthening local communities by uplifting diverse voices and
 advancing equity on the ground.
- P12 Building Community through Art (PANEL)
 The arts and creativity strengthen communities by creating shared experiences that connect us to ourselves, each other, and our world. Hear from panelists on how the arts are building connections, resilience, and community cohesion across Vermont.

P13 – Building Community Capacity: Nonprofit Collaboration for Greater Impact (PANEL)

How can the expansive network of Vermont non-profits align, collaborate, and build systems for better outcomes? This interactive panel will speak to efforts underway in the creative sector, food networks, and mutual aid.

- Building Social Connections Within Your Community (FORUM DISCUSSION)
 A forum conversation on what it takes to build social connections across identities, generations, toward a more connected community.
- Peer to Peer Connections for Projects, Initiatives and Collaboration (NETWORKING)
 Meet with community leaders working on housing, infrastructure projects and other economic
 development initiatives in this roundtable style networking session. Learn what worked for
 others, discuss challenges, and share strategies and connections.

4:00	Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream Par	ty!	Judd Hall
	Free ice cream, with dairy free and gluten free optio	ons	

The Summit is produced by:

Vermont Council on Rural Development
PO Box 1384 | Montpelier VT 05601-1384 | info@vtrural.org

www.vtrural.org/summit

