

Regions on the Rise: Energizing and Empowering RDOs Managing Municipal Innovation Through Community Engagement

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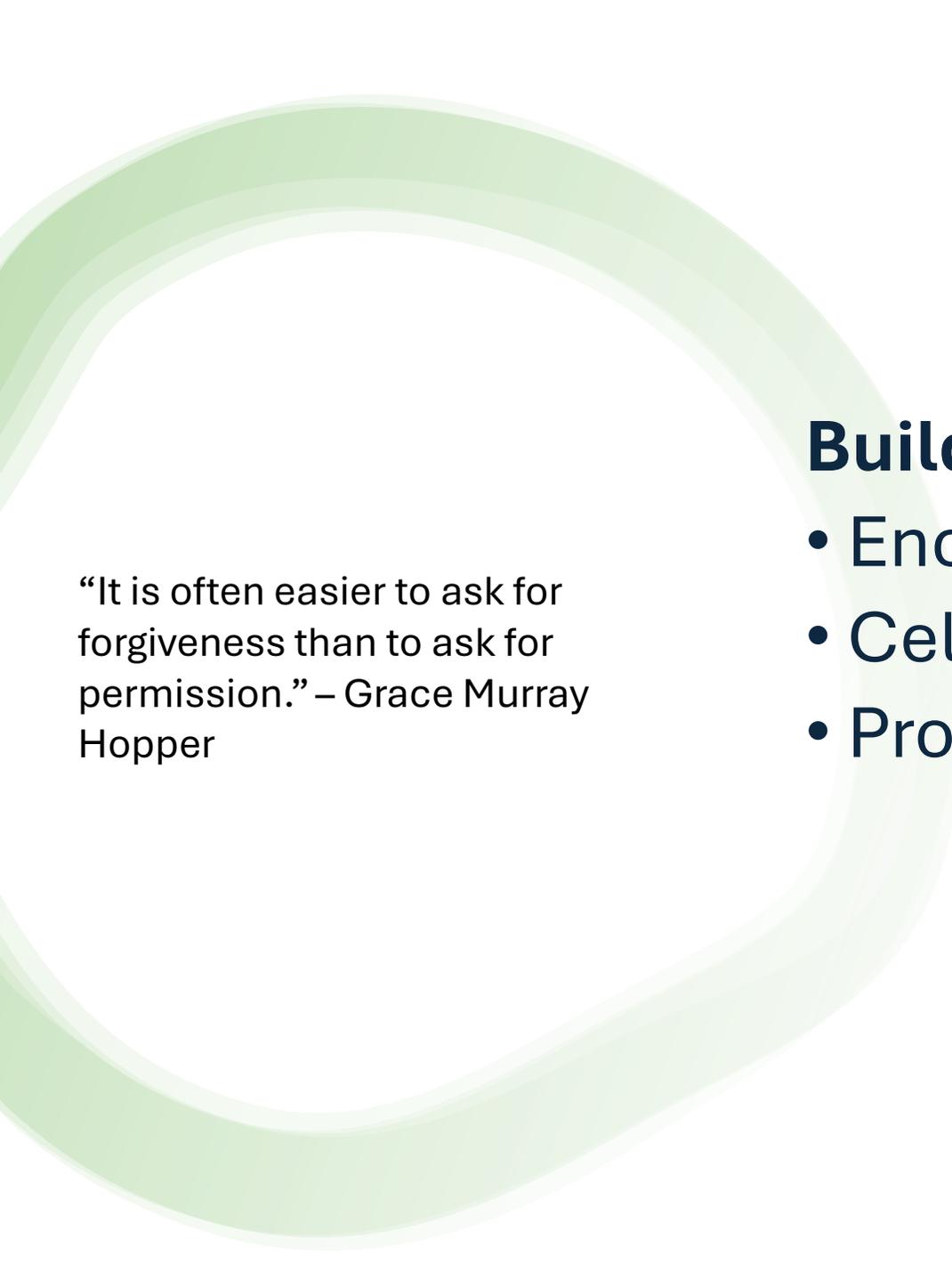
What is Municipal Innovation?

- Introducing new ideas, technologies, and practices to improve city services and governance.
- Helps cities become more efficient, equitable, and responsive.

“Innovation opportunities do not come with the tempest but with the rustling of the breeze.” – Peter Drucker

Aligning Innovation with Strategic Goals

- Connect innovation to citywide or regional priorities (e.g., sustainability, equity, economic development).
- Amplify existing initiatives through innovation.

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“It is often easier to ask for forgiveness than to ask for permission.” – Grace Murray Hopper

Building a Culture of Innovation

- Encourage experimentation and risk-taking.
- Celebrate small wins and pilot projects.
- Provide training and support.

Community Engagement

- Use co-creation and participatory design.
- Leverage civic tech tools for transparency and feedback.

Cross-Sector Partnerships

- Collaborate with universities, startups, nonprofits, and private sector.
- Use public-private partnerships (P3s) to scale innovation.

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world.” – Margaret Mead

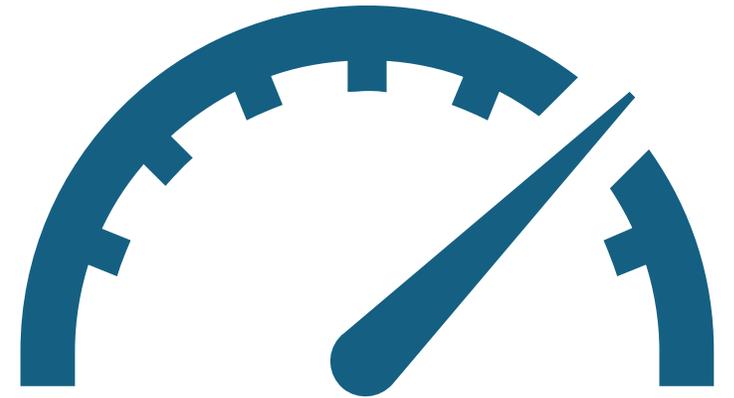
Leveraging Data and Technology

- Promote data-driven decision-making.
- Invest in smart city infrastructure and digital services.
- Prioritize cybersecurity and digital equity.



Measuring and Communicating Impact

- Define KPIs and metrics.
- Use dashboards and storytelling to share progress and ROI.
- Bloomberg Analysis



Case Study – Austin, TX

Office of Innovation

- Tackled complex civic challenges using design thinking.
- Streamlined permitting process, reducing wait times and improving transparency.

Case Study – San Antonio, TX

Innovation Academy

- Internal Consultants
- Improved accountability and data-driven leadership.

Case Study – Frisco, TX

Innovation in Economic Development Department

- Partnered with startups to co-develop tech solutions.
- Innovations in transportation, service deliveries, healthcare.
- Lean Six-Sigma/Core Values

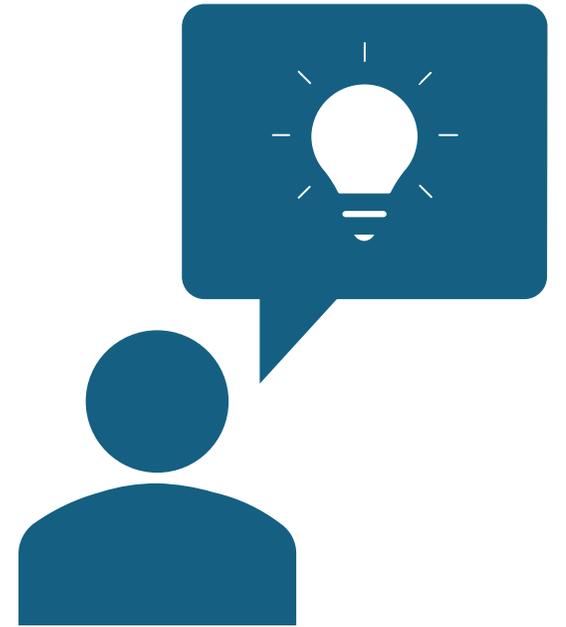
Institutionalizing Innovation

- Create innovation offices or designate leads.
- Secure funding and embed innovation in procurement and budgeting.
- Make innovation part of organization culture.

“Humans are allergic to change. They love to say, ‘We’ve always done it this way.’ I try to fight that.” – Grace Murray Hopper

Key Takeaways

- Innovation is a mindset, not just a department.
- Start small, measure impact, and scale what works.
- Engage your community and build partnerships.



QUESTIONS?

**Thank You
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