

Thoughts and Discussion on Organizing Epicurean Community

Post by “Kalosyni” of September 15, 2022 at 7:31 PM

This is a thread to explore ideas about organizing and developing Epicurean community. Any one can add any thoughts or ideas about this.

Who are we?

What do we need or want?

What are we hoping for?

Here is an interesting article excerpt:

Quote

What defines a community?

As long as there have been people, there have been communities. People are social animals. In every human civilization groups of people have organised themselves into tribes or societies. A large part of our self-image is derived from the social groups that we are part of. This is where we want to fit in and what gives us self-confidence, comfort, motivation, inspiration and purpose. We all belong to various different communities: Your neighbourhood, sports club, hobby club, student group, work colleagues.

So, what defines a community?

[Bind](#) defines community like this:

Quote

“A community is a group of people with common characteristics, such as background, ambitions or interests, who gather in a physical or virtual location to talk to each other or do things together.”

Social psychologists [David McMillan and David Chavis](#) describe a sense of community as:

Quote

“A feeling that members have of belonging, a feeling that members matter to one another and to the group, and a shared faith that members’ needs will be

met through their commitment to be together.”

They argue that without clearly defined *membership*, an exchange of *influence*, *fulfillment of needs*, and a *shared emotional connection*, it's fair to assume that the strength of community amongst a group is pretty weak.

Here is what we at Open Social think are characteristics of a true community:

- Members have common characteristics, such as background, ambitions or interests
- Working towards a common interest or goal
- “Mutualistic symbioses”: Members enter in to a social contract of give & take which is beneficial for everyone
- Members have longer-term connections
- Members join voluntarily
- Community is all about enabling connections and many-to-many communication
- It can exist in a physical or virtual location

Unfortunately, social media has contributed to an inflation of the term ‘community’ being used to describe any scenario in which people congregate online. Facebook for instance uses the term community to position its platform as a valuable instrument for a better society, even though it often leads to [polarizing its members instead of bringing them together](#). There are lots of companies that throw around the term community, using it to describe their customers and audience regardless of whether or not there's an actual deep sense of community amongst the people they're referring to. Marketers love titles like Community Manager, while in practice their job usually entails broadcasting branded messages from a social media channel to an audience. The word community is thrown around without much thought for its actual meaning.

The Six Types of Communities

To understand communities better, we can categorize them into 6 community types, each with a different common denominator among participants.

What we at Open Social like about using these types is that it forces us to take the community member point of view and think about the **purpose** of the community, which helps when defining your community strategy and objectives. Working with community types helps us and our clients better understand the unique needs and drivers of members and the common goal towards which they are contributing.

We can identify these six types of communities, each with a different common denominator among participants:

A **Community of Action** is all about mobilizing volunteers as a movement to jointly make a change in the world

A **Community of Practice** consists of professionals sharing knowledge and skills, and learning together.

A **Community of Circumstance** consists of people in the same life stage or circumstance sharing tips & support.

A **Community of Place** consists of people living or working in the same geographical area, like residential areas, the local bar or a public space, like a park or library.

A **Community of Interest** consists of people sharing the same interest or passion, always comprising a passion, hobby or interest shared by participants.

A **Support Community** consists of people helping each other, usually non-professional and non-material, with a particular shared question or problem.

It is good to note that this classification provides theoretical handles for understanding different communities. In daily practice, the different types often bleed into each other or are combined.

Also, groups within a community can be of different types. You might have a Community of Interest to discuss hobbies or a Community of Place with members from one city, country or region within a scientific Community of Practice in which professionals are sharing knowledge.

<https://www.getopensocial.com/blog/community...munity-are-you/>

Display More

In the future we could become a registered non-profit, but we need to clarify what it is we are doing and what we want to see happen within our Epicurean community.

Also perhaps we have differing viewpoints or ideas about what we want?

Who are we?

What do we need or want?

What are we hoping for?

Need to start the ball rolling about talking about these questions, so that we can move beyond our virtual community.

So if anyone has any thoughts or ideas in response to this please post them 😊

<http://www.epicureanfriends.com/thread/2665-thoughts-and-discussion-on-organizing-epicurean-community/?postID=19822#post19822>