

Equity and Human Relations Advisory Committee

Report on FEB 2026 Community Conversation

Ad Hoc Subcommittee Members: London McBride, Samia Bano, Rebecca Rona, Carlos Valverde

Our ad hoc subcommittee met and discussed various approaches and topics to focus on for this community conversation. The topic we recommend this community conversation focuses on is **how people belonging to different faith/religious/spiritual/humanist traditions respond to social injustice/oppression and/or humanitarian crisis, and in so doing highlight shared values and teachings.**

This would include discussion on shared values such as **compassion in action** and shared teachings such as **variations of the golden rule enshrined in various faith/spiritual traditions**, “do unto others as you would have them do unto you” or “don’t do unto others as you would not have done unto you”...

We believe this approach/topic focus for the community conversation will be most helpful and likely to create more compassion, empathy and sense of solidarity among our community members, inspired by our shared values and moral/ethical teachings.

(Note: Some other potential topics we discussed for this community conversation included Antisemitism, Islamophobia/Anti-Muslim and/or Anti-Arab racism. However, due to the complexity and highly politically charged nature of these topics, we don’t believe we can do a good job of addressing these topics in one event. We would need to hold two separate events, one to discuss antisemitism, and another to discuss Islamophobia/Anti-Muslim and/or Anti-Arab racism).

We suggest the **following format and timeline** for the event, assuming we move forward with the interfaith discussion topic.

- * Welcome/Introductions (10-15 mins)
- * Interfaith panelist remarks (30-40 mins)
- * Q&A/discussion/model conversation among interfaith panelists (35 mins)
- * Small group discussion (45 mins)
- * Small groups report back + Q&A/big group discussion (30 mins)
- * Conclusion/resources sharing/next steps (15 mins)

Total event time: 3 hours

We propose recruiting **6 panelists belonging to diverse faith groups**, particularly focusing on those with a significant presence in Culver City, including Jewish, Muslim, Christian, Buddhist, Hindu/Sikh and Bahai. We may also include a panelist who doesn't identify with any particular organized faith/religious tradition, however, follows a humanist or spiritual moral/ethical code.

We propose having our **ad hoc subcommittee members serve as event moderators and hosts**.

And we request that **all EHRAC members volunteer to serve as small group facilitators** for the event, with the understanding that their role will only entail engaging in **"light facilitation"**, such as ensuring that everyone in the small groups gets a chance to speak and specified time limits for discussion are adhered to.

As part of the event's "conclusion/resources sharing/next steps" portion, we'd like to **refer event participants to already existing dialogue groups in and around Culver City**. One such group is, the **"Unity In Diversity" picnics and dialogue group** that is led by Culver City residents. Several of our ad hoc subcommittee members have on various occasions attended the picnics and dialogue sessions held by this group.

We would like to get a **variety of traditional/ethnic foods/snacks/drinks** that are popular among the various religious/faith communities that will be represented on the event panel and audience.

Budget: Up to \$900 for food and drinks.

We welcome suggestions/constructive feedback on all aspects of this report and event plan.