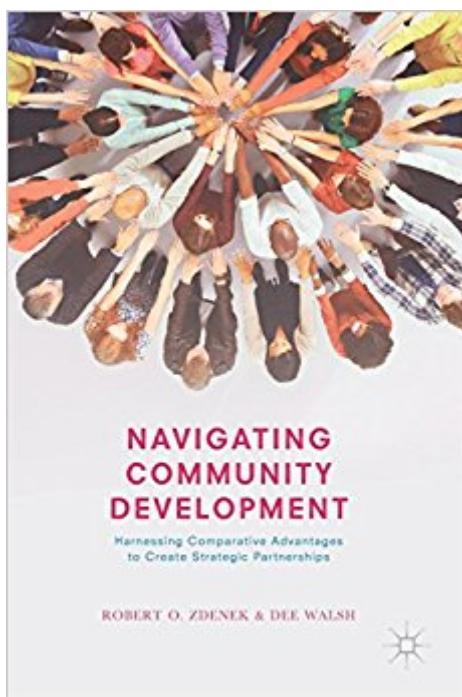


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# **Navigating Community Development: Harnessing Comparative Advantages To Create Strategic Partnerships**



## **Synopsis**

This book describes the evolution of the community development sector over the past 50 years, and it presents a framework and road map for how community development organizations can advance their mission through strategic partnerships that utilize their core competencies. The authors describe the current community development ecosystem, define a range of essential community development competencies, and demonstrate, through seven case studies, how using comparative advantages built on core competencies can improve outcomes for communities. By recognizing and leading with their competencies and strengths, organizations can bring their specialized areas of expertise to address complex and interconnected community challenges, and effectively meet their missions and objectives.

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missions and objectives.

Robert O. Zdenek has been a community development leader for 40 years. He has led several national and local organizations, published over 30 articles, served on 20 board of directors, consulted with 35 organizations, and taught at New School University, USA. Dee Walsh is a housing and community development professional, author, and teacher with expertise in real estate finance, program development, and strategic planning. She has held executive positions and served on the boards of local, regional, and national community development organizations.

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