

Tool when planning to engage with Tāmaki communities

Below are some important things to take into account when planning to engage with Tāmaki communities through hui, fono, wui, workshops and other such gatherings. At the outset it's always wise to talk to community workers or leaders who are 'in the know' so that any planning is based on sound advice.

Essential elements

- Communicate clear intentions and expectations up front.
- Acknowledge those who attend and invite them to name their community connections.
- Keep in mind those who couldn't make it but are likely to be interested in what's going on.
- Recognise and appreciate cultural diversity by doing activities that strengthen cultural identity and foster community pride.
- Encourage participants to tell stories that energise and inspire people.
- Give relevant information in community-friendly language so that people can contribute meaningfully.
- Create space for talk that matters by asking relevant questions and encouraging people to speak in their own languages.
- Introduce an element of fun so people enjoy themselves.
- Make provisions for some refreshments that people will enjoy.
- At the end, track the day's achievements and talk about next steps (including who's going to do what and when).
- Provide a feedback loop.
- Afterwards, follow through by doing what you said you'd do.