anchor institutions:
A closer look at an emerging field

THE ANNIE E. CASEY FOUNDATION
Casey’s Interest in Anchors

- 20+ years investing in place-based work
- Historically underutilized set of resources
- Encouraging results from investments and partnerships
Casey’s Role in the Anchor Space

• Convene and catalyze partners
• Support network development and field-building
• Advocate for public policies
• Support demonstrations via grants and program-related investments
• Commission research
A Look at the Field

• More institutions are using anchor framing
• Partnerships are developing in older industrial cities and beyond:
  – Baltimore, Chicago, Cleveland, Detroit, Newark
  – Albuquerque, Denver, Minneapolis/St. Paul, New Orleans
• National and local ecosystems are evolving
  – Intermediaries, consultants, communities of practice, learning exchanges, researchers etc.
• Interest is growing among local governments and the philanthropic community
Anchor Partnerships

Investment types:
• Operations, programs, network-building, TA, research, learning, program-related

Topical areas:
• Economic inclusion, workforce development, community revitalization, civic engagement, arts and culture, housing

Anchor networks:
• Anchor Institutions Funders Group, Living Cities
Keys for Effective Anchor Partnerships

- Clear purpose
- Common/shared goals
- Member readiness
- Skin in the game
- Dedicated facilitation/backbone
- Long horizon
• Anchor institution strategies are means, not ends
• Institutional self-interests can’t be ignored, but it doesn’t end there…
• Committed leadership is key
• It’s important to mind your footprints
• Engagement is a two-way street
• It’s about communities, not community
• Documentation and measurement are critical