



COMMUNITY DIALOGUES 101

A Community Dialogue is a loosely facilitated discussion that provides the opportunity for library staff and community leaders or members to discuss common, community-based challenges or aspirations.

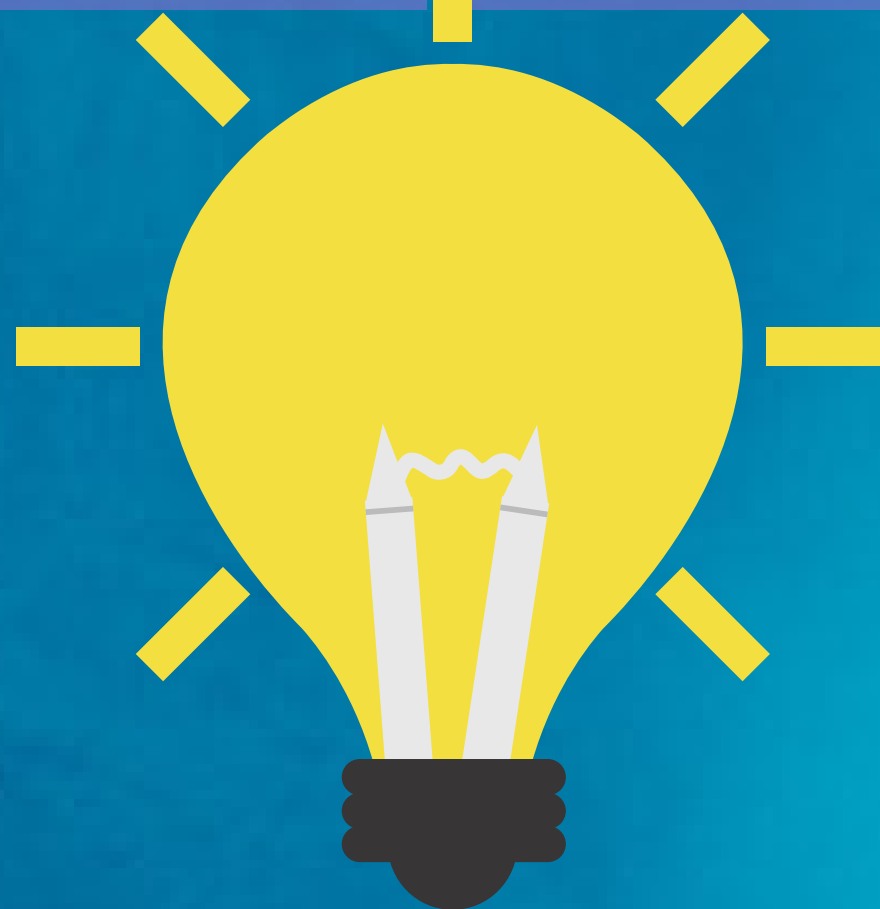
Community Dialogues can help your library:

- Expand your understanding of patrons' feelings about their local library and its programs, including programming related to STEM
- Obtain meaningful feedback from the community on who visits the library, and why
- Have a conversation about how the library and wider community can better serve ethnically, economically, and geographically underserved and underrepresented audiences
- Better connect with local organizations and potential future partners that have shared interests with the library and community

Ground Rules (these should be shared with participants)

1. Have a “kitchen table” conversation. Everyone participates; no one dominates.
2. There are no “right answers.” Draw on your own experiences, views and beliefs. You do not need to be an expert.
3. Keep an open mind. Listen carefully and try hard to understand the views of those who disagree with you.
4. Help keep the discussion on track. Stick to the questions; try not to ramble.
5. It is okay to disagree, but don't be disagreeable. Respond to others how you want to be responded to.
6. Have fun!

From *Libraries Transforming Communities: A Step-by-step Guide for “Turning Outward” to your Community*



These events are about more than leaving the room with a list of to-dos and answers to all the questions. Rather, they are about discussing topics and issues in an inclusive and uninhibited environment, with community representatives and stakeholders. Remember! These conversations aren't about doing anything to or for a group. It's about making change with your community