

**FAB Meeting #11 03/14/2018, 6:00-8:00 pm  
Morris Koppelman Center (774 Saratoga Ave)**

**Attendance:**

- 4 UB backbone staff (David Harrington, Kassa Belay, Jason Ludwig, Danielle Augustine)
- 16 FAB members
- 1 Prospective FAB member
- Anna Bardaus, Editor at Scholastic

**Objectives:**

- Reintroduce all 3 DTB projects and opportunities for FAB to participate in process
- Secure FAB commitments for Family Co-Op planning participation
- Introduce Slack
- Prepare FAB members attending Leadership Council meeting

**Takeaways:**

- FAB members returned to thinking about the Discover Together Brownsville projects and ways in which they can best participate in planning and implementation
- FAB members expressed excitement about Family Co-op and continued thinking of ways to tailor the co-op to the strengths and needs of Brownsville
- FAB and UB articulated an important vision for UB's work going forward: **“Community data belongs to the community”**

**Introductions:**

- Icebreaker: What is one thing we might not know about you from just looking at you?
- Mindfulness moment:
  - Breathing in, I calm my body
  - Breathing out, I smile
  - Dwelling in the present moment,
  - I know this is a wonderful moment!

**Welcome Committee questions for David A., prospective FAB member**

- **Q:** How would you describe Brownsville now? Where is it going?
  - **A:** *People are getting active about improving conditions in the community. Has seen this in his previous experiences, taking part in the Brownsville Dads Iron Chef and surveying local political candidates on their policy ideas for the community.*

- **Q:** Does your work impact children in Brownsville? If so, how??
  - **A:** *Has previously worked on a campaign for a bill fighting sickle cell disease, in conjunction with Brookdale Hospital. Was also involved in the Coalition for the New York Health Act Campaign.*
- **Q:** How would you describe United for Brownsville based on what you already know?
  - **A:** *The Brownsville community investing in its children and its future.*

## Slack Introduction

- The goal of using Slack will be to streamline communication between the FAB, PAT and UB backbone as we proceed in implementing the DTB projects.
  - Will supplement, and not replace, UB's current emailing and texting practices
- Slack will allow users to view and share documents through different channels as well as through the Google Drive app

## Discover Together Brownsville Review

- Reviewed the Discover Together Brownsville projects and [FAB members signed up to participate in these projects:](#)
1. **Books for Brownsville:** a service-provider training initiative inspired by the practices of Reach Out and Read and other early childhood literacy initiatives. This strength-based project will convene local residents and early childhood professionals to: better understand families' definitions of and practices around pre-literacy; surface the strategies that service providers can follow to best support families' methods of encouraging young children's literacy development; and to create strength-based, culturally-informed trainings for providers and tip sheets for families
    - a. A new literacy consultant has been hired to assist with training development
    - b. **FAB Participation Opportunities:**
      - i. **Roundtable Participant (7-9):** We will host 2 roundtables where FAB members will be invited to participate. The first will be a Family roundtable composed of only Brownsville parents/caregivers, focused on family definitions of pre-literacy and associated strategies families have found work well for them . The second will be a family & professional roundtable where we'll workshop the first draft of the provider training guide and family tip sheet. We expect both roundtables to be hosted in June 2019 and each to be 2-3 hours. \*
  2. **Learning Landscapes:** Inspired by the "Talking is Teaching" campaign of the Clinton Foundation's Too Small to Fail initiative, UB will create tool kits (signage etc.) that transform places that children frequently pass through from idle spaces into opportunities for engaging language and social-emotional development activities. Kits will be deployed in ways appropriate to their location. Some locations will use relatively economical pop-up kits that include signage, books, educational toys/games, and other activities;

other locations will be more robust redevelopments of existing spaces into fully-immersive learning spaces as undertaken by Urban Thinkscape in Philadelphia.

a. **FAB Participation Opportunities:**

- i. **Store Visits (4-5 ):** Accompany 2-3 PAT members and UB Backbone Staff on the initial visits to the two grocery stores selected. Share your thoughts on where signage would best be placed. We'd ask FAB members to be present for the initial first and second visit and then a later visit when placing signs in store. The initial visits will take place in April or May. The later visit will take place in mid or late August. Although we'd ask FAB members to be present for the two meetings, we will have bi-weekly meetings beginning in April and would invite you to be present for those also.

3. **The Family Co-op:** A two-generational program for infants/toddlers and their caregivers inspired by work piloted by Scholastic Education, the Yale Child Study Center, and the community of Grundy County, TN. It is designed to build community among families to reduce isolation, provide educationally-enriching weekend programming in underutilized spaces, and counteract negative narratives by starting with the question "What would you like to celebrate about Brownsville?"

a. **FAB Participation Opportunities:**

- i. **Curriculum Evaluators (5-6):** Scholastic is working to adapt its existing curriculum to Brownsville, but we will need evaluators to help ensure that work is being done in concert with local stakeholders. We expect to launch in September with the first two months of curriculum pre-written, which will involve 1-3 rounds of revisions. FAB members are invited to join a "Buddy System" with our PAT, where 1-2 members from both groups will be paired with each other to review material. The curriculum writing and evaluation process will continue throughout the 30 sessions of the program, as new curriculum will be modified to reflect the input teachers, participants, and UB members.
- ii. **Book Selector (1-2):** Opportunity to partner directly with Scholastic staff to select books for use in Family Co-Op curriculum to ensure cultural compatibility and more
- iii. **Calendar Development (1-2):** Opportunity to assist in designing a Family Co-Op calendar that lays out curriculum themes aligned with local Brownsville celebrations and other locale specific considerations

## **Anna Bardaus Presentation on Family Co-op Curriculum**

- Anna is an editor at Scholastic who worked with the Family Co-op in Grundy County, Tennessee to create a curriculum aimed at developing literacy skills and pride of place amongst 0-3 yr olds in the community.

- Shared “[Co-op Day at a Glance](#)”--Overview of typical activities that would take place during a day at the Family Co-op
  - Emphasized that activities over the course of the 30 week co-op were designed not only to promote literacy skills, but also to promote community-building--i.e. “Caregiver Conversation” activities designed to allow parents and guardians to share their experiences amongst each other
  - Highlighted that weeks of family meetings precede the opening of the co-op, in which families create a charter
    - This allows families to have a lot of influence on the decision-making surrounding the family co-op--including on issues ranging from providing food to designating spaces for breastfeeding
  - Co-op can also incorporate activities for older siblings to become involved
- Shared [draft of a lesson plan for Brownsville Co-op](#), designed based on FAB input in [previous meeting's “Celebrate” activity](#):
  - “Story Time” Activity incorporated the book *You Can Do it Too!*, which ties into Greg “Jocko” Jackson’s ethos of “Who are you going to help today”
    - The book also provides a model of how to bring educational activities into the household
  - FAB members expressed excitement over Family Co-op being a weekend activity and articulated several ideas for how to shape the Co-op in Brownsvilles:
    - Incorporating works by local children's' authors
    - Using audiobooks
    - Incorporating different languages
    - Offering volunteer opportunities for local high schoolers

## Preparing for Leadership Council Meeting

- Leadership Council meeting on March 20th at Scholastic headquarters--open invite to FAB members to attend and participate
  - Goal of meeting is to gain access to important datasets from city agencies concerning Social-Emotional and Language development in Brownsville
    - UB believes that we can use this data to partner with families in Brownsville to improve educational environment for 0-3 year olds
    - UB and FAB believe that “**Community data belongs to the community**”

