



Reviving Civility in Culver City

Design Document

Background

"Revive Civility Cities" is a nonpartisan program of the University of Arizona's [National Institute for Civil Discourse](#) (NICD) that works with and encourages communities to restore our values of civility and respect for each other.

The Revive Civility Cities program kicks-off with a Mayor's proclamation, declaring a specific month as that cities' Revive Civility and Respect Month.

As part of the Revive Civility Cities program, NICD will work with five "deep dive" cities throughout the year of 2018 to help bring civil discourse strategies around a specific issue. This may include a civil discourse workshop, a series of community meetings and/or the convening of two groups that have different opinions around an important local issue.

Deep dive cities will be selected based on the city's commitment to civil discourse, the nature and interest of the problem identified, the availability of resources (both from NICD and the city), and the likelihood that the project would be a useful case study for other cities.

Culver City: Defining the Issue

Culver City is located in Los Angeles County, California. The city is mostly surrounded by the city of Los Angeles and as such, is experiencing tremendous growth pressures. Over the last 10 years, Culver City has been largely redeveloped, to include the addition of restaurants, theatres, and cultural museums in the city's downtown.

The Fox Hill neighborhood in Culver City is facing potential changes due to growth and development. Culver City is beginning its General Plan process in order to document its long-term vision for the community. However, demand for growth and development in the Fox Hills neighborhood requires immediate community visioning. The decisions will be made over the coming year, and the next few years. The City Council, the voters, and businesses will all make their own decisions. The stakeholders are the residents, both in the district and throughout the city, the business community, and the City Council.

Proposed Revive Civility Design

Step 1: Conduct Assessment

The first step in this design process is for the City to identify a representative sample of stakeholders of which NICD can conduct Assessment Interviews. NICD will contact the identified stakeholders, send the questions ahead of time, and conduct confidential assessment interviews to determine if there is room for a designed civil discourse process around the issue. As a result of the Assessment Interviews, NICD will provide the City and Assessment participants with a report



that depicts what NICD heard. While the report will contain responses to the Assessment questions, participants input will be anonymous in the report.

Step 2: Revive Civility Proclamation & Community Visioning Meetings

If the Assessment finds there is room for a civil discourse process, the Mayor will issue a Revive Civility Proclamation, declaring a specific month as Culver City's Revive Civility month. This declared month will coincide with the community visioning meetings (see next paragraph).

NICD will work with the City to identify up to three locations in Fox Hills to hold community visioning meetings. NICD will work with the City to issue meeting notices to the residents (at the City's cost) and will help to design a process for the community visioning meetings. Each meeting will include an overview of civil discourse principles and will offer residents an opportunity to practice using civil discourse skills around the issue at hand.

The City will provide the meeting venue(s) and light refreshments, and will print packets for the participants (including maps of Fox Hills). The community meetings will be highly interactive and utilize small group dialogue to ensure all participants' are able to provide their input.

Step 3: Community Vision & Action Plan

NICD will synthesize the input heard at the community visioning meetings and, based on that input, create a community vision and action plan.

Step 4: Community Presentation

NICD will present the Community Vision & Action Plan at a community meeting. This will be an opportunity for community members to provide feedback before the plan is finalized.

Step 5: Presentation to City Council

NICD will present the Community Vision & Action Plan to the City Council for their consideration and/or adoption.

Timeline

A tentative timeline is as follows:

- April 2018: Assessment
- May 2018: Assessment Report
- June 2018: Meeting Preparations & Notices
- June 2018: Revive Civility Proclamation & Community Visioning Meetings
- July 2018: Report Development
- August 2018: Community Presentation & Presentation to City Council