



# eNEWS

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## What we're reading

Peter Senge, the author of *The Fifth Discipline*, has a new book out called ***The Necessary Revolution: How Individuals and Organizations are Working Together to Create a Sustainable World***. In it, he explores how groups from business, nonprofits, education, philanthropy and government are leading the charge to change how we get things done.

OCTOBER, 2008

## Letter from the director



How does change happen? What's your theory of change? Candace Cowling, Executive Director of the Child and Family Resource Council, asked me that question during our first lunch together almost 5 years ago.

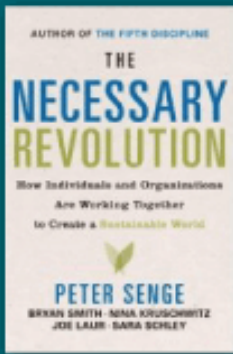
My colleagues and I have been talking and experimenting with this for years, learning from our successes and mistakes. Most recently, five of us attended a conference called **Nexus for Change** to 1) study the application of whole system change methods to specific cases, to 2) discover synergies in working collaboratively and to 3) identify the deeper patterns in systems change work.

It's been 10 years since our first community work session (remember the two days at Aquinas?), and we've seen some positive change. We have a lot to celebrate! Whether at a Delta Strategy dialogue action group or elsewhere in the greater Grand Rapids area, the principles of the Delta process are:

- A clear vision and goals tell us where we want to be
- Diverse leadership from across the community guides us to our vision
- Continuous improvement and disciplined problem-solving actually help us address the problems
- Measurable results get us closer to the vision
- And most important, the trust and teamwork that come from real collaboration are the foundation on which The Delta Strategy Process is built

As we look forward to the next ten years, we are developing the framework for the next decade – **The Delta Strategy G2**. The Delta process of change remains central to our work. An understanding of change theory and the variety of change methods is an expertise we have and want to share as we work with coalitions and collaboratives in their community improvement focus areas. Civic engagement and genuine dialogue where community stakeholders bring their hearts and minds to work in tandem to make our community a quality community for all – our shared future – remains the work we do.

Thank you for all you do to make our community a better place for all!



With overwhelming environmental and societal challenges in front of us, the book offers some tools, strategies and stories that point to real, positive change, all within the context of sustainability. So if you want to try on some new ways of thinking about old problems, or really enjoy digging into systems thinking and sustainability, this is worth checking out.

[Click here for more books recommended by The Delta Strategy.](#)

## Upcoming events

### Steps to Effective Facilitation

September 30 - December 9 / Tuesdays, 7:30 - 10 a.m.

This is an 11 week course designed to build capacity in facilitators in all sectors of the community to help organizations, businesses and groups effectively and systemically solve complex community problems utilizing The Delta Process. [Click here](#) for further information.

### Change Toolbox

Made up of 14 individual modules, this series will give you the tools you need for effective change and development. This fall, The Delta Strategy will be offering trainings in the following areas of the Change Toolbox: Leadership Skills, Facilitation Skills Better Management Skills and Adaptive Change: Understanding Change Theory and Methods. [Click here](#) for more details.

### Basic Grant Writing with Thomas A. Jones

October 22-24

The Delta Strategy and Grand Rapids Community College are pleased to host this 2-½ day session, intended for people with little or no grant writing experience who want to learn to plan, organize and write effective grant proposals. Discussion and in-class projects are tailored to your individual interests and areas of work! To register, or for more information, [click here](#).

## about the delta strategy

The Delta Strategy serves as a catalyst for social change by fostering community learning and problem-solving. We help build a community in which all members and sectors are empowered to participate and effectively create a better future for all. For more information, visit [www.deltastrategy.org](http://www.deltastrategy.org).

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