



## Tool: Community Asset Map

A Community Asset Map is a visual tool designed to empower educators by helping them identify, leverage, and integrate community resources, skills, and networks into their teaching practice. This tool fosters collaboration between schools and the broader community, enhancing the relevance of learning experiences for students and promoting equitable access to diverse learning opportunities. Through this tool, educators can create richer, more meaningful, and culturally responsive learning environments that tap into the strengths of the community.

This tool is intended for educators at all levels seeking to deepen student engagement by connecting academic learning with the lived experiences, assets, and expertise within their surrounding community.

### Setting the Stage: Essential Steps Before Community Asset Mapping

- 1. Purpose:** Determine the goal of creating the asset map (ex: to enhance curriculum relevance, provide community-connected learning opportunities, address specific student needs, etc.).
- 2. Scope:** Determine the focus of the asset map.
  - Will it be developed with a broad lens that is applicable to any project or unit of study, or will it be developed with a narrow lens that is specific to an upcoming project or unit of study?
  - Will it focus on assets within the school, neighborhood, city, or a specific geographic area?
- 3. Design Team:** Determine who will be part of the team creating the asset map. Options for design teams include:
  - Co-create with colleagues (grade level team, department, staff-wide, etc.)
  - Co-create with students to leverage the close and loose ties within your classroom community
  - Co-create with a variety of stakeholders (students, families, community leaders, local organizations, etc.)
  - Create it yourself



## Community Asset Map Design Process

Below you'll find a step-by-step design process for creating your community asset map. Each step is carefully structured to help you identify and organize community resources in a meaningful way. The process is divided into concrete actions you can take to build connections between your classroom and community assets. Follow these steps sequentially, but feel free to revisit and revise any step as your understanding of community resources grows.

### Mapping with Intention: A Step-by-Step Design Guide

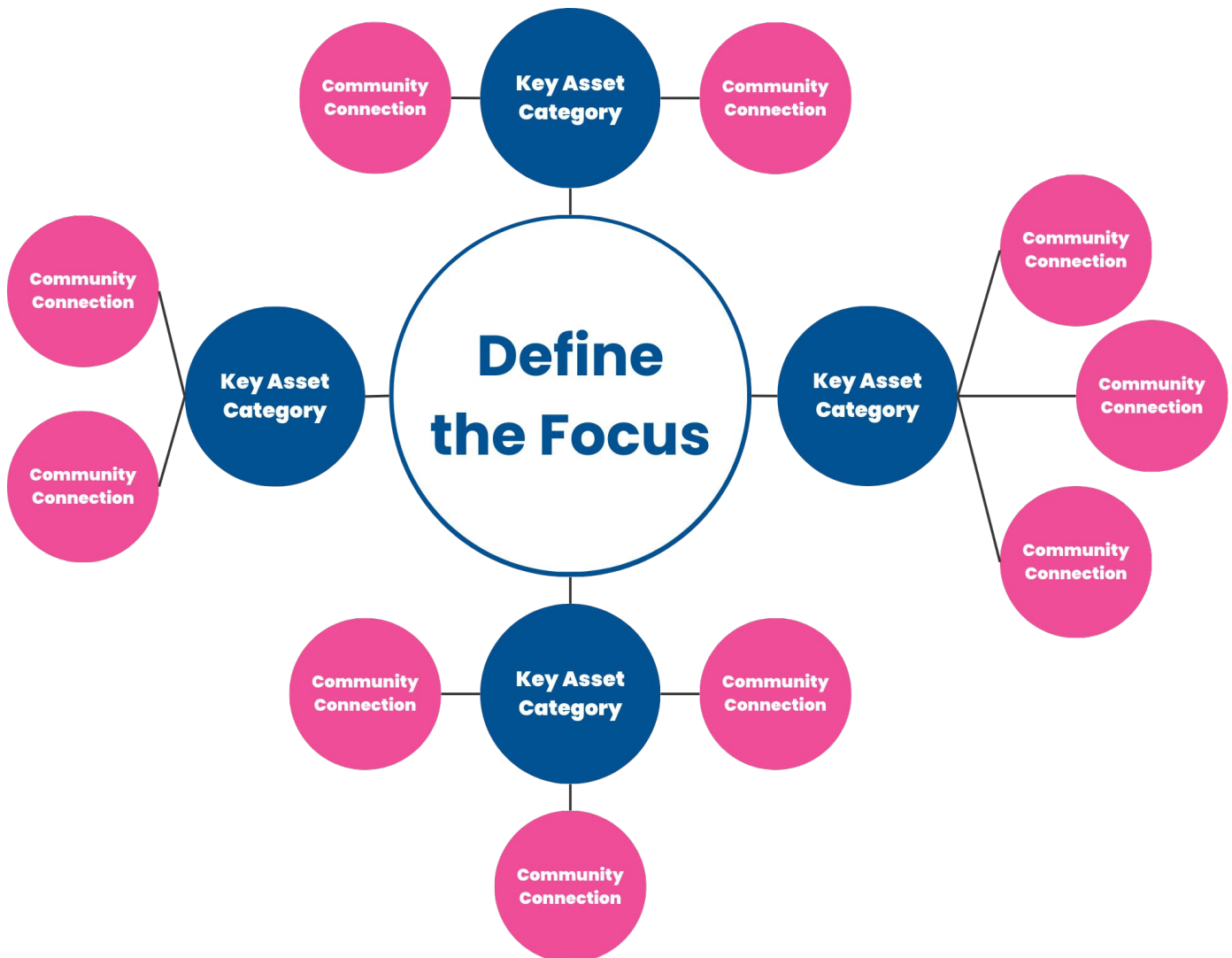
1. **Define the Focus:** Write your project or unit of study in the center circle of the map.
2. **Select Key Asset Categories:** Review the asset categories and choose those that best support your project or unit of study. Write each selected category in the 'key asset category' circles.
3. **Identify Community Connections:** In the 'community connection' circles, list people, organizations, and institutions within each asset category related to your project or unit of study. Include both loose and close ties, as well as existing and potential partnerships.
4. **Prioritize Assets:** Highlight or draw a box around a few high-impact community connections that can immediately enhance your project or unit of study.
5. **Action Planning:** Create an action plan to connect with priority assets for formal collaborations, such as:
  - Guest speakers
  - Interviewees
  - Field experiences
  - Venues to exhibit student work
  - Feedback opportunities
  - Workshops
6. **Reflect & Iterate:** Since community resources evolve, make a plan to regularly update the asset map to reflect new opportunities, partnerships, and changes in the community landscape.



# Community Asset Map

## Key Asset Categories

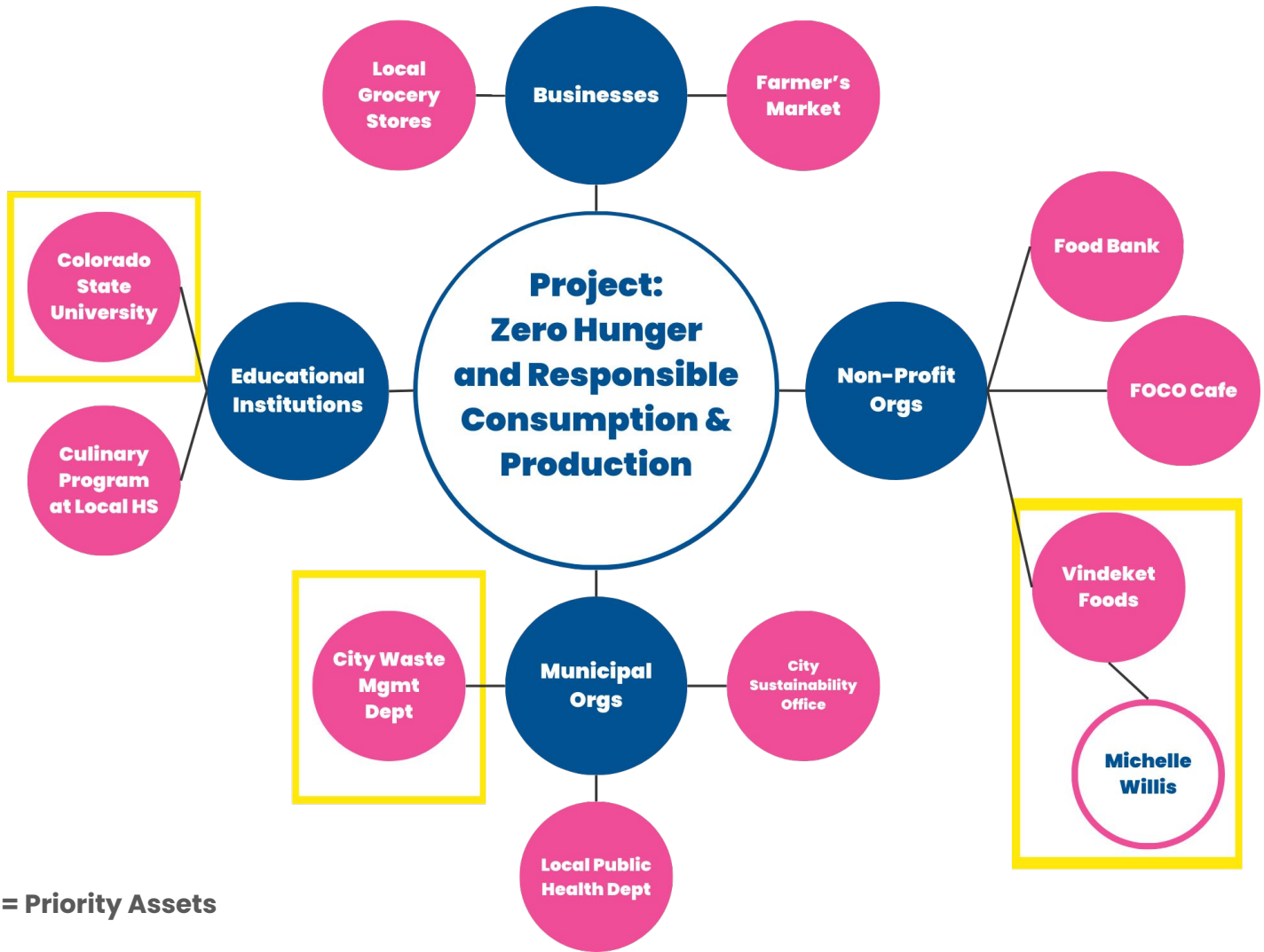
|                                    |                             |   |                              |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|---|------------------------------|
| Healthcare Facilities              | Businesses                  | Cultural or Historical Museums, Centers, or Organizations | Faith-Based Organizations    |
| Local Free Services & Offerings    | Parks & Outdoor Spaces      | Educational Institutions                                  | Municipal Organizations      |
| Music Venues or Performance Spaces | Newspapers or Media Outlets | Landmarks, Statues, or Historical Sites                   | Tribal Nations / Communities |
| Advocacy Organizations             | Non-Profit Organizations    | Individuals   | <Add Your Own>               |





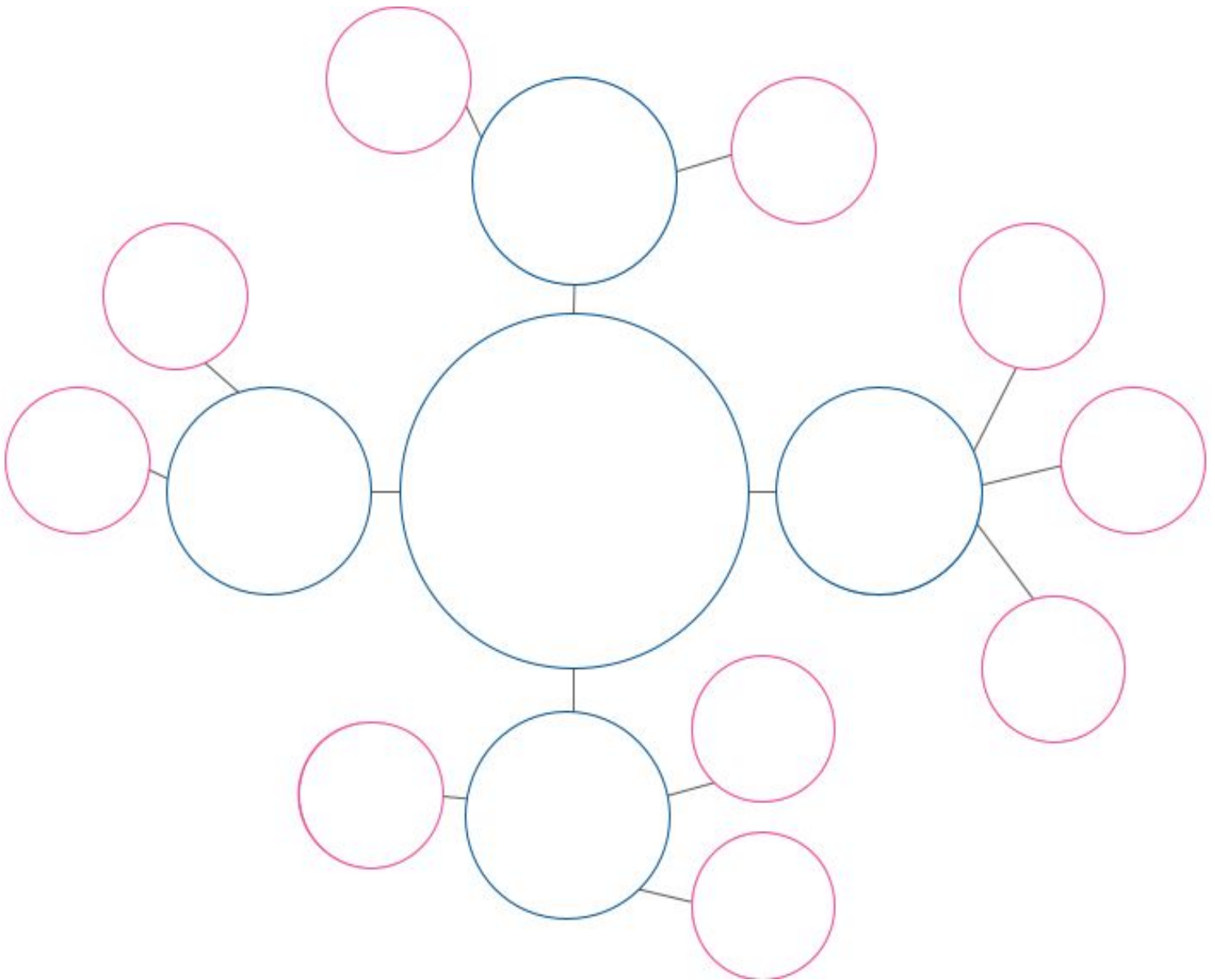
# Community Asset Map

## A MODEL



## Build Your Own Community Asset Map

Now it's time to put these concepts into practice! Use the template below to map your community's assets, starting with your focus in the center and working outward to identify categories and connections. Your map will grow and evolve as you discover new resources in your community. Use the process and reflection questions to help guide your thinking as you develop your map.





# Reflection Questions

Below is a set of questions designed to help educators critically assess and enhance their community asset map.

| Questions to Consider  | Your Answer |
|--|-------------|
| How do I envision these community resources enhancing student learning and engagement?   |             |
| Are there any barriers, such as location, cost, transportation, or availability, that may limit access to certain community resources?       |             |
| Who is missing from the map, i.e. are there underrepresented groups, marginalized voices, or overlooked communities that should be included? |             |
| Which assets are most frequently used or relied upon, and are there others that I haven't fully tapped into yet?                             |             |
| Do I have a system or plan in place for regular communication, feedback, and collaboration with community partners?                          |             |
| How might I evaluate the impact of these community connections on student learning and engagement?   |             |
| How might I ensure a mutually beneficial relationship where community members feel valued and supported?                                     |             |



## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- Courses:** [Design Thinking](#), [Project-Based Learning](#), [Anytime/Anywhere Learning](#)
- Blogs:** [Community Connections](#), [Prioritizing Community & Relationships](#), and [Beyond the Classroom](#)

This tool adapts concepts and frameworks from:

- New Education Workforce, Arizona State University. Community Asset Map. Retrieved from [workforce.education.asu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/Community-educator-asset-map-v1.pdf](http://workforce.education.asu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/Community-educator-asset-map-v1.pdf)
- Edutopia. Community Asset Map. Retrieved from [wpvip.edutopia.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/Community\\_Asset\\_Map.pdf](http://wpvip.edutopia.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/Community_Asset_Map.pdf)