



RESONANCE LAB

LITERATURE REVIEW / LANDSCAPE SCAN TOOLKIT



Read 01 — Literature Review / Landscape Scan

THE MOVE

Before anything is designed, the community is read as it already is. Existing research, prior programs, policies, and strategies already shaping it are examined, alongside the patterns already in motion. A community carries its own **frequency (f_community)**, **wavelength (λ)**, and **velocity (v)** before any intervention begins. Reading the values and rituals that repeat, how far they reach across people and generations, and how fast they move through the community's own networks provides a landscape. When a program, policy, or strategy is already at work, it carries a frequency of its own, read here as well. Everything that follows builds from what is found here.

GROUNDING METHOD

This step is rooted in Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD) and Community Asset Mapping — an approach that begins by identifying what a community already has, rather than starting from what appears to be missing. It is the methodological form of what "tune into" is already saying: arrive listening for the frequency already playing, not auditing for defects. A comprehensive scan does not stop at documented data. It treats the preparation, the ethics of entry, and the act of asking as part of the method itself, not a formality that precedes it.

Grounded in: **Asset-Based Community Development (Kretzmann & McKnight)**; **Lightfoot, McCleary & Lum, Asset Mapping as a Research Tool for Community-Based Participatory Research in Social Work**; **Community Science Initiative, Participatory Asset Mapping: A Community Research Lab Toolkit**.

This is the approach Resonance Lab defaults to. The right depth and technique for a given engagement — timeline, budget, and who the actual stakeholders are — is a scoping conversation, not a fixed requirement.

The Instruments — Literature Review / Landscape Scan

A seven-part protocol. Complete in order, or return to earlier sections as later ones surface new questions.

1. Purpose & Ethical Framing

→ A1.1

Name the actual reason this scan is happening, who it is for, and what will change as a result of this work. Before any contact with the community, document how consent will be sought, how findings will be shared back, and who holds decision-making power over how the data is used.

2. Desk Research Log

→ A1.2

Existing academic literature, prior evaluations, and public or civic data relevant to this community or context.

3. Prior & Active Interventions Log

→ A1.3

What has been tried here before, and what is currently at work — any program, policy, or strategy already acting on the community now carries a frequency of its own, and that frequency gets read here too.

4. Asset Inventory

→ A1.4

People, institutions, informal networks, gathering places, and skills already present. Distinguish between formally recognized assets and those known only within the community itself.

5. Community-Engaged Session Preparation

→ A1.5

Who should be invited, and who is being missed by that invitation. Logistics, accessibility needs, materials, and a plain-language explanation of the session to be shared in advance.

6. Facilitation Script

→ A1.6

A brief structure for the session itself: how it opens, how participants are asked to describe or map their own community, and how it closes. Note any question that produced a response worth returning to.

7. Synthesis — Preliminary Frequency Notes

→ A1.7

Bring sections one through six together into an early read of community frequency, wavelength, and velocity. This becomes the working input for Read 02 — Research Question.

This toolkit is one of nine. Full walkthrough: labresonance.com/method

A1.1 — Purpose & Ethical Framing

BEFORE YOU START

What this is: An informed-consent framing grounded in the Belmont Report — the actual foundational document establishing respect for persons, beneficence, and justice as the basis of ethical human-subjects research, still the standard today.

When to use it: Always, before any contact with the community begins. This is not optional groundwork.

How to use it: Answer these plainly with the team. What gets written here becomes what actually gets said out loud when the session in A1.6 opens.

Source: [The Belmont Report – Ethical Principles and Guidelines for the Protection of Human Subjects of Research](#)

Complete this before any contact with the community. It is the record of why this scan is happening and on what terms.

☐ Who commissioned this scan, and what decision will it inform

☐ What will change for the community as a result of this work

☐ How consent will be sought, from whom, and in what form

☐ How findings will be shared back with participants

☐ Who holds decision-making authority over how the data is used

A1.2 — Desk Research Log

BEFORE YOU START

What this is: Environmental scanning — a real methodology for assessing internal strengths and weaknesses alongside external opportunities and threats, adapted here to a community rather than an organization.

When to use it: Before scheduling any community-engaged session, so the questions that get asked are informed by what already exists.

How to use it: Log each source while reading it, not after the fact. This log feeds directly into the synthesis in [A1.7](#).

Source: [Kalavani et al. — Environmental Scanning Model in Health System and Implementation Steps: A Scoping Review](#)

One row per source reviewed. Continue on additional copies of this log as needed.

SOURCE	TYPE	DATE	KEY FINDING

A1.3 — Prior & Active Interventions Log

BEFORE YOU START

What this is: A structured needs-assessment log — the same family of instrument Wang and Burris situate Photovoice within, participatory needs assessment more broadly, not fieldwork alone. It captures what has already been tried in this community, and what is currently still at work.

When to use it: Alongside [A1.2](#), before designing anything new.

How to use it: Where the community's own account differs from the sponsoring organization's official record, the community's account is trusted first. Mark whether each intervention is still active — an intervention currently at work carries a frequency of its own, and that frequency is read here too, not only its history.

Source: [Wang & Burris – Photovoice: Concept, Methodology, and Use for Participatory Needs Assessment](#)

Record what has already been tried in this community.

INTERVENTION	WHO RAN IT	TIME PERIOD	STILL ACTIVE?	WHAT HAPPENED	WHY, IN THEIR WORDS

A1.4 — Asset Inventory

BEFORE YOU START

What this is: The defining instrument of Asset-Based Community Development and Community Asset Mapping — a structured inventory of the people, institutions, informal networks, and skills a community already has, built specifically to counter deficit-based needs assessments that only catalog what is missing.

When to use it: After the desk research in A1.2 and A1.3, before any community-engaged session.

How to use it: Fill in what is already known first. Then let the session in A1.6 be the primary way remaining gaps get filled — this inventory should grow inside the room, not only at a desk.

Sources: [Kretzmann & McKnight – Building Communities from the Inside Out](#); [Lightfoot, McCleary & Lum – Asset Mapping as a Research Tool for CBPR](#)

People, places, institutions, informal networks, and skills already present. Include assets known only within the community, not only those formally documented elsewhere.

ASSET	TYPE	LOCATION / CONTACT	FORMALLY RECOGNIZED	NOTES

A1.5 — Community-Engaged Session Preparation

BEFORE YOU START

What this is: Session planning grounded in Community-Based Participatory Research (CBPR) — a research tradition in which the people being studied are equal partners in designing, running, and interpreting the research, not subjects observed from a distance. CBPR treats genuine accessibility as inseparable from valid participatory data, not a courtesy layered on afterward.

When to use it: After A1.4's first pass at the inventory, before inviting anyone.

How to use it: The question of who might be missing matters more than any other line on this page — it is the actual mechanism that keeps an asset map from only reflecting the loudest voices in the room.

Source: [Israel et al. – Community-Based Participatory Research: Policy Recommendations](#)

Complete this planning checklist before scheduling the session described in A1.6.

☐ **Who should be invited, and who might be missed by that invitation**

☐ **Accessibility needs — language, mobility, timing, childcare**

☐ **Materials needed**

☐ **A plain-language explanation of the session, to be shared in advance**

A1.6 — Facilitation Script

BEFORE YOU START

What this is: A facilitation structure drawn directly from the Community Science Initiative's own Participatory Asset Mapping toolkit — a real, documented session design. The three-part shape (warm-up, core activity, closing) is standard practice in participatory facilitation for surfacing what a community actually knows about itself, rather than what a facilitator assumes.

When to use it: Once [A1.5](#) is complete and participants are confirmed.

How to use it: Run it close to written the first time. The timing is intentionally tight, out of respect for participants' time, but leaves real room in the Core Activity for whatever actually surfaces.

Source: [Community Science Initiative – Participatory Asset Mapping: A Community Research Lab Toolkit](#)

A skeletal structure for a 55 to 65 minute community-engaged mapping session. Adjust timing to the group and setting.

OPENING – 5 MIN

Welcome and Framing

State plainly who is holding this session and why. Restate consent: participation is voluntary, and anyone may decline to answer or leave at any point.

WARM-UP – 10 MIN

Describing the Community in Its Own Terms

Invite participants to describe their own neighborhood before any prompt narrows the conversation. Sample: *"If someone had never been here before, what would you want them to know about this place first?"*

CORE ACTIVITY – 30–40 MIN

Asset Mapping

Guide participants through naming and placing the people, places, institutions, and networks that make up this community's existing strength. Sample: *"Where do people actually go to get help around here?"*

CLOSING – 10 MIN

Thank You and Next Contact

Thank participants directly. Restate what happens with what was shared, and provide a concrete point of contact for follow-up.

A1.7 — Synthesis — Preliminary Frequency Notes

BEFORE YOU START

What this is: Ours, not borrowed. A narrative synthesis structure, built to translate everything A1.1 through A1.6 surfaced into the frequency language the rest of this Score uses. Narrative synthesis — bringing separate qualitative findings together into one coherent account, rather than treating them as isolated data points — is itself a recognized qualitative research technique; this page applies that logic specifically to community frequency.

When to use it: Last, once the session in A1.6 wraps.

How to use it: Write real sentences in each section, pulling directly from A1.2 through A1.6, not a list of keywords. The working statement at the bottom is what actually carries forward into Read 02 — Research Question.

Bring A1.1 through A1.6 together into an early working read of the community's frequency. This becomes the direct input for Read 02 — Research Question.

Values & Rituals — what repeats, and how often

Language & Voice — how the community actually describes itself, in its own words

Ways of Organizing — who does what, and how decisions actually get made

Working Statement of Community Frequency — one paragraph, drawing the above three together

Glossary

The physics, and what it means in practice. Every linked term across this document points here.

PHYSICS	PRACTICE
Medium What a wave travels through	Medium A community, organization, or society — already has its own rhythms and ways of organizing
Wave A disturbance that transfers energy through a medium	Wave Any program, policy, or strategy entering a community, organization, or society
Frequency (f) Number of wave cycles per second (Hz)	Community Frequency The rate at which a community, organization, or society repeats its core rhythms Measured by: participation rates, cultural retention indicators where participatory; usage or administrative records where not.
Frequency (f) Number of wave cycles per second (Hz)	Intervention Frequency The rate at which an introduced program, policy, or strategy repeats its own rhythm Measured by: program schedule and cadence; funding or renewal cycles.
Wavelength (λ) Distance of one full wave cycle (m)	Community Wavelength The reach of one full cultural cycle across people, geography, and generations Measured by: cultural spread, intergenerational transmission where participatory; demographic or geospatial distribution where not.
Velocity (v = fλ) How fast a wave's energy moves through the medium	Community Velocity How fast meaning and knowledge move through a community's own networks Measured by: response time to cultural events where participatory; network density or digital logs where not.
Amplitude (A) The energy or intensity of the driving force	Amplitude The intensity of resources actually committed to an intervention Measured by: dollars committed, people reached, frequency and duration of contact. <i>High amplitude with the wrong frequency is loud dissonance, not resonance.</i>

Glossary (continued)

PHYSICS	PRACTICE
f_community = f_intervention When frequency of wave matches frequency of medium	Resonance When the frequency of an intervention matches the natural frequency of a community Measured by: uptake, sustained engagement, trust where participatory; adoption or usage metrics where not. <i>If the community resonates with and amplifies the intervention, social transformation can take shape.</i>
f_beat = f_c - f_i When frequency of wave does not match frequency of medium — audible beating	Dissonance The gap between the frequency of a community and whatever is currently acting on it Measured by: drop-off and pushback where participatory; divergence in statistical or geospatial measurements where not.
A' > A at resonance Growth in a driven system's own response amplitude, greatest at resonance	Amplification What a community does with an intervention, if it resonates — carrying it further than what was put in Measured by: continued use after the engagement ends; adoption or replication beyond original delivery. <i>This is the mechanism behind social transformation — not the resources committed, but what the community does with them.</i>

Bibliography

Sources cited in the Literature Review / Landscape Scan Toolkit.

A1.1	<u>The Belmont Report — Ethical Principles and Guidelines for the Protection of Human Subjects of Research</u>
A1.2	<u>Kalavani et al. — Environmental Scanning Model in Health System and Implementation Steps</u>
A1.4	<u>Kretzmann & McKnight — Building Communities from the Inside Out</u>
A1.4	<u>Lightfoot, McCleary & Lum — Asset Mapping as a Research Tool for CBPR</u>
A1.5	<u>Israel et al. — Community-Based Participatory Research: Policy Recommendations</u>

the cycle continues –

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The Resonance Method – Literature Review / Landscape Scan Toolkit

Extracted from The Score – 2026

Grounded in Asset-Based Community Development (Kretzmann & McKnight); Lightfoot, McCleary & Lum, Asset Mapping as a Research Tool for Community-Based Participatory Research in Social Work; Community Science Initiative, Participatory Asset Mapping: A Community Research Lab Toolkit.

Full sources: Bibliography, previous page. Term definitions: Glossary.

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