Communities for Change: Evaluating and Enhancing Grassroots Projects
Ilakkiah Chandran, HBSc Candidate¹, Jasjit Sangha, PhD², Kosha Bramesfeld, PhD¹

Department of Psychology, University of Toronto Scarborough¹, Academic Success, Koffler Student Services Centre, University of Toronto²

BACKGROUND
The Communities for Change (C4C) Project was launched globally by the Presencing institute¹. Over the span of 8-weeks, community leaders collectively built grassroots projects to address existing problems within their communities, while undergoing the Theory U Framework, a process focused on change rooted in perspective-shifting¹.

PURPOSE
This study aims to analyze and evaluate the components of the C4C projects to understand the conditions that led to and inhibited its success across different communities.

SIGNIFICANCE
This study intends to highlight the application of the Theory U framework and C4C Projects to:

- Build
- Advance
- Promote
- Sustain

Healthy and Equitable Societies

METHODS
Steps:
1. Qualitative data (C4C Program Evaluation meetings) were transcribed.
2. Recurring codes were identified and analyzed through NVivo.
3. Literature Review was conducted to interpret findings.

Overarching Themes:
- Community Building
- Prototyping Factors
- Success Factors
- Transformative Learning

RESULTS & CONCLUSION
The success factors of C4C were community building²,³ and transformative learning. Specifically, leadership & facilitation² that can guide teams through experiences of discomfort⁴ and participants’ openness to learning⁵ were key.

On the other hand, the lack of cultural applicability⁶ inhibited the success of these projects.

IMPLICATIONS AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS
Implications:
- Improve Interdisciplinary project development
- Assist in developing a foundation to mitigate inequities
- Aid in ensuring success of grassroots projects

Future Directions:
- Assess the role of the identified factors in an ideal environment
- Assess long-term effects of C4C projects

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS
Thank you to the Presencing Institute, Impact Hub, the facilitators and participants of the C4C Project for their contributions.

REFERENCES
5. McCrae RR, Sutin AR. Openness to experience.