**Operation Rethink starts now! We are proposing to create Miami’s first “THINK TANK” an innovative approach that will combine the traditional policy institute that performs research and advocacy concerning topics such as social policy, economics, technology, and culture with community and civic engagement to effect democratic change*. in essence, rethinking both the research approach to issue analysis and measurement and the commitment to civic engagement*.**

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***Photo Credit: Flickr user*** [***callumscott2***](http://www.flickr.com/photos/callumscott2/280532845/)

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| **Community engagement represents many things but is at its core about the way individuals and groups build synergistic relationships and collaborate for the greater good of the community. The process involves leading people towards and through democratic change, albeit from one perspective or stalled position towards a collective viewpoint. The desired outcome being that shared interests and ideas will translate into democratic influence on governing bodies and other decision makers to benefit the community through effective change.** |

**Forming civic consciences is a call to engaged democratic citizenship. Together, we can create societal changes that make a difference and actually stimulate initiatives of import. To accomplish our goals, the Center for Community and Civic Engagement at The Miami Woman’s Club will form this think tank and hold forums and roundtable discussions with representatives and leaders from government, business and community, to examine and work through strategies to drive that stimulus. We will apply measurement metrics to analyze what works and help provide the support for promising, impact-driven engagement projects. Community engagement is necessary to produce lasting, visible change. There is a growing recognition that investing in programs alone is not sufficient given the complexity of the social challenges and opportunities. Large-scale transformation requires the engagement of all sectors in a community, nonprofits, businesses, philanthropies and governments all pulling in the same direction through collaborative efforts…The goal is ultimately to increase the level of authentic community engagement by developing the tools and knowledge necessary to support it**

**Although community and civic engagement is a worthy and exciting initiative, the accomplishment of the goals can be challenging. In order to meet the objective of seeking ways to engage "residents as co-creators of change," a process has to be designed and implemented to involve residents in "large-scale transformation." The Center for Civic and Community Engagement at The Miami Woman’s Club will explore ways of getting groups to work more collaboratively and connecting people to become a force for change. Based on our experience with the launching and running of the Miami Action Policy Institute at the Club, we know that much can be accomplished through the sharing of ideas and knowledge, developing training and skills abilities, and forming a platform to escalate issues. We see this center as a major node in an electronic and virtual network connected with other local groups, with the research data analysis and evaluation of issues, and with economic or policy entities nationally and globally**

**This weekend’s Hack for Change: Miami as part of the National Day of Civic Hacking highlighted the demand for championing positive change. This Center would provide the venue for a variety of opportunities, such as, coding or hacking in a hackerspace environment or technological applications to help with transportation, environmental, educational, legislative, safety issues and others,**

**Miami is moving towards the “effective community” level. Ambition, innovation, commitment and engagement are necessary. By rethinking the traditional think tank in this fashion, Miami will not only experience community change but will establish a model for policy institutes to combine with civic engagement that can be replicated nationally and change our City, State and Nation one community at a time.**

**Miami needs to be the City of Great Opportunity, Change and Civic Engagement.**

**Let’s stand up to the challenge!**

**OPERATION RETHINK**

**at**

**The Center for Community and Civic Engagement**



**The Miami Woman's Club**