This checklist was crafted by Katie Johnston-Goodstar and Jenna Sethi in collaboration with session attendees at the ‘What Went Wrong’: Reflecting and Learning from Community-Engaged Research conference on 7/12/2014. It is not an exhaustive checklist but if helpful, please share as you like.

**But Do I Want to Work With You? Checklist:**

- What is the philosophical orientation or standpoint of all involved?
  - You (community partners and researchers) have your own way of knowing
    - What is it?
  - Communities have their own ways of knowing
    - What is it?
  - What orientation is best situated to answer the questions at hand

- Does the researcher already have a research question?
  - Will the community be assessed in damaging ways (deficit-oriented questions)
  - What is the focal level of the questions (attention to social context, individual or social level of analysis)
  - Are we in agreement on what the research question is? If not, is there flexibility?

- Does the researcher already have funding?
  - Where does the funding come from and how does funding impact the research?
    - i.e. is the research question set etc.?
  - How much of the funding will actually go to the community partner?
  - Will the community be assessed in damaging ways (i.e. “financially high risk”) and will work be required before payment?
  - Can funding be obtained outside the University? If so, how? Is this desirable?

- Who will own the data?
  - Do the community partner and university have equal access to the data?
    - Where will the data be housed? Who controls access?
  - What if there are different interpretations of the data? What is the process for disagreements?

- What is the publication/dissemination process?
  - What does dissemination look like? Who is it produced for?
  - Does the dissemination match the knowledge paradigm?
    - Is it print-centric? Is this the way this knowledge is shared/should be shared?

- What does “mutually beneficial?” look like?
  - Who benefits and how?
    - Financial benefits?
    - Impacts on policy/practice/social conditions?
    - Reputation/prestige/social benefits?
  - Should the question be.... are we “mutually vulnerable?”
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- What accountability processes are set up?
  - Whose ethics (IRB/review boards) is the research accountable to?
    - Whose worldview? Animal justice? Earth justice?
  - How is success defined?
  - Who has the power to decide?

- How do I tell people ‘no’ without harming potential for future collaborations?
  - I think we have conflicting orientations/goals for research i.e. let’s consider future work, I don’t think we’re a good fit ‘for now,’ let’s keep talking…
  - Are you (researcher) willing to work for free so we can “try you out?”
  - What does our organization need to do to be proactive in seeking collaborations that fit us and our questions?

- Is research the activity we should be doing?

Resources (just a few starters):

- Data Center: Research for Justice - www.datacenter.org
- Highlander Research and Education Center - http://highlandercenter.org/
- The Revolution Will not be Funded: Beyond the Non-Profit Industrial Complex, edited by Incite! Women of Color Against Violence
- Decolonizing Methodologies by Linda Tuhiwai Smith
- Revolutionizing Education: Youth Participatory Action Research in Motion by Julio Cammarota and Michelle Fine
- Guishard, M. (2009). The false paths, the endless labors, the turns now this way and now that: Participatory action research, mutual vulnerability, and the politics of inquiry. The Urban Review, 41(1), 85-105.