



COLORADO

Resiliency Office

Department of Local Affairs

Resilience lessons from a pandemic

Kate Guibert
Colorado Resiliency Office

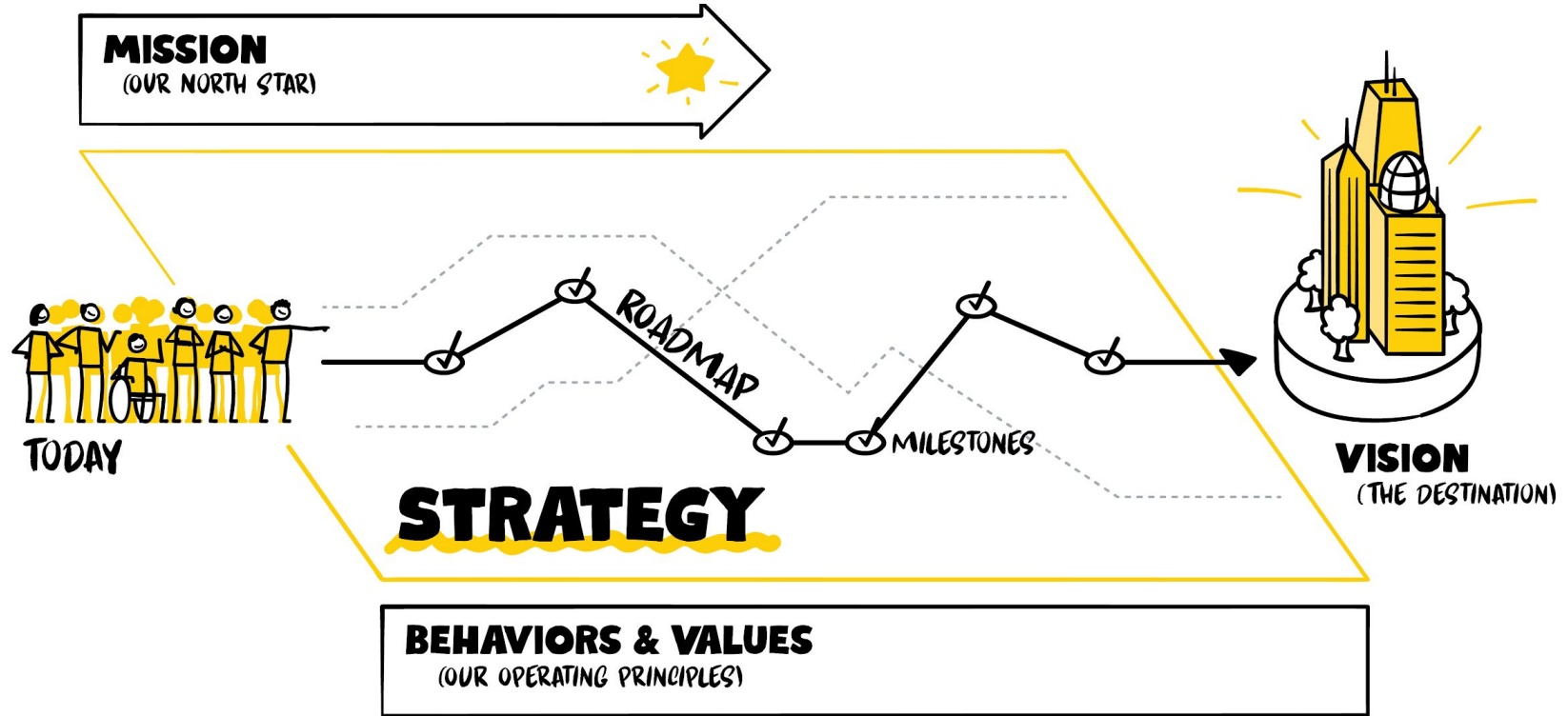
Lessons from change



The Cycle of the Ages



Opportunities in economic recovery



Adaptation Guide

Lessons from a pandemic

Startup Mindset: Trials and creativity

When charting unknown landscapes, quick trials and creativity became critical tools. Not wanting to invest too much in any one solution, businesses, public health agencies, and state and local government have proven their ability to rapidly test ideas and pivot in response to COVID-19. Developing solutions to the unknown and ever changing landscape of COVID-19 also requires great creativity. Communities willing to think beyond their traditional approaches, retool assets, and rethink space quickly pioneered ideas.

Spotlight: Basalt, Colorado

The Town of Basalt worked in conjunction with the Basalt Chamber of Commerce to find quick solutions that would address the different public health restrictions, including reduced occupancy in restaurants and limited gatherings. In order to expand outdoor seating, the town worked to section off parking spots on its commercial districts, using concrete "pigs" as blockades. To address potential parking issues in downtown, the town collaborated with the elementary school and middle school to leverage the unused parking lots. The path between main street (Midland Ave) and the school parking lots was then further enhanced with path improvements including the addition of solar lighting and new gravel. Two area non-profits assisted with the improvements. Roaring Fork Outdoor Volunteers, an organization typically focused on popular far off hiking and MTB trails, leveraged its volunteers to work on the "urban" trail. Aspen Community Foundation leveraged funds from area philanthropic efforts to help fund some of the improvements. The Basalt Chamber assisted with communications to educate both business owners and their employees, as well as tourists visiting the area, about the parking alternative. Lastly, the town's public art commission repurposed existing funds that were then directed to local visual artists, a group that had been disproportionately impacted by COVID-19. These artists worked with the area restaurants to create public art on the different concrete pigs, each with its own theme and style, adding to the vibrancy. Some of these improvements took a matter of days, not months, to go from idea to execution. Through public-private collaborations, the town was quickly able to adapt to the new environment, providing much needed vitality and a boost to the local economy.

Some lessons we have learned so far...

- Startup mindset-quick trials and creativity
- Value of relationships-leverage resources and learn from each other
- Find a way to yes-cut the red tape
- Focus on your own-double down on assets
- Rapid assessment

Find more inspiration at:

<https://www.coresiliency.com/covid19-community-adaptations>



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10 IDEAS TO ACCELERATE RURAL INNOVATION NOW

1. REDEFINE RISK
2. INNOVATION GUIDELINES
3. INNOVATION FUND
4. RAPID-FIRE PILOT PROJECTS
5. DEAL WITH FAILURE
6. DO NOT RECOVER—THRIVE
7. ESTABLISH URGENCY & CROWDSOURCE
8. PREPARE TEAMS FOR RADICAL CHANGE
9. PREDICT THE FUTURE
10. PLAN AHEAD TEAMS

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Don't Return to What Wasn't Working

Process & Policy Improvement Through Removal

“Most city codes, policies, and practices **are a reaction to a complaint, discomfort, or irregular situation**...Many were enacted so long ago, and for such obscure reasons, that nobody recalls precisely why...

I've recommended to city officials that they examine their regulations and identify those that, if they were ignored, would do damage to their community that could not be repaired in a decade. **Keep only those rules and throw the rest out.**”

Strong Towns, pg. 192



Adaptive mindset

Culture & Mindset Risk-phillic & Adaptability

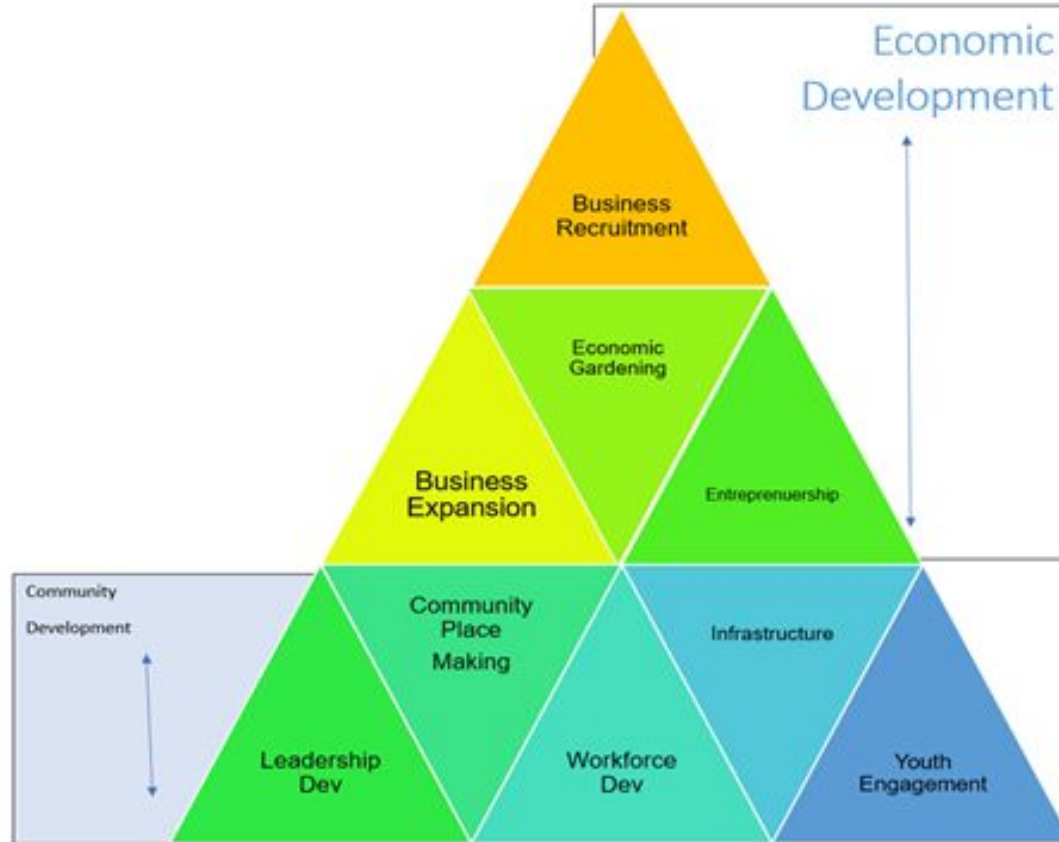
- Trials & failure as learning mechanisms
- Small risks prior to big ones



VS.



Back to the foundation



What might be next, according to Progressive Urban Management...

- Accelerated trends
 - Changing consumer behavior
 - Local independent concepts and retail will distinguish downtown
 - Increasing online sales, but not universal
 - Community-serving retail such as stores that demonstrate social impact and connection
 - Less conventional office formats and ways of working
 - Location independent work-needs to be thoughtful
 - Less need for office space
 - Housing
 - Affordability will continue to be a problem-increasingly so
 - People may want more space
 - Consider alternatives-group living, live/work formats
 - Power of place and experimentation
 - Continuation of street closures, enlivening public spaces, sidewalk activation



Opportunity to reimagine-what do you see as opportunities?

