

FAB Meeting #38 06/11/2021

Attendance:

- 8 UB Backbone Staff (David Harrington, Kassa Belay, Dionne Grayman, Danielle Augustine, Athenia Rodney, Aileen Gonzalez, Briona Clark, Ruth Horry)
- 10 FAB Members

Objectives:

1. UB News and Updates
2. Revisit “Lift Off” and develop an updated UB Mission Statement

Takeaways:

In our June meeting, we revisited the inspirational idea of children “lifting off” from a poem used in early FAB meetings to spark further discussion on the driver diagram of potential projects.

Opener:

- What is your first UB memory?

My first meeting when I got to see UB level up and first lunch/dinner with UB	Being interviewed by David and Kassa...	A phone call with Danielle.
Showing up to the first meeting and finding out they were serious about childcare and hot food!!!	My first memory is : in my first meeting I saw families that a meet before and play dates or programs	My first UB memory was when we all first met in 2018 at the Dinner.
I showed up to work at the Greg Jackson Center on the first day, and no one was there – not the Brownsville Partnership director who hired me ... or Kassa, who didn't know I was starting.	My first leadership meeting.	Getting chosen by my peers to be the first FAB fellow.
	Receiving my welcome letter from UB	My first memory with ub is remembering that we had to be accented and being nervous that i

- Naimah bumping into me and inviting me to the community dinner

- Kassa and David presenting to the first ever FAB members

News and Updates

- May FAB and June PAT Catch Up
 - FAB
 - Completed QI introduction course
 - Final Round Interviews for the UB's small business grant
 - PAT
 - Reviewed UB Systems Change principles and early childhood mental health project topics
- Small Business Relief Grant
 - Conducted interviews with the three finalists for the small business grant
 - On Your Toes Dance Studio has been chosen for their Mini and Me Dance program
 - PAT members have also reached out to form relationships with programs, furthering their connections with child focused businesses in the community
- Learning Landscapes Activity Kits
 - UB has distributed over 80 kits so far
 - FAB and Family Co-op distribution continues Thursday 06/17 11am - 3pm at the Greg Jackson Center
 - Learning Landscapes Families Focus Group on Wednesday, July 21 at 1pm. More details and invites to come.
- UB Community Library
 - Open outside the Greg Jackson Center and we have 4 FAB members on the maintenance committee
 - Asking for more books to be donated as the library is running low
- EI Ambassador Update
 - 20 Families are currently working with our EI Ambassador Aileen
 - Aileen has launched the Evaluation Station, a neutral environment she sets up for each child or children based on their age. She is there Monday, Tuesday, and Friday.

- Aileen is conducting virtual and in-person visits with families
- Aileen also shared with the FAB that she will be joining a graduate program at Emerson College and transitioning out of her role at the end of the year.
- UB and Aileen will be looking for a training a new candidate to take on the torch
- FAB Social Celebration!
 - Location: Brooklyn Children’s Museum
 - Date: July 17, 2021
 - Time: 10am - 2pm
 - 2pm - 5pm Open play
 - What to expect:
 - Food
 - Childcare and activities
 - Fun Times, pictures, and Laughter
 - Register here: <http://bit.ly/UBSocial3yrs>

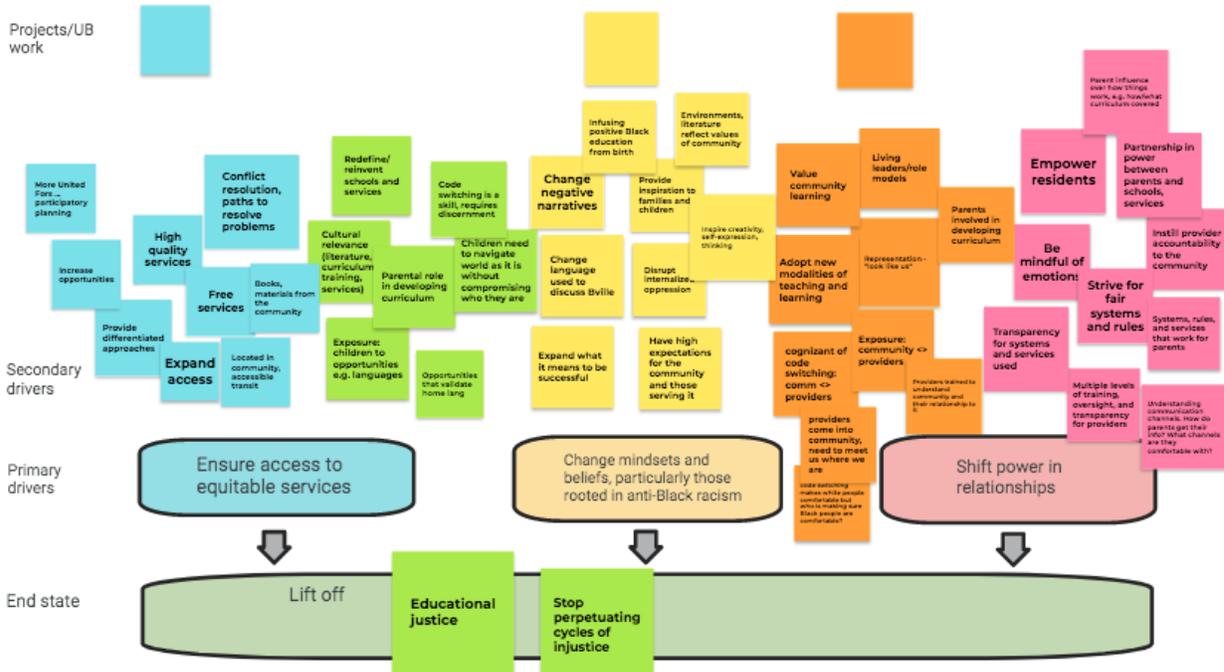
Lift Off to a new UB Mission Statement

- Mission Statement
 - The Backbone had the FAB craft a mission statement asking
 - What needs to change?
 - For whom does change need to happen?
 - What goal needs to be achieved?
 - This establishes a shared mission statement so that we can compare it to our potential activities and projects
 - Dionne brought the group back to the topics of values which she thought should be included in the mission statement. The topic of lifting off is about how we can be aspirational in our planning to break limiting beliefs. It was originally used by UB as a way to set aspirations for what UB and the FAB aim to achieve.

Breakout Session: Today’s Topic Research Round Robins

Set Up

- The group viewed “Lift Off”, a poem given as a Harvard graduation speech by Donovan Livingston, and reflected on it.
- The Backbone then reviewed the driver diagram model that was previously filled out within the context of changing the system to Lift Off Brownsville’s children.



Discussion

- Access
 - Access to transportation
- Change mindset, beliefs, changing negative narratives
 - Social and conversational training for children.
 - Early education is key to learning standard American English which can determine literacy and opportunities for children in the future
 - How do we encourage literacy and an understanding of standard american English. (i.e. Should we discourage baby talk?)
 - Ashanti : Being well versed in AAVE is also important
 - Bashirah: Code switching is important. This is also a systemic issue as linguistic curriculum differs by school and especially

by class. She linked the following article “Social Classes School Knowledge”

<https://www1.udel.edu/educ/whitson/897s05/files/hiddencurriculum.htm>

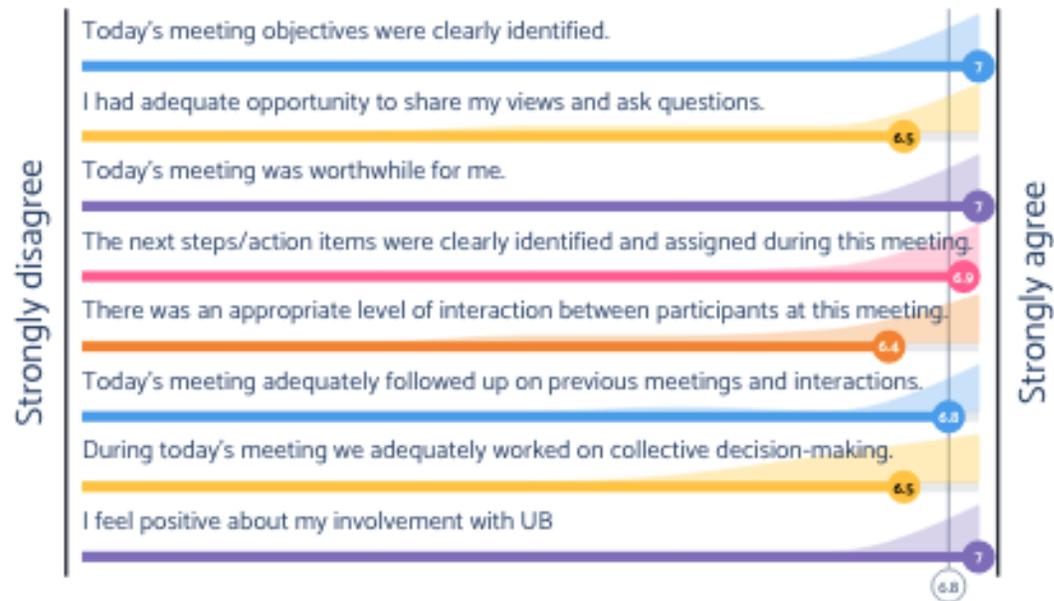
- Dionne: “Adding a caution to works that focus on class alongside or instead of race. While classism is a form of oppression and should certainly be viewed through an intersectional lens, anti-Black racism sits at the core of all systems in this country and should be a focal point for planning.”
 - Highlight the importance of 0-3 language programs, including in languages other than english
 - Environments and literature should be representative of culture of its residents from birth on
 - Kassa: Code switching, defined as changing to make yourself comfortable in certain spaces means that black and brown folks often have to use this tool in white dominant, professional spaces but also that service providers should be willing to meet residents where they are in their own communities (linked to power shifting)
- Shift Power
 - Shifting power back to residents could eliminate the need for local residents to code switch in a majority Black and Brown neighborhoods
 - There is a relationship between how people speak with the quality of service because of assumed education, class, race etc.
 - Kassa asks: How does code-switching tie into lifting off?
 - Add code switching to curriculum to teach to children and improve educational and professional prospects
 - Provider training to cultivate compassion
 - Teach discernment and give people the space to speak as they wish and give them the tools to develop it

- Black and brown children should be able to navigate in the world as themselves with pride
- Parents can be empowered within the school system
 - should know what is in the curriculums
 - have influence over what they are being taught, shift power back to parents
 - Add cultural sensitivity and positive black history training to curriculums and teacher training
 - Meet parents where they are with scheduling as well
 - Teachers have to individualize curriculum for teachers so there should be oversight

Next Steps

- Finalize UB Mission Statement
- Apply new UB guidelines to FAB systems improvement selection
- Prep and share details for Leadership Council meeting #12
 - June 23rd from 2- 3:30pm on zoom
 - Opportunity for the FAB to describe what we have been working on
- FAB Anniversary
 - Saturday, July 17th from 10am - 2pm at Brooklyn Children Museum
- Review June FAB attendance
 - <http://bit.ly/june-fab-attendance>

Reality Check



activities aileen backbone black brown business change children
 class code community curriculum dionne education english fab families
 grant group http important kassa learning lift meeting members mission
 open parents pm power program projects residents reviewed school shared shift small social
 spaces statement switching systems teachers topic training
 ub updates working