

Courageous Conversations Workshop Ad Hoc Subcommittee Report

Report submitted on: 2/9/24

Ad Hoc Subcommittee Members: Samia Bano, Ayla Moses, Denice Renteria, Rebecca Rona

Workshop Date: 3/19/24

Workshop Time: 7pm to 9:30pm

Preferred Location:

Multi-Purpose Room at CCHS (still pending confirmation)

Workshop Title:

Courageous Conversations Workshop

Updated Event Flyer and consent form for minors can be viewed at:

[Courageous Conversations Flyer_V2.png](#)

[Courageous Conversations Consent Form.png](#)

(Or see attached images at the end of this report)

Event vision:

The goal for this event is to help our community members practice critical courageous conversation skills so that our community members can engage in civil discourse on topics impacting equity and human relations in Culver City.

We envision that a professional trainer will provide a brief training to the audience on how they can better use one or two specific civil discourse-enabling skill, such as a specific deep listening technique, a specific technique to respond to charged comments or the like.

Then the audience members would be given the opportunity to practice those specific techniques/skills in small groups or pairs by engaging in dialogue with each other on topics/issues/scenarios that are meaningful to them.

Our workshop will include people from diverse age groups, including high school students, working professionals and seniors.

We are working in collaboration with the professional trainer to produce some educational handouts that participants will be able to take home, and that we may be able to also disseminate at future events, on social media, etc. for the benefit of those people who are

unable to attend the workshop in-person.

Proposed Workshop Trainer:

MAIA FERDMAN

Founder of Bridges | Intergroup Relations Consulting

www.intergroupbridges.com

(see page 4 of this report for Maia Ferdman's bio)

Original Proposed Budget: \$1100

Compensation of \$1000 for our workshop trainer. And up to \$100 for purchase of snacks for the participants.

Revised Budget Request: \$1600

In consideration of the significant amount of time the workshop trainer is having to invest in the preparation of the workshop and going through the rather complex process of becoming a vendor of the City of Culver City, we propose that we increase the amount of compensation being offered to the trainer by \$500, for a total compensation amount of \$1500.

Revised budget breakdown:

Compensation of \$1500 for our workshop trainer.

Upto \$100 for purchase of snacks.

Note: EHRAC has only one other event coming up after this workshop, i.e. the Race Relations Dialogue. Currently, the expected expenditure for that event is \$0.

The only other known expense EHRAC has coming up this fiscal year are the costs related to the EHRAC awards. The total cost of that initiative is well under \$1000.

Currently EHRAC has \$5000 available in our budget for this fiscal year. As such even with our proposed budget increase for this Courageous Conversation Workshop, we will have over \$2,400 remaining in our budget for this fiscal year to cover any unforeseen expenses that may come up.

Please also keep in mind that any funds that are unused at the end of the fiscal year will not roll

over to the next fiscal year.

Marketing Plan:

We plan to advertise the event as widely as possible all across the City by:

-- distributing physical copies of the flyers around town including both various city facilities as well as private business such as local cafes, bookstores, etc.

-- emails blats via gov delivery and postings on the city's social media pages,

-- request all EHRAC committee members to forward city emails (or emails of their own composition) to their colleges, friends and family (we will provide sample messages you can use to create your own emails)

-- request all EHRAC committee members to like and share the social posts made by the city, and if possible, also create their own posts encouraging their colleges, friends and family to attend (we will provide sample messages you can use to create your own posts)

-- request city staff to email invites on behalf of EHRAC to the city council, all CBC's, the school board members, etc.

-- request all EHRAC members to make announcements during public comments on items not on the agenda about this workshop at the various CBC's that they are liaison to.

-- request our contacts at Culver City High School and the School District to help us publicize the event as widely as possible to the high school students and staff through announcements in their newsletter, verbal announcements at school, etc.

MAIA FERDMAN BIO:

Maia Ferdman has been fascinated by culture, identity, and peace-building since an early age. She grew up in a Jewish Argentinian family in San Diego, where speaking Spanish at Passover seders and discussing diversity at the dinner table was the norm. She founded Bridges out of a belief that our capacity to build connections across difference is essential to our communities', country's, and world's survival. Through Bridges, Maia has trained government and nonprofit groups in cultural competency, organized numerous interfaith programs, led community engagement efforts about racial equity, and facilitated conversations across differences about policing, homelessness, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and more. She is a skilled facilitator and educator who brings energy, nuance, and heart to all her work.

Maia is also the project manager of the UCLA Initiative to Study Hate, and the former Assistant Director of the UCLA Luskin Center for History and Policy (where she produced the bi-weekly podcast Then & Now). Maia also previously staffed The City of Los Angeles Human Relations Commission, a mayor-appointed advisory board tasked with fighting discrimination and promoting positive intergroup relations in Los Angeles. She was also trained as a mediator with the City Attorney's Dispute Resolution Program and a facilitator and coach with Resetting the Table.

Prior to her role with the City, Maia worked with The Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles and with the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee developing programming about global Jewish religious and cultural diversity. Through this role she lived in Bulgaria and spent extensive time in India and Israel. She holds a B.A. in Global Studies and an M.A. in Latin American Studies from UCLA.

