

What are values?

These values are the characteristics of the region we want to become. They shape MAPC's approach to our work and allow us to assess and prioritize the projects and policies we pursue.

What purpose do values serve?

- ▶ Values are an organizational consciousness that we implicitly use while making decisions
- ▶ Values act as a tool that we used to create and assess MetroCommon activities, goals, content, and recommendations
- ▶ Values provide context to potential and current partners regarding MAPC's priorities and decision making

The Values

Equity: The condition of fair and just inclusion into a society. Equity will exist when those who have been most marginalized have equal access to opportunities, power, participation, and resources and all have avenues to safe, healthy, productive, and fulfilling lives. It requires restructuring deeply entrenched systems of privilege and oppression that have led to the uneven distribution of benefits and burdens over multiple generations.

Resilience: The capacity of communities, organizations, and natural systems to respond, adapt, and flourish no matter what chronic stresses and acute shocks they experience.^{1,2}

Prosperity: The opportunity for all individuals as well as communities to thrive and provide for themselves in meaningful and fulfilling ways.³

Stewardship: Our collective responsibility to maintain, invest in, and protect the quality of our natural, built, and social environments to support healthy and happy people and conserve environmental, economic, social, and cultural assets.

Commitments

If values help ensure that we become the region and the organization we aspire to be, commitments are processes for getting there. They are efforts to ensure that innovation, collaboration, and objectivity are present along our journey to embody our values.

Creativity: We will strive to approach our work with creativity and encourage creativity in both our process and outcomes. We view creativity as the spark of imagination, playfulness, and spirit of open-mindedness in envisioning our collective future. Creativity yields inspiration from novel connections, insightful visions, and the ability to plan for the future with inventiveness so we can ensure that our resources are used sensitively and with purpose.

1 https://www.uh.edu/cdi/diversity_education/resources/pdf/terms.pdf

2 Adapted from <http://100resilientcities.org/resources/#section-1>

3 The ability to recover from setbacks, adapt well to change, and keep going in the face of adversity <https://hbr.org/2015/01/what-resilience-means-and-why-it-matters>

Partnerships: We will center our planning process and implementation strategies on partnerships, defined as the committed, collaborative relationship and shared contributions among individuals, organizations, and municipalities that seek to deliver practical solutions in response to societal issues.

Data-driven & evidence-based: Where possible, we will collect and analyze data, extract patterns and facts from that data, and utilize those facts to make inferences that influence decision-making.⁴

⁴ <https://www.northeastern.edu/graduate/blog/data-driven-decision-making/>