

GUIDELINES FOR DIALOGUE – COMMUNITY EXPECTATIONS

1. **Be true to yourself.** We want to create an atmosphere for open, honest exchange.
2. **Commit to learning from each other.** Listen to each other and acknowledge that we all come from different backgrounds, skills, interests, abilities, and values. We realize that it is these very differences that will increase our awareness and understanding through this process.
3. **Acknowledge each other's experiences.** We will not devalue people for their experiences, lack of experiences, or difference in interpretation of those experiences.
4. **Trust that others are doing the best they can.** We will try not to 'freeze people in time' but leave space for everyone to learn and change through our interactions with one another.
5. **Challenge the idea and not the person.** If we wish to challenge something that has been said, we will challenge the idea or the practice referred to, not the individual sharing this idea or practice.
6. **Speak your discomfort.** If something is bothering you and you are open to sharing, please share it with the group. Often our emotional reactions to this process offer the most valuable learning opportunities.
7. **Step Up, Step Back.** Be mindful of taking up much more space than others. On the same note, empower yourself to speak up when others are dominating the conversation.

(adapted from the University of Michigan Program on Intergroup Relations, IGR)