



Pursuing the Greater Good: Good Decisions Made Together

About Public Participation:

Public participation is any process that uses public input to solve a problem or make decisions. It is most effective and delivers best value for effort when it is undertaken for a specific purpose -- to influence and add value to an issue or opportunity so that the best quality or most sustainable decision can be made.

About IAP2 USA

IAP2 USA is a nationwide organization that leads, advances and advocates for best practices in public participation. It is a home and community for people who believe good decisions can be made together.

We provide members with tools and techniques via conferences, trainings, professional certification, research, mentorship and access to a community of more than 2,500 members across 48 states to support establishment of good practices so that quality participation can occur.

Members adhere to a Code of Ethics that guide us in our practice and enhance the integrity of the public participation process.

Advancing the Practice

IAP2 USA's goal is to advance the practice by making quality participation a cultural norm. Embedded in all our efforts, we test core competencies in our professional certification program; mentor new practitioners; define what quality public participation looks like; and celebrate the best of the best in our annual Core Values Awards program.

Our Core Values

An essential aspect of our community is our Core Values. These values make our organization unique and define the expectations and aspirations of the public participation process.

Good Public participation

It is based on the belief that those who are affected by a decision have a right to be involved in the decision-making process.

- includes the promise that the public's contribution will influence the decision.
- promotes sustainable decisions by recognizing and communicating the needs and interests of all participants, including decision makers.
- seeks out and facilitates the involvement of those potentially affected by or interested in a decision.
- seeks input from participants in designing how they participate.
- provides participants with the information they need to participate in a meaningful way.
- communicates to participants how their input affected the decision.

In short

"If you don't intend to use their input, then don't ask them."