



Public Conversations Project

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*The Public Conversations
Project prevents and
transforms conflicts driven by
deep differences in identity,
beliefs, or values*

When a breakdown in trust, relationship, and the ability to communicate is part of the problem – Public Conversations Project is part of the solution.

Outcomes

Relationships shift when the conversation shifts. Facilitated dialogue allows for respectful disagreement, increased trust, and productive collaboration.

Public Conversations will help Scripps College bridge the cultural divides that are causing conflict within the college.

We will help support the deep understanding and respect that strengthens relationships, builds community, and fosters a shared commitment to diversity and inclusion.

Purpose

Everything we do begins with understanding the purposes of our clients.

What do you want to achieve?

All strategies and structures depend on a clarity and unity of purpose.

Public Conversations facilitators help your leadership to articulate, clarify, and agree on core purposes.

We work with you to make the purposes and subsequent activities responsive to diverse community experiences and perspectives.

Preparation

The preparation is part of the process of inclusion. People feel heard. We seek to model inclusion in the way we engage.

Well-designed conversations depend on careful planning and a deep understanding of individuals' experiences, group dynamics and repetitive patterns of communication.

Public Conversations facilitators interview people from different parts of the organization to deeply understand their core concerns and historical patterns.

We share what we learn with a planning team from Scripps, reflecting together on what needs attention.

Collaborative Design

You are the experts on your own culture and organization. We believe that the success of the project depends on a collaborative team from inside and outside the organization to design a program that draws from the expertise of both.

Working with a planning team from diverse areas of Scripps College we will design a program of facilitated conversations, events, and trainings.

Public Conversations structures small-group, facilitated conversations using communication agreements, carefully designed questions, and highly structured interactions.

Pilot Conversation

We make sure that our program meets the stated purposes before asking the wider community to engage.

We facilitate a three-hour conversation among the planning group.

We ask people to share from their experience, speak with specificity, listen with respect, and talk about what is most important to them.

Assess, Redesign, Expand

We are committed to assessing our work and redesigning to create a better process.

In everything, we model what we teach – collaboration, curiosity, clarity & care.

Did it work?

Can we do it better?

Does it make sense to expand to the rest of the organization?

Who's next?

Public Conversations has the capacity to facilitate conversations in small groups throughout the community.

Training

Communities should have the capacity to facilitate their own conversations. A long-term shift in culture demands attention and practice.

We believe in training our clients to become facilitative leaders within their organization.

Public Conversations has 25 years of experience in training people to facilitate the most difficult conversations.

We customize our trainings to support your specific needs.

We write and design guides to support the process and the facilitators who use it.

Offerings

Dialogue can take many forms and support many functions. It is not just a tool but a new way of being together.

Public Conversations also works with other organizations to collaborate and offer training and experiential learning about diversity, leadership, technology etc.

Public events

Orientation activities

Film & cultural series

Working groups

Faculty training

Day of listening

Leadership training

Coaching