

THE ART OF CONVERSATION IS THE ART
OF HEARING AS WELL AS OF BEING HEARD

WILLIAM HAZLITT



SMALL LIBRARIES UNITE FOR JUSTICE

From Concept to Reality

JANICE WIERS, SARAH COURCHESNE, & ZOE SUCU



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WHO WE ARE



JANICE WIERS, LIBRARY DIRECTOR

Mary E. Bartlett Memorial Library, Brentwood NH

SARAH COURCHESNE, LIBRARY TRUSTEE

East Kingston Public Library, East Kingston NH

ZOE SUCU, LIBRARY DIRECTOR

East Kingston Public Library, East Kingston NH



— Courageous Community Conversations —

COURAGEOUS COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

OVERVIEW

WHERE THE IDEA CAME FROM

THE MEANING BEHIND IT ALL

WHERE WE WANTED IT TO GO



ASSEMBLE THE TEAM

WIDE NET VS. SMALL

Connect Director/staff and Trustees

SET CLEAR PARTNER EXPECTATIONS

****assume some will fall by the wayside****



COST

BE CLEAR ABOUT WHAT YOUR LIBRARY CAN AFFORD

Cost of money vs. cost of sanity - Don't overdo it!

EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED

Don't beat yourself up!



LAYOUT

TIME FRAMES

A month?

A season?

EQUALITY

Discuss how to divide equally
between libraries

Cost and labor expectations
are vital.

BIG TICKET ITEMS

Fill the gaps; utilize your resources!

We want our Courageous Communities Conversations (C³) to be centered *here*, in our local | communities. We want to respond to the questions and concerns and curiosity our communities already have, and bring the larger, national conversations down to this more intimate, immediate context. That's our strength, as local libraries and educational institutions.

Below is a sort of syllabus for our fall C³. The idea is that participants could join in for as many or as few of the events as they like, on an a la carte basis.

After the first week of foundations and intros, each two week period will address one of our themes. Participants can take in as much of the playlist readings/films/podcasts/interactives as they like. The "Study Group" meetings will be conversations around what people learned from the playlist materials, what questions they raised, and how they're changing us.

Week of	Theme	Playlist	Events
Sept. 5	Foundations and Welcome Introduction to the series, and collaborating on baseline agreements on how we will engage with each other and with the materials.	Take a Quiz: Project Implicit Read: Avoiding Racial Equity Detours Watch: Facing the Truths that Keep Us From Love	[September 8] Kickoff meeting/group agreements



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PROGRAMS

BIG BRAINSTORM LIST

Types of programs

in person, virtual, hybrid

panel, discussion, presentations, book clubs, passive, etc.

PIGGYBACK OFF OTHER PROGRAMS IN THE AREA

Pay attention to hyper-local tendencies

Will people only attend events at their home library?

SUPPORT SYSTEMS

Keep your Trustees in the know

Have a conversation with the town police



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MARKETING

BE COHESIVE

between all programs
and associations



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COURAGEOUS COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

A conversation focused around race, gender and history.

SEPTEMBER THROUGH
NOVEMBER



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REALIZATION

MARKET PARTNER-LIBRARY'S PROGRAMS!!!

Show your support for the program

AGAIN... EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED

You can't predict the flashpoint

YOU ARE MORE PREPARED THAN YOU REALIZE



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QUESTIONS

JANICE WIERS, LIBRARY DIRECTOR, MEB LIBRARY

director@brentwoodlibrarynh.org

SARAH COURCHESNE, LIBRARY TRUSTEE, EKPL

sjcourchesne@gmail.com

ZOE SUCU, LIBRARY DIRECTOR, EKPL

directoreastkingston@gmail.com



**WE ARE ALWAYS
HERE TO HELP!**

EMAIL US