

2020 Virtual

on the table MKE

HEALING JUSTICE

Participation Guide

CONVERSATIONS ARE CATALYSTS

We all have a stake in our community's future, so we each should have a say in how that future looks.

To achieve the high quality of life everyone deserves, we need to act on the best ideas from diverse perspectives. We have to bridge differences to find common purpose. We must learn from one another and work together so our region and everyone in it reaches their full potential.

When we invite others to our table, we create a space for mutual understanding and partnership. On the Table MKE takes that concept to scale. Intentional and inclusive community conversation gives our region new opportunity to build on the strength of our growing diversity, to remove the barriers to access and power that hold back many of our neighbors, and to take the steps necessary for greater Milwaukee to be an equitable home for people of any race, status or identity.

What starts with a spark can grow to a movement if we commit our abilities and energy.

We have everything to gain.

GUIDELINES FOR ALL CONVERSATIONS

Proposed Agreements for Participating

Adopted and adapted from the Zeidler Center for Public Discussion

1. We will speak for ourselves, from our personal experiences. We won't try to represent a whole group, and we won't ask someone else to represent, explain or defend a whole group.
2. We will refrain from critiquing others or attempting to persuade them to adopt our own views.
3. We will share speaking time and participate within the suggested timeframe.
4. We will not interrupt except to indicate that we cannot or did not hear a speaker.
5. We will respect anyone's decision to listen to the conversation and not speak.
6. When we discuss our experience, we will not attach names or other identifying information to particular comments unless we have permission to do so.

TAKING ACTION

Is your table interested in taking action, but not sure how? The possibilities are endless, but here are some suggestions offered and inspired by previous *On the Table MKE* participants.

For the Speaker

VOICE

Voice your stories, your experiences, your values, your vision for change. Find venues where you can make your voice heard – public spaces, libraries, schools, organizations, media, etc.

ADVOCATE

Advocate for issues and values you care about. Increase awareness. Share information directly with your family, friends, neighbors, classmates, coworkers; share on social media and in other creative ways. Promote positive avenues for change.

For the Community Engager

VISIT

Visit places in your neighborhood that contribute to the community's quality of life, such as nonprofits, schools, places of worship, festivals, assisted living facilities. Go beyond your bubble and visit other communities. Bridge the divides by being present. Bring others with you.

INVITE

Invite others to visit your home, neighborhood, favorite organization, coffee shop, etc. Provide a tour. Have a meal together. Seek to build relationships with people, especially those different from you.

CONNECT

Identify opportunities in your community and help connect people with them. Create ways people can better learn about and access those opportunities.

For the Change-maker

CREATE

Create something new. Start a group, a coalition, a business, a cooperative, an organization, a hub, a team, a network, a website, a garden, a community space, a movement.

VOLUNTEER

Volunteer for an organization that champions the people, place, cause or topic you discussed.

PARTICIPATE CIVICALLY

Vote in elections. Help people register to vote. Hold a candidate's forum. Meet or speak with your elected officials and share what's important to you. Work toward better legislation and policies. Join a coalition or movement. Run for office.

DIVERSIFY

Open doors to opportunity within the networks and spaces you influence and inhabit daily. Seek to engage those with less influence through business, board service, civic leadership, etc.

TAKING ACTION

For the Collaborator

COLLABORATE

Identify and bring together two or more people, groups, organizations, and/or sectors that should be partnering with one another. Break down silos. Work together with shared values around a common purpose.

DIALOGUE

Continue the conversation. Schedule your next gathering. Invite more people to your table. Create regular opportunities for intentional dialogue. Plan a series of talks. Discuss ways to move forward.

RECRUIT

With anything you do, ask others to join you. Multiply your people power beyond your table. Recruit your neighbors, family, friends, classmates, coworkers and others to work with you.

For the Caretaker

SUPPORT

Provide a no- to low-cost service. Ask what is needed. Cultivate the strengths of those you seek to serve. Donate your time, talents and the things you love to others.

LISTEN

Find people and listen to their stories. Listen for their aspirations. Spend time with and get to know them. See the world through their eyes, and let it change you.

STEWARD

Care for the places across our region – neighborhoods, streets, vacant lots, schools, institutions, parks, natural areas, natural resources, etc.

THANK

Write thank you notes, send gifts, encourage others. Let the people doing amazing things know how they've inspired you.

For the Conscious

LEARN

Take a class. Find a workshop. Complete training. Start a book club. Explore community organizations and neighborhood groups in your area; request a tour or meeting. Seek a deeper understanding of the topics you discussed.

PATRONIZE

Buy local. Spend your dollar with minority-owned businesses. Frequent more diverse restaurants, stores, services, vendors, dentist, barber, etc.

FUND

Help fund an organization, group, individual, cause, or something else that connects with the topic you discussed. Invest in a local business, affordable housing, a community organizer, etc. Use your financial resources to make a positive difference in our community.

EMPLOY

Hire. Train. Mentor. Create shadowing opportunities. Develop new positions. Provide transportation to jobs.

All APPLY

Seek funding for your idea from the Foundation's Ideas to Action funding opportunity.

ABOUT THE GREATER MILWAUKEE FOUNDATION

The Greater Milwaukee Foundation is the region's largest community foundation and was among the first established in the world. For more than a century, the Foundation has inspired philanthropy by connecting generous people to community needs that align with their interests.

The Foundation was founded on the premise that generosity can unlock an individual's potential and strengthen the community as a whole for everyone who lives here. Our vision for a dynamic region is rooted in the idea that our community is greater when all people have the opportunity for economic, social and civic participation.

We work side by side with those who are committed to ensuring greater Milwaukee is a vibrant, economically thriving region that comprises welcoming and inclusive communities providing opportunity, prosperity and a high quality of life for all.

The Foundation serves Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Washington and Waukesha counties, and our donors support a wide range of causes locally and around the world. Since being established in 1915, the Foundation has awarded nearly \$800 million in grants - including \$80 million in 2018 - supporting a wide variety of nonprofits and initiatives that are forging a brighter future for the people of greater Milwaukee.

We recognize that our region has serious challenges. Entrenched disparities threaten to further segregate our communities physically, socially and economically. As a community foundation, we can play an important role in bringing people together to bridge those divides. Our community's needs compel us to convene people, generate ideas and catalyze investment to accelerate progress toward an equitable region. There are no instant solutions, but we know for certain that as a community, we are greater together. To learn more, visit greatermilwaukeefoundation.org.

Connect with us.

SOCIALLY

Twitter: @GrMKEFdn

Facebook:

facebook.com/groups/OnTheTableMKE

Instagram: @grmkefdn

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Hashtags:

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