



Community: The Structure of Belonging

By Peter Block

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Modern society is plagued by fragmentation. The various sectors of our communities--businesses, schools, social service organizations, churches, government--do not work together. They exist in their own worlds. As do so many individual citizens, who long for connection but end up marginalized, their gifts overlooked, their potential contributions lost. This disconnection and detachment makes it hard if not impossible to envision a common future and work towards it together. We know what healthy communities look like--there are many success stories out there, and they've been described in detail. What Block provides in this inspiring new book is an exploration of the exact way community can emerge from fragmentation: How is community built? How does the transformation occur? What fundamental shifts are involved? He explores a way of thinking about our places that creates an opening for authentic communities to exist and details what each of us can do to make that happen.

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Editorial Review

From the Publisher

Praise for Peter Block's Community: The Structure of Belonging

"From the person who gave us the best book written on business stewardship comes the best book on how to transform the places where we live, work, and play into authentic, effective communities. Some of Peter Block's conclusions may surprise you, but this compelling book is a must for all who love the places we call home enough to rethink our approach to building and maintaining community."

--Dennis Bakke, CEO, Imagine Schools, Cofounder and CEO Emeritus, AES Corporation, and author of *Joy at Work*

"Every earnest public servant, every volunteer, every disillusioned citizen, every civic leader, and every community activist or businessperson who truly want to make their communities better should read this book. It can serve as a guide or manual, but *Community* at its heart is a book of questions, and Peter gently and persistently reminds us that we are the answers."

--James Keene, President, Alliance for Innovation and Western Director, International City/County Management Association

"In this wonderfully practical book, Peter Block defines the nature of a community with manageable dimensions, creative directions, and hopeful possibilities. His methods lead us to a restoration of the joy of a genuine common life."

--John McKnight, Professor of Education and Social Policy, and Codirector, Asset-Based Community Development Institute, Northwestern University

"Peter Block clearly identifies the essential ingredients, qualities, questions, atmosphere, and actions needed to create and build vital communities filled with possibility, generosity, accountability, and deep engagement. Outstanding in its relevance, practicality, and clarity."

--Angeles Arrien, PhD, cultural anthropologist and author of *The Second Half of Life: Opening the Eight Gates of Wisdom*

"This book is more than practical advice on execution of theory; it is a spiritual primer for the building up of community and transforming hope that we so desperately need in today's world. Peter has touched us once again in that place we call 'soul'."

--Clint Kemp, Founding Pastor, New Providence Community Church

"Peter's work has become the cornerstone of how our police department has developed over the years. What we have pleasantly discovered is that the more our capacity grows to work in partnership with each other, the more our capacity to serve our community is enhanced."

--Michael Butler, Chief of Police, Longmont, Colorado

"After being engaged for many years with transformations in the U.S., Latin America, and Africa, it is exciting to find a practical and deep methodology that integrates great ideas and points at new applications. Peter's book is critical for anyone concerned about reenergizing the quality of life in our workplaces and in our communities."

--Steve Zaffron, CEO, the Vanto Group, a Landmark Education Company

From the Inside Flap

Community

Most of our communities are fragmented and at odds within themselves. Businesses, social services, education, and health care each live within their own worlds. The same is true of individual citizens, who long for connection but end up marginalized, their gifts overlooked, their potential contributions lost. What keeps this from changing is that we are trapped in an old and tired conversation about who we are. If this narrative does not shift, we will never truly create a common future and work toward it together.

What Peter Block provides in this inspiring new book is an exploration of the exact way community can emerge from fragmentation. How is community built? How does the transformation occur? What fundamental shifts are involved? What can individuals and formal leaders do to create a place they want to inhabit? We know what healthy communities look like--there are many success stories out there. The challenge is how to create one in our own place.

Block helps us see how we can change the existing context of community from one of deficiencies, interests, and entitlement to one of possibility, generosity, and gifts. Questions are more important than answers in this effort, which means leadership is not a matter of style or vision but is about getting the right people together in the right way: convening is a more critical skill than commanding. As he explores the nature of community and the dynamics of transformation, Block outlines six kinds of conversation that will create communal accountability and commitment and describes how we can design physical spaces and structures that will themselves foster a sense of belonging.

In *Community*, Peter Block explores a way of thinking about our places that creates an opening for authentic communities to exist and details what each of us can do to make that happen.

About the Author

Peter Block is a partner in Designed Learning, a training company that offers workshops designed by Block to build the skills outlined in his books. He has received many awards for outstanding contributions in the field of training and development, including the Association for Quality and Participation President's Award and Training Magazine HRD Hall of Fame.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Tammi Rosado:

Often the book *Community: The Structure of Belonging* will bring someone to the new experience of reading the book. The author style to explain the idea is very unique. In case you try to find new book to learn, this book very appropriate to you. The book *Community: The Structure of Belonging* is much recommended to you to learn. You can also get the e-book from your official web site, so you can easier to read the book.

Gene Baker:

Spent a free a chance to be fun activity to perform! A lot of people spent their sparetime with their family, or

their own friends. Usually they carrying out activity like watching television, about to beach, or picnic inside the park. They actually doing same every week. Do you feel it? Do you wish to something different to fill your own free time/ holiday? Could possibly be reading a book is usually option to fill your no cost time/ holiday. The first thing that you ask may be what kinds of book that you should read. If you want to consider look for book, may be the guide untitled Community: The Structure of Belonging can be fine book to read. May be it might be best activity to you.

Joey Mendoza:

On this era which is the greater person or who has ability to do something more are more special than other. Do you want to become certainly one of it? It is just simple solution to have that. What you must do is just spending your time not much but quite enough to possess a look at some books. On the list of books in the top listing in your reading list is actually Community: The Structure of Belonging. This book that is certainly qualified as The Hungry Mountains can get you closer in turning out to be precious person. By looking upward and review this guide you can get many advantages.

Sherrie Beardsley:

As a university student exactly feel bored in order to reading. If their teacher requested them to go to the library or to make summary for some book, they are complained. Just small students that has reading's heart and soul or real their leisure activity. They just do what the trainer want, like asked to go to the library. They go to at this time there but nothing reading really. Any students feel that examining is not important, boring and also can't see colorful photos on there. Yeah, it is to be complicated. Book is very important for you. As we know that on this period of time, many ways to get whatever you want. Likewise word says, many ways to reach Chinese's country. So , this Community: The Structure of Belonging can make you truly feel more interested to read.

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