

How To Host a “Fireside Chat”



Meet. Listen. Connect.

WHO:

Two hosts from different backgrounds who know each other agree on a date and place. The co-hosts each invite 2 or 3 other people, aiming for a mix of people with a variety of life experiences such as type of work, housing, education, family, faith, ethnicity, etc.

WHERE:

You can use your home, a community room or a café – whatever is accessible and comfortable. It helps to have some snacks.

WHEN:

Plan for 90 minutes to two hours. Evenings or weekend afternoons have worked well. The co-hosts determine the best time to get the mix of people that will foster new connections across differences.

HOW:

The conversation has a simple framework. The co-hosts welcome everyone, and explain the goal of the conversation and these guidelines:

- Everyone participates, as equally as possible.
- Share your own stories.
- Listen to learn, without judging or offering advice.
- Assume good intentions.
- Respect differences in values, experiences, talents and perspectives.

You can use these questions to guide the conversation or adapt them to suit what you and your co-host think will work well with your invitees. The goal is to meet each other as humans who each have strengths, struggles, hopes and fears:

- Why did you come to live in Marin?
- **What do you like about living here in Marin?**
- **What are the challenges of living here in Marin?**
- How did your upbringing influence how you think about well-being? About equity?
- What does equity mean to you now? How does it relate to our well being as a community?

When the conversation is done, if people want to learn more about specific projects in Marin related to issues of equity and collective well being, visit: MarinEquitySummit.com and MarinEquityCoalition.org.

This hosting guide reflects input from Susan Stuart Clark, Cio Hernandez, Kristen Brock, Alexandra Danino, Nancy Johnson and Meredith Parnell. We believe that sharing stories is a way to explore systems and structures that have created inequities, and also to see what supports change. We would like for others to have this same experience. As a host or participant please share your feedback with us at info@marinequitysummit.com.