



COMMUNITY CONVERSATION #2

GOVERNANCE AND DECISION-MAKING

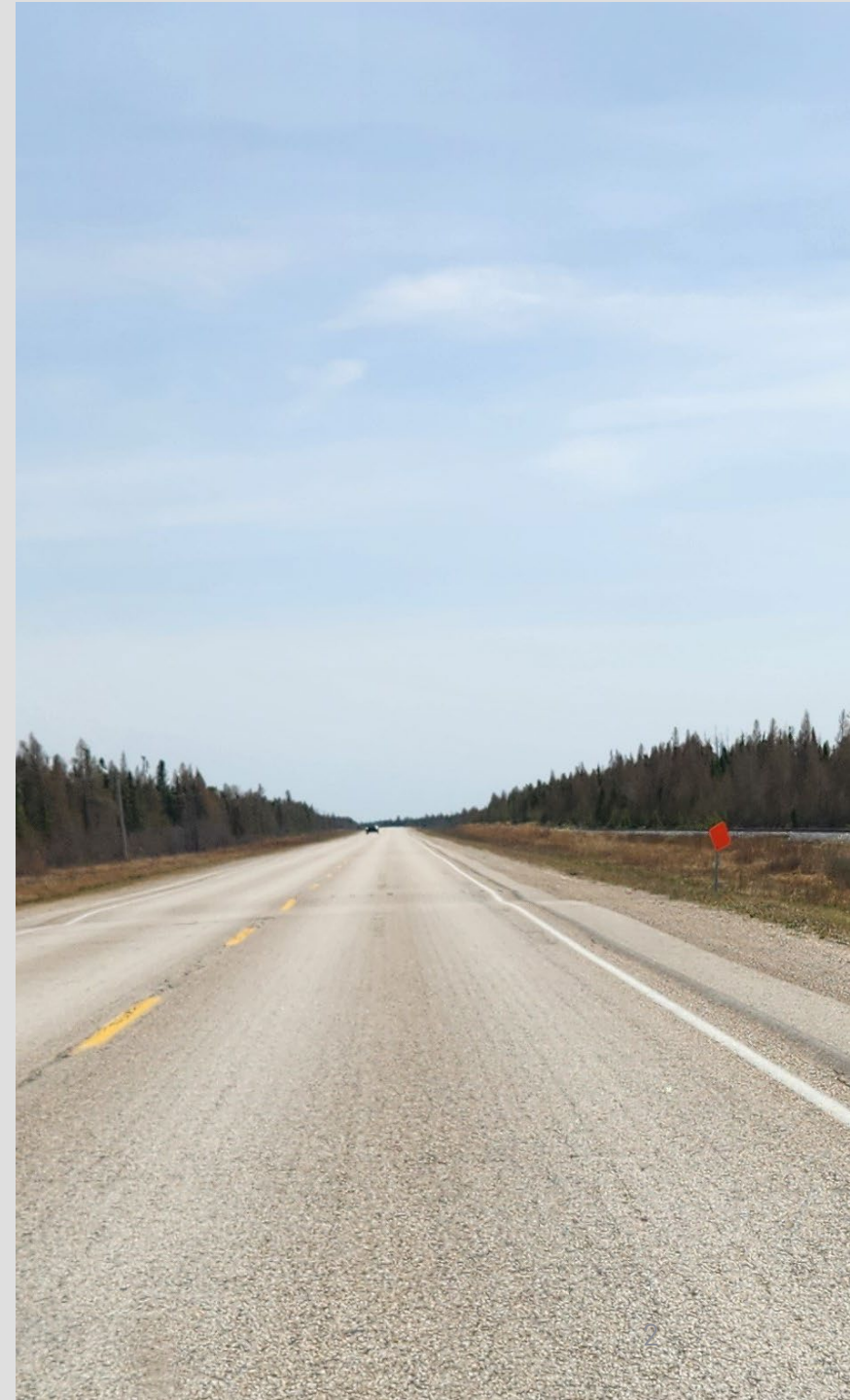
February 2, 2026
4:30 pm to 6:30 pm, CST

Facilitated by Inga Petri, Strategic Moves

Welcome and Introductions

In the CHAT:

- Your name
- Where you live
- Your involvement with the arts, creativity, food, culture



Today's Agenda:

Governance: From Structure to How to Work Together

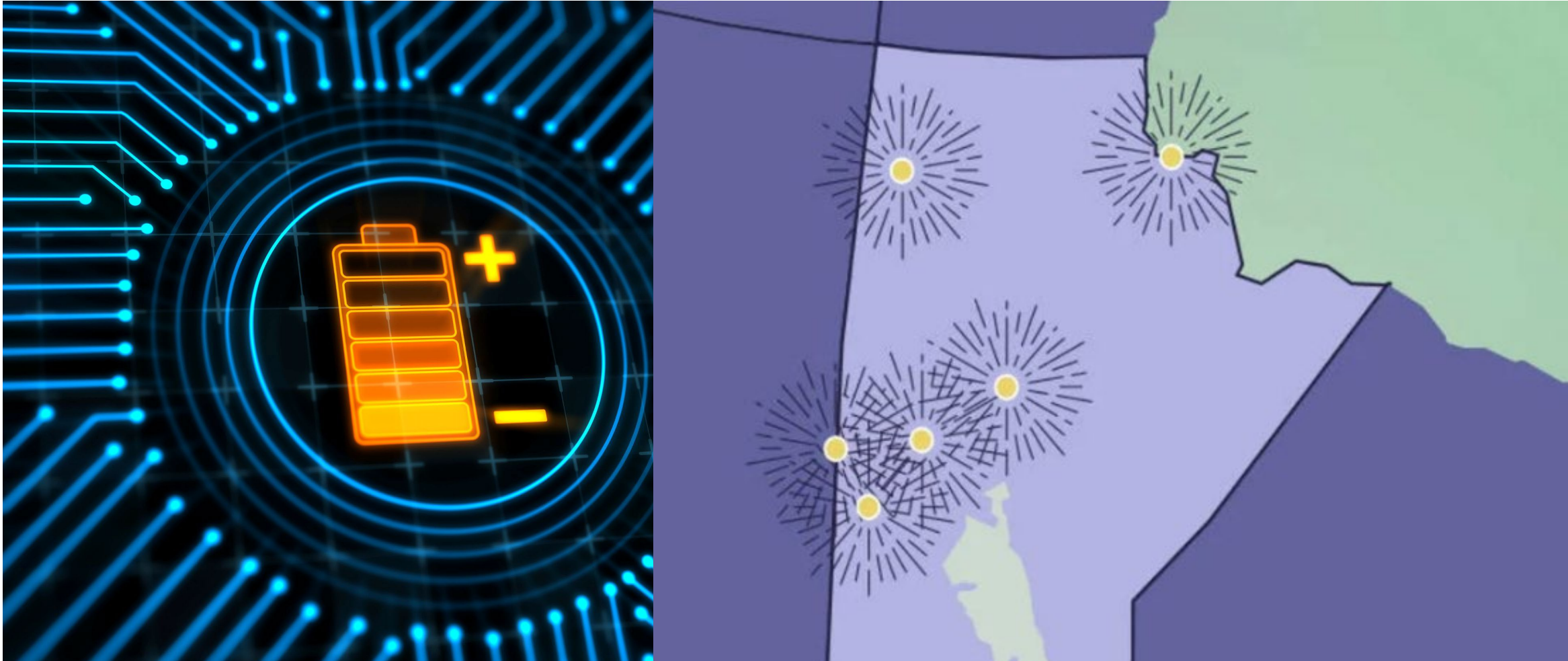


- Shape practical governance
- Reflect on what we heard
- Think through decision-making
- Define roles & supports

Guiding Principles

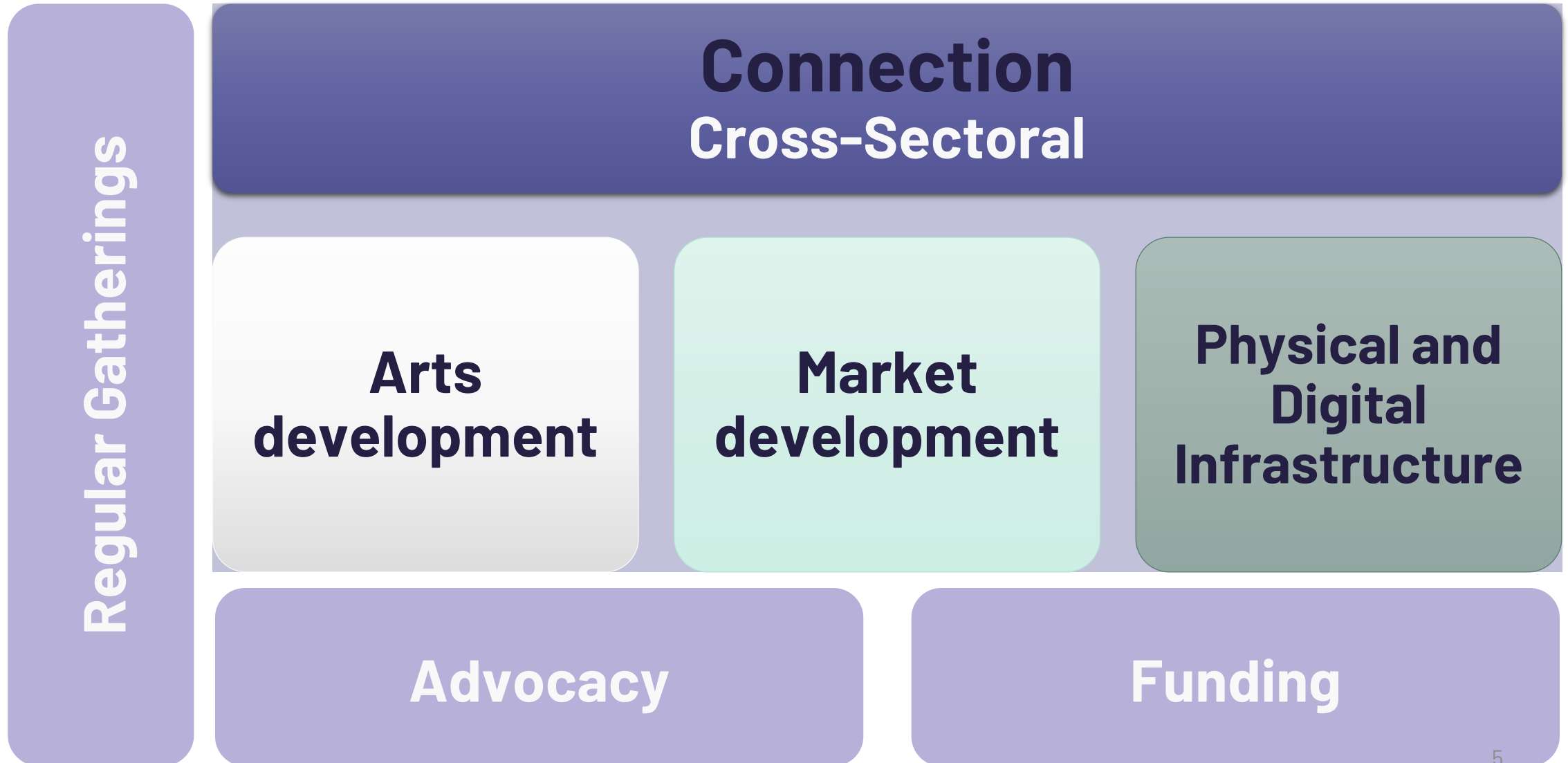
- Listen actively
- Use the chat, raise your hand, unmute
- Make space
- Speak from lived experience
- Focus on ideas, not individuals

imagiNorthern is a “battery pack” for communities – fueling local initiatives and connecting them to resources.

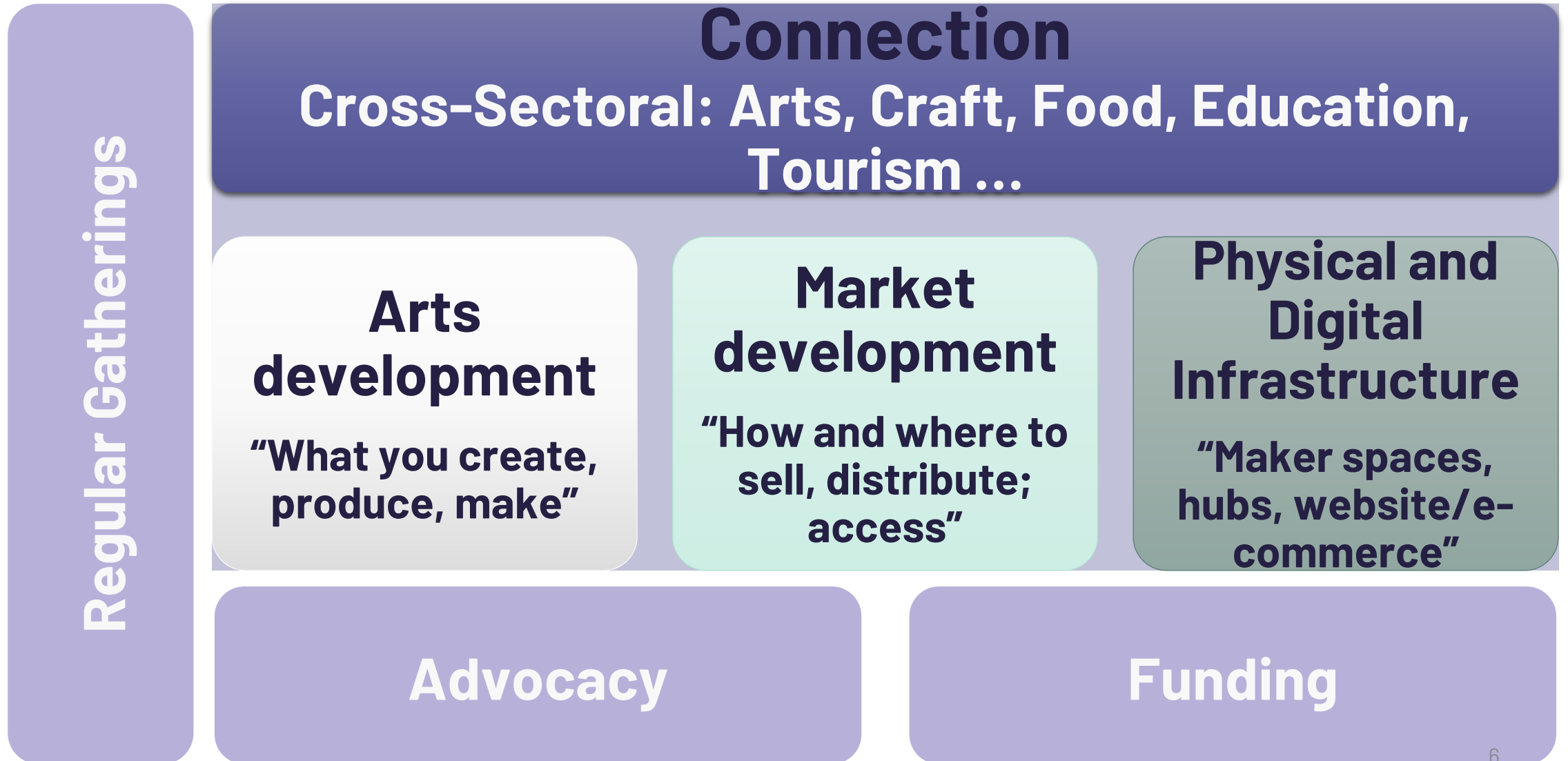


Thanks to Max Burke (Churchill) for this analogy.

Northern Manitoba Arts and Culture Strategy



Northern Manitoba Arts and Culture Strategy



In practical terms: What We Do / Want to Do



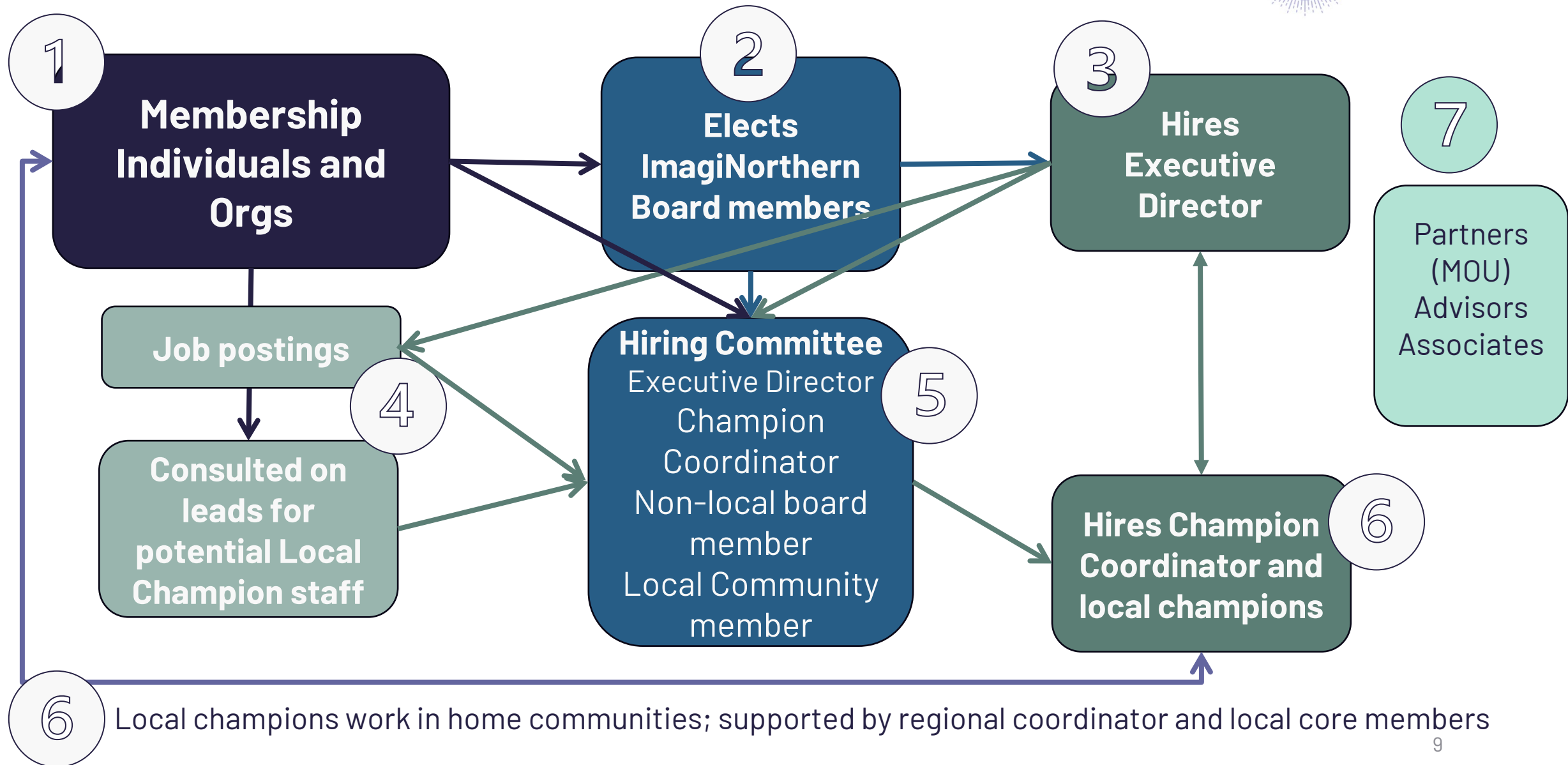
- Help develop community-based creative spaces
- Help expand digital commerce platforms
- Host regional workshops and professional development
- Grow visibility through outreach
- Support strong local leadership
- Facilitate cultural exchange and connection
- Support initiatives aligned with community goals
- Conduct data collection and shared governance

What We Heard



- **Inclusive membership**
- **Elected board**
- **Clear leadership structure**
 - Facilitative regional leadership
- **Transparent hiring**
- **Community-led network**

What We Heard - Yes to Individuals and Organizations as members, simplified, transparent recruitment process,



What We Heard: Yes to organizational structure with defined board and executive director, clear accountability



Members – Individuals and Organizations

imagiNorthern Board of Directors
Specific requirements, mix of skills and expertise

Executive Director

Champion Coordinator

Financial & Administrative manager
(bookkeeper & grant writer)

Local Champions

Does this reflect what you shared last time?

Does anything need discussion or clarification?

Members' rights, privileges, obligations



- **Should there be one level of membership with all the same rights?**
 - Do organizations and individual members each have one vote at AGM, to elect board, etc.
 - Should organizations be non-voting or should they weigh more than individual members?
 - Should all the members of a member organization be automatically members of imagiNorthern with all the same privileges?
- **What are your views on membership requiring payment of a membership fee or should membership be free (only require agreement to the mandate / mission of the organization).**
 - So far, ImagiNorthern has not had any formal membership. Anyone has been able to participate in gatherings, events for free; travel bursaries have been available for gatherings to reduce barriers.
- **Help members / community organize by group / interest, e.g. visual artists, performing artists, food producers, arts organizations etc...**

Role of Local Champions



If someone in your community was the imagiNorthern Champion and doing a great job — what would they actually be doing week to week?

Respond in the chat; or speak up.
Poll

How Regional Staff Should Support Communities



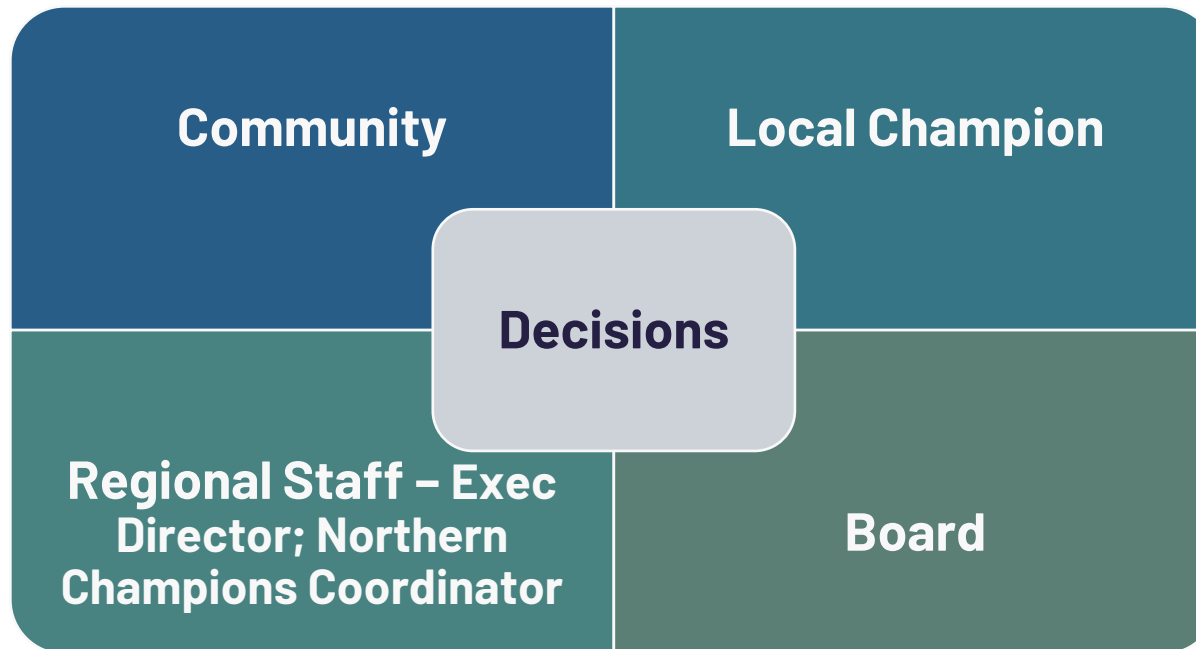
What regional support would actually make a difference locally?

**Respond in the chat; or speak up.
Poll**

Real Life Scenarios



- A community wants to start a new arts program — who decides?

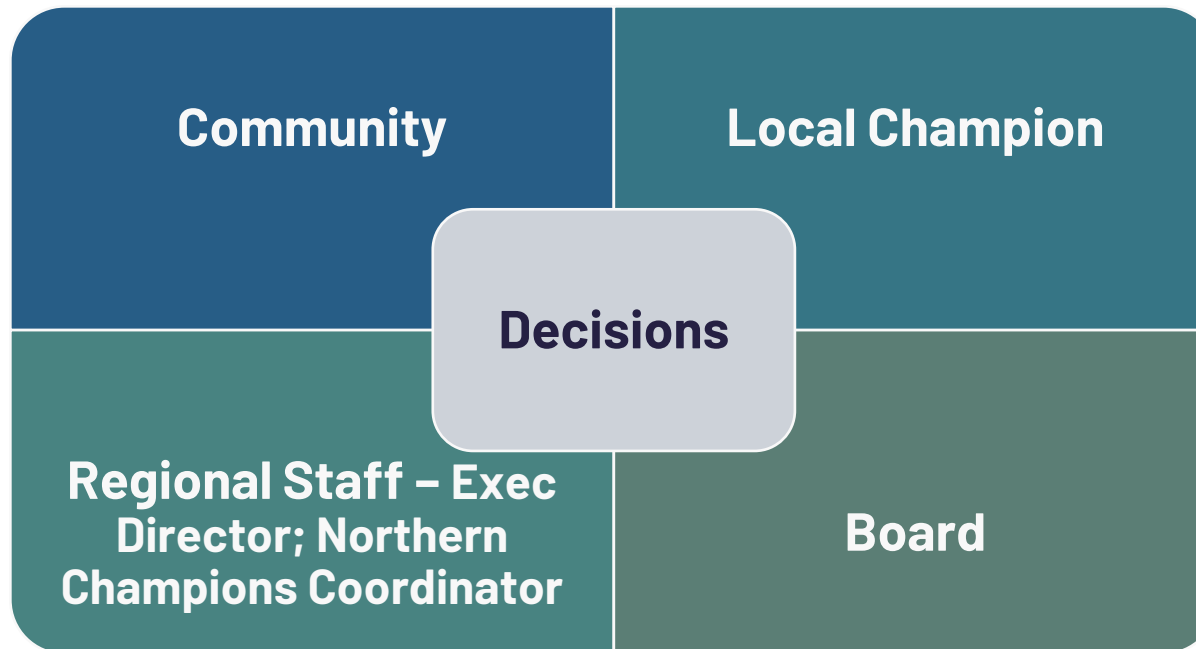


- Who should lead the decision?
- Who should be consulted?
- Who has final responsibility?
- How should transparency work?

Real Life Scenarios



- A champion isn't delivering — who steps in and how?

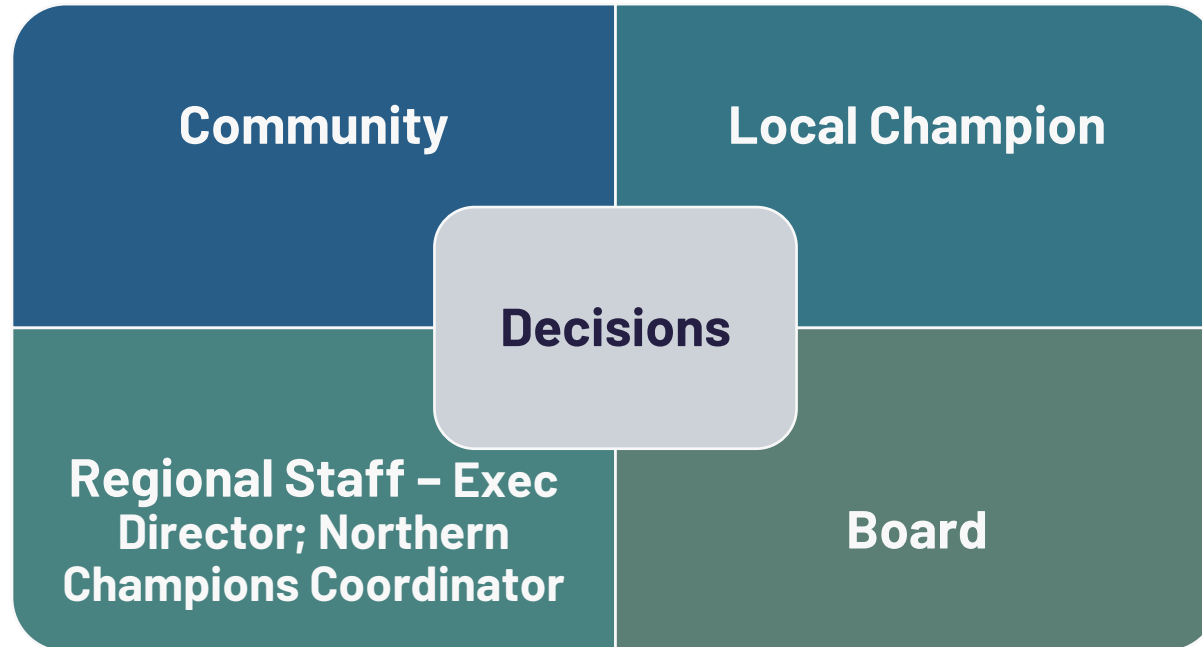


- Who should lead the decision?
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Real Life Scenarios



- Funding opportunity comes up quickly — who acts?
- Two communities want the same limited resources — who prioritizes?

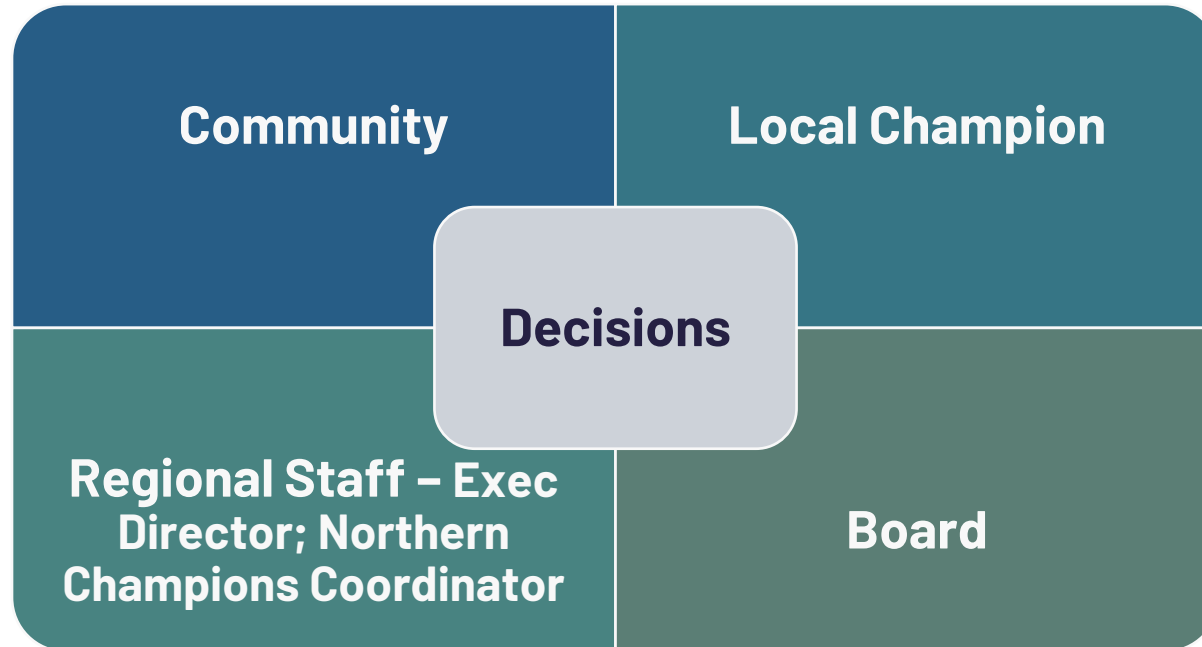


- Who should lead the decision?
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Real Life Scenarios



- A community disagrees with a regional decision — what happens next?
- A major shift in direction is proposed — how is community input gathered?



- Who should lead the decision?
- Who should be consulted?
- Who has final responsibility?
- How should transparency work?

Closing Reflection: What can imagiNorthern offer you



- What should imagiNorthern always do?
- What should remain community-led locally?
- Where is support needed

Respond in the chat; or speak up.

Next steps



- **Summary notes from this conversations with this group and anyone who has RSVP'd to the January 24 and February 2 conversations.**
 - Ongoing updates via email from imagiNorthern
 - Go to imagineNorthern.ca to stay in touch, find out about gatherings, workshops, activities and events
- **Steering Committee meets February 4 to review your input and consider further.**
 - Final governance and community-rooted decision making later in February
 - Potential to survey you / interested people if any doubts remain
- **Prepare to create a stand along not-for-profit organization**
 - Bylaws
 - Initial board
 - Register
- **Share this information with your own friends, colleagues, networks and help grow our collective impact**