# Who Should Participate?
Key factors to consider in selecting participants for a collaborative process:

- Who has a "stake"? Who is likely to be affected by the issues and how they are resolved?

- Who has authority over the issues or resources involved? Who is in a position to officially act on any proposals or ideas that emerge from the collaborative process?

- Who has necessary expertise? What information, data, and knowledge is critical to addressing the issues at hand and who can provide it?

- Who is essential for implementation?

- Who has "veto" power? Who has the ability to hinder your process or projects?

- Who has necessary resources? Whose help – financial or otherwise – will you need to follow through with the process or projects?

- Who cares, for whatever reason? Who has energy and passion about the place or the issues, even though they may not directly fall into any of the above categories?