Green Infrastructure Workshop: CoLABoration in Practice

Nina-Marie Lister

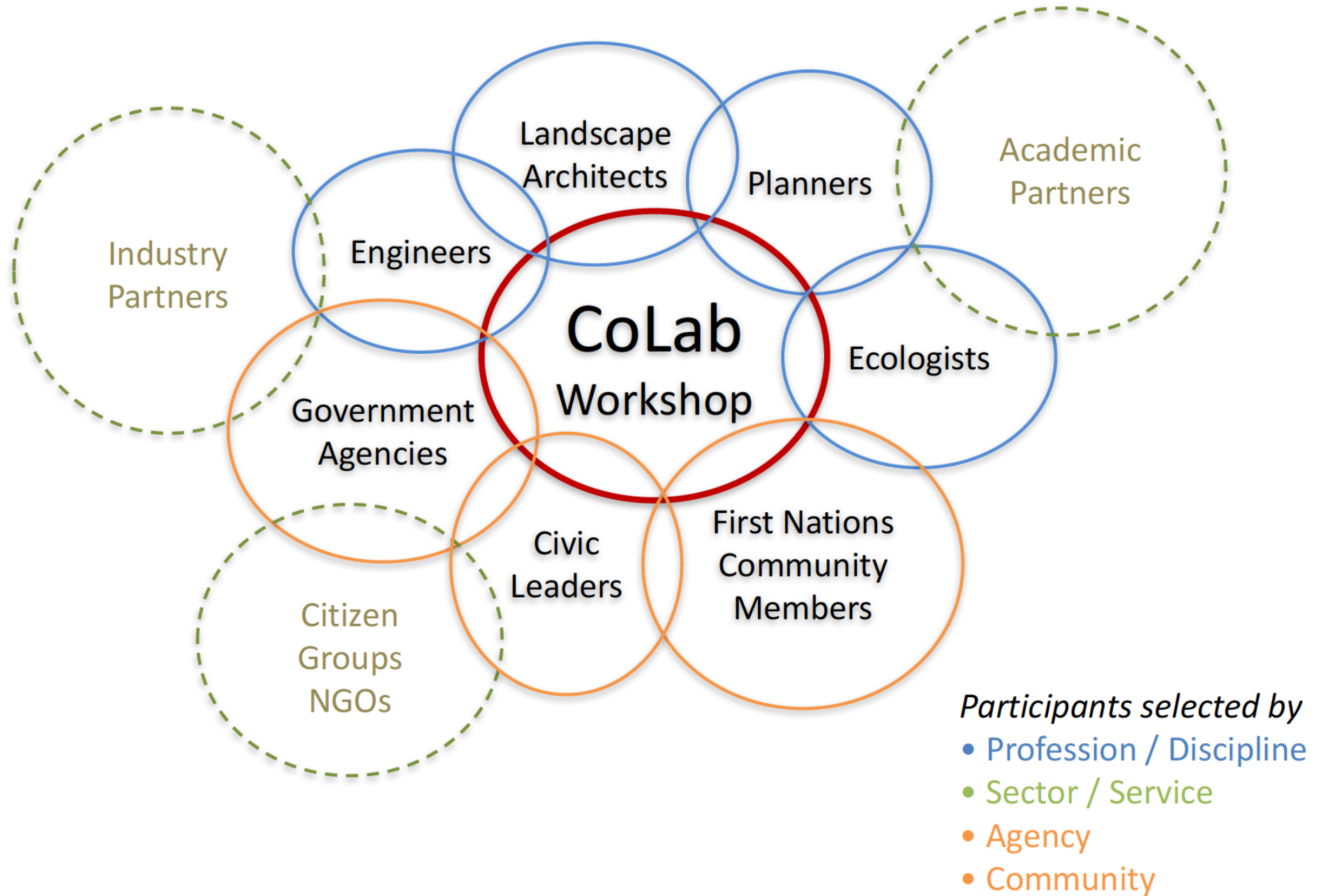Director, Ecological Design Lab
Ryerson University

A different way of working

- There are many examples of **green infrastructure** demonstration projects...
- BUT uptake has been slower than required to achieve government policy and climate change targets
  - Governance, local context are perceived to be key barriers
  - Lessons can be learned from successful projects
- **GOAL:** *this workshop will generate a new form of interdisciplinary, integrated practice specifically designed to address these challenges!*

CoLABoration in Practice

- **Purpose?** To advance green infrastructure and low impact development (LID) in interdisciplinary groups
- **How?** Through collaboration to resolve obstacles to implementation
- **Why?** Interdisciplinary practitioner collaboration is a game changer!
  - Engineers, architects, planners work with landscape architects early on; at the project planning stage
  - To incorporate green infrastructure in designs for site and landscape plans
  - NOT as an after-thought following site planning, building siting or designs for stormwater management infrastructure

ColLABoratory

a.k.a. workshop, charrette, hackathon,
case competition, pressure cooker…
hands-on, learning-by-doing, problem-solving
creative synergy across disciplines

Integrated Planning & Design **CoLaboratory**

Industry Partners

Engineers

Landscape Architects

Planners

Academic Partners

Government Agencies

CoLab
Workshop

Ecologists

Citizen Groups NGOs

Civic Leaders

First Nations Community Members

Participants selected by
- Profession / Discipline
- Sector / Service
- Agency
- Community

The Challenge

- Identify **design opportunities, challenges** and **explore methods** for implementing green infrastructure solutions.

- Develop a **creative design solution** to produce a specific, effective, innovative green infrastructure response in one of two different land use scenarios.

- Identify **considerations for successful implementation** (i.e. ecosystem services, community outreach strategies, institutional processes, business models, educational opportunities) to facilitate the adoption green infrastructure solutions.

DOs and DON'Ts for CoLABoration

DO… for CoLABoration

- Speculate, create, explore; take liberties, jump fences, imagine!
- Work towards design concepts in the absence of perfect information
- Build bridges! Pursue common understanding / bridge gaps between professional disciplines and areas of expertise
- Develop several concepts (but DON'T wait for a single best design resolution if it's not apparent)
- Allow tangents, emergent possibilities, new directions
- Keep track of questions that arise
- Note barriers AND opportunities that emerge
- **SHOW:** Draw, sketch, diagram, map, make lists

DON'T... for CoLABoration

- Ignore novelty
- Avoid untested, different ideas or strategies simply because they are new to you
- Constrain ideas to those that are readily realizable (given current conventions, procedures, methods, disciplines
- Force immediate conclusions
- Get fixated on the cheapest, fastest option (although DO *note* these)
- Be dominated by one discipline or professional voice
- Don't get hung up on imperfect data!
- **TELL:** don't talk instead of producing a concept

CONCEPT SOLUTION

- concept drawings
- diagrams
- tables
- site plans
- sections
- lists & notes
- systems mapping
- institutional framework
- procurement issues
- barriers, opportunities
- policy 'map'
- agencies 'map'

DELIVERABLES

- **concept drawings** (e.g. sketches, diagrams, tables, site plans, sections, views etc)

- **written considerations** for successful implement-ation of your plan (e.g. procurement challenges, performance metrics, operational and maintenance, triple bottom line and stackable benefits, a policy roadmap, etc.)

- **3 recommendations** to move green infrastructure forward (e.g. procurement issues, challenges, opportunities, total life cycle costing, creating more livable spaces, a policy roadmap, etc.)
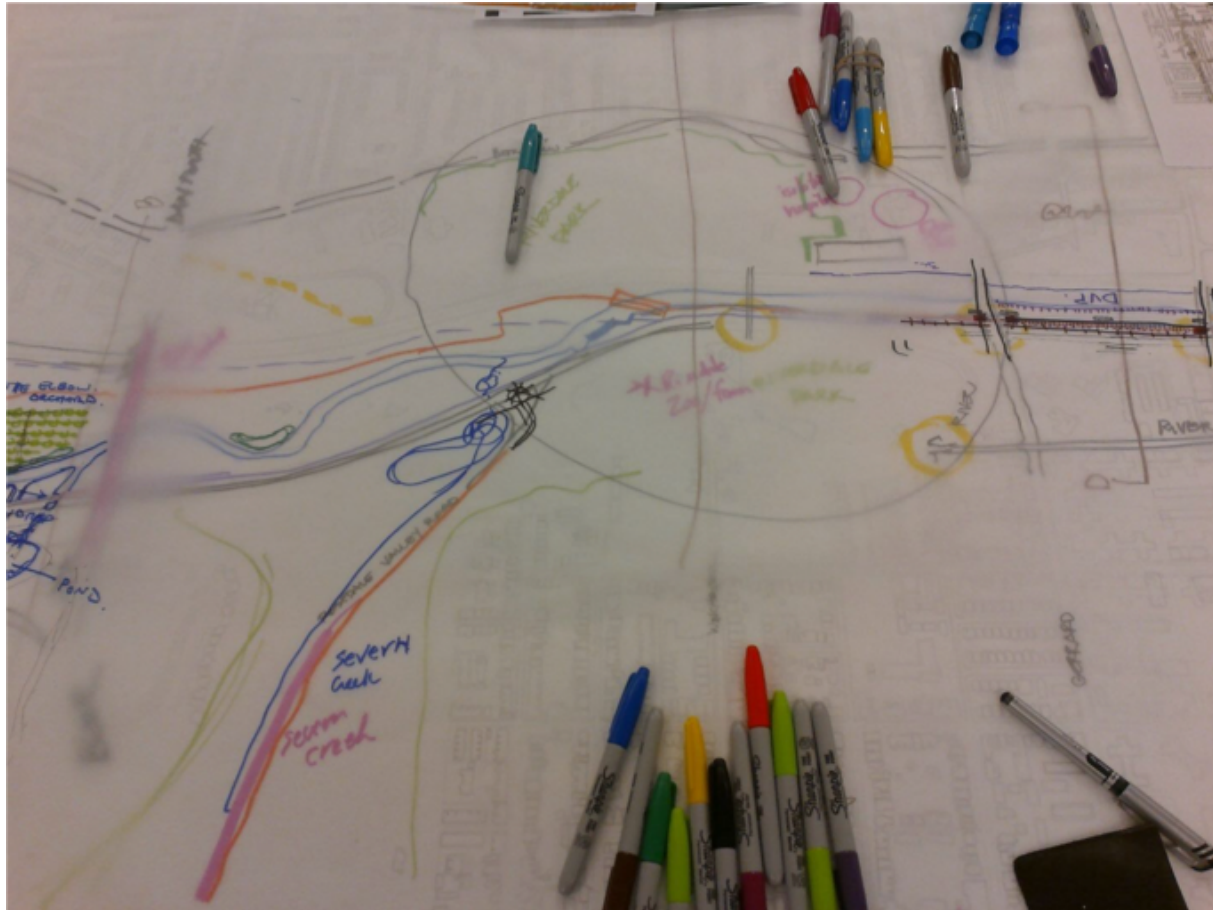
Additional **Notes**

- Bike rack / parking lot:
  - park your Qs, issues that arise for which there is no immediate solution
- Bridges:
  - opportunities for acceleration of implementation, wider adoption, collaboration, education, partnerships
- Roadblocks:
  - Barriers to implementation, procurement, adoption by agencies, institutions, local contextual hurdles
- Detours & Shortcuts
  - Workarounds, innovation strategies!

Ready... Set...CoLABorate
DESIGN!

- Meet your team
- Photographs taken during workshop
- Facilitators at each table; some will "float"
- Track your questions, use Wifi, ask around
- Can "borrow" an expert from another team
- **Deadline:** design Pin-Up @ **LUNCH TOMORROW!**
- After presentation of design concepts, reconvene together to discuss lessons learned, barriers and opportunities, next steps
- Finish @ 3pm tomorrow with photos ☺

Design, Explore, Create
collaborative practice in action

Have fun! ☺