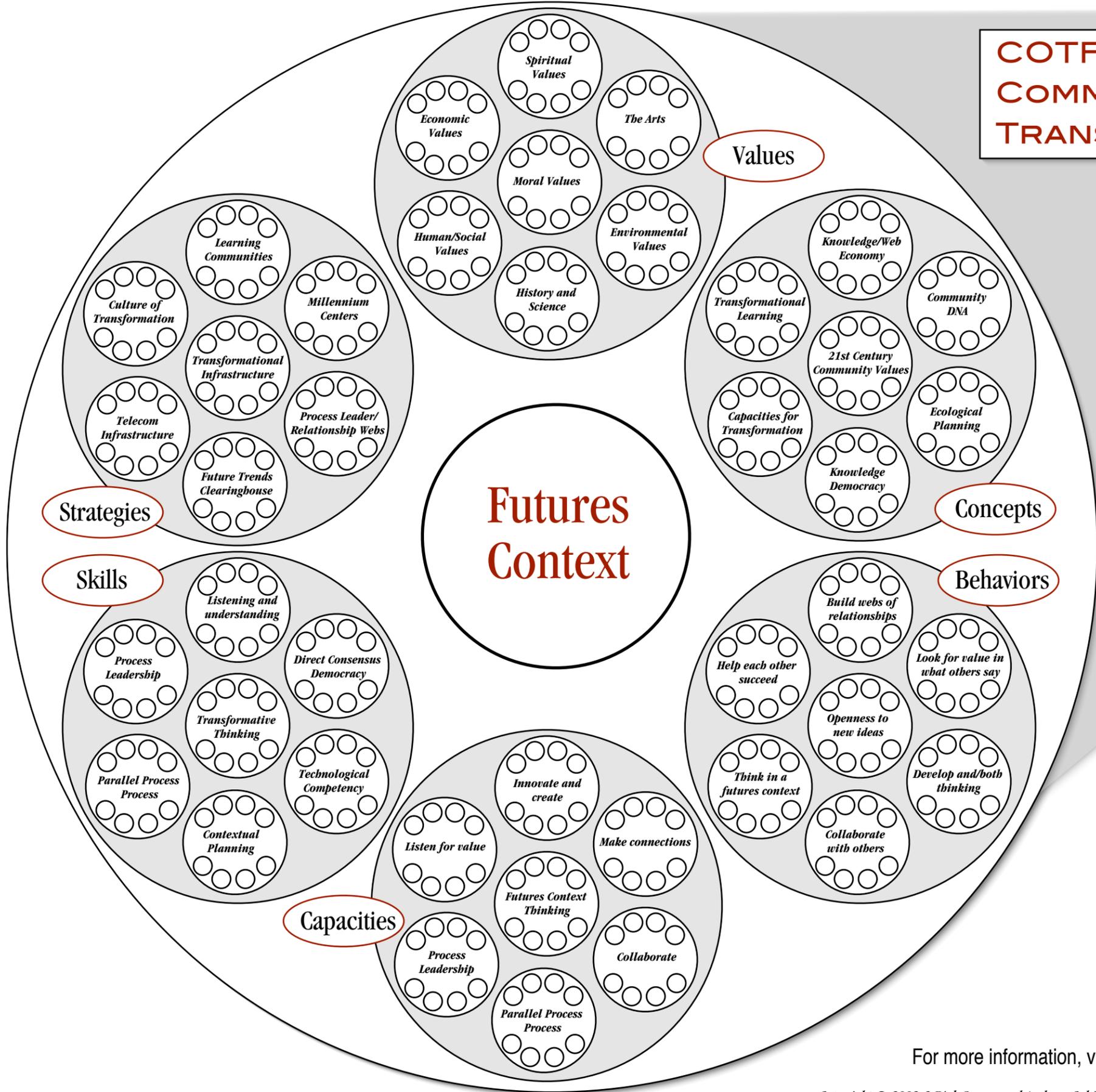
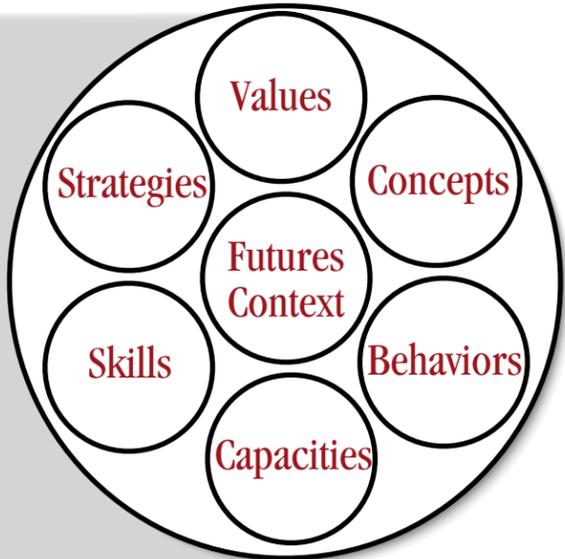


COTF SYSTEM FOR COMMUNITY TRANSFORMATION



Key Ideas

- A commitment to values at the personal, organizational, and community level
- An openness to new ideas
- Determination to work and think in a futures context, rather than clinging to the past
- An emphasis on parallel processes for all projects and efforts
- Continuous innovation and a focus on entrepreneurship
- Connective “and/both” thinking
- Development and support of process leadership
- An emphasis on transformational learning and learning communities
- A willingness to collaborate and to help others succeed

The COTF System of Community Transformation has been designed to fill the void in theory and practice of preparing communities for a new type of society. More and more we realize that our traditional context for thinking and behaving is inconsistent with the needs of a constantly changing, interactive and increasingly complex society. Reforming old concepts and methods is no longer enough. We must conceive and develop a new way of thinking and build new capacities for a new kind of society that will be dynamic and not static. Many of the traditional ideas and undergirding principles of our Industrial Age were birthed over the 18th and 19th centuries as a result of the transformation of society in Scotland and other European countries. It was called the Enlightenment and provided ideas that still organize our society today.

We live in a period of history equally challenging as we are transformed from an Industrial Society to a dynamic Integral Society. As a result, we need no less than a 2nd Enlightenment. The COTF System for Community Transformation introduces leaders of local communities to a framework of innovative ideas, methods and techniques which will help them step into the ambiguity of an uncertain future. Its objectives are to allow local citizen leaders to anticipate the impact of transforming trends, to develop new capacities leading to community transformation, and to introduce radical elements of change as appropriate.

We are a nation and world of action. Few have recognized that action within an obsolete context will add to problems and frustration. We need to stop and think about how the impact of trends of the future is transforming the context of our society and world. Until leaders at all levels learn to think in ways consistent with the needs of our transforming society, there is no reason to act differently, and no reason for our communities to insure vitality and sustainability in a constantly changing world. With this in mind, we offer The COTF System of Community Transformation. . . . a continuously evolving framework of principles, concepts, methods and techniques able to support the development of new capacities for community transformation. We wish each community its own special journey into the future.

Rick Smyre and Andrew Cobill

For more information, visit:

Communities of the Future
<http://www.communitiesofthefuture.org/>

The Knowledge Democracy Center
<http://www.knowledgedemocracy.org/>