

CROSSROADS CHARLOTTE: LET'S TALK FOR 60 MINUTES
LEADER DISCUSSION GUIDE

Part I. Introductions

Instructions: Allow for brief introductions. When there are more than 12 participants, it's often best to limit introductions to tablemates or only to people seated close by.

NOTE: Use ground rules keep them prominently posted during the discussion.

Common ground rules include:

- Speak openly and honestly
- Contribute to the conversation and encourage others to contribute
- Listen carefully to what others have to say
- Confidentiality: 'what's said here, stays here'
- Show respect for other participants' values and opinions

Part II. About Crossroads Charlotte

Crossroads Charlotte is a civic engagement initiative that provides a way for people in the Charlotte, North Carolina area to collectively CHOOSE a future for the community, not just arrive at one.

Crossroads Charlotte is a non-profit civic engagement initiative that provides tools and paths for residents of the Charlotte area to connect with each other as they respond to four plausible stories and a core question about what kind of community they see in the future.

Crossroads Charlotte isn't about providing answers; it's about creating a way for people to respond to possible futures in their own way, whether personally, in their social networks and neighborhoods, or within their organizations.

More information can be found at www.crossroadscharlotte.org.

Part III. 4 Stories And A Question

Instructions: Guests are expected to have watched Crossroads Charlotte: The Movie prior to the your conversation. The stories upon which Crossroads Charlotte: The Movie is based are available online and in the What are the Crossroads Charlotte Stories? guide.

Part IV. Group Discussion

This section includes 5 discussion pieces. Headings for each include anticipated time and group format.

Discussion #1: Immediate responses to the stories

(Whole group)

Instructions: Having watched Crossroads Charlotte: The Movie, generate group discussion with some or all of the questions listed below.

- What surprised you about each of the four scenarios?
 - What themes do you see woven through each scenario?
 - Which scenario or what aspect of a story do you most identify with?
 - Which story best represents our general direction now? And why do you have this opinion?
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Discussion #2: What Do You See From Where You Live?

(Small conversation groups of 4 people)

Instructions: Divide the group into sets of approximately four people (no more than five for larger groups). Encourage a 12-minute conversation in which each participant responds to the question: **What kind of community do you see from where you live/work/play?**

Reconvene the whole group and use the final three minutes for small groups to share highlights from their conversations.

Discussion #3: Access. Inclusion. Equity. What's Your Story?

(Pairs for one-on-one conversation)

Instructions: Divide the group into pairs. Review the significance and meaning of the words: access, inclusion and equity. Crossroads Charlotte is based on the belief that trust is byproduct of access (clearing the way), inclusion (having a say) and equity (ensuring fair play) for all people.

Have a 10-minute conversation in which each participant shares a personal experience when an issue of access, inclusion or equity (choose only one of the three) made a lasting impression. The conversation is in response to the question: **What's your story around access, inclusion or equity?**

Discussion #4: Advantages and Give-ups: What Are You Willing To Do?

(Whole-group participation)

Instructions: Continue engaging the full group but shift the conversation by posing a new set of questions. Direct the group to review the list of “possibilities” that they have just generated and captured on chart paper.

Pose questions that require participants to reflect on what it would take to make the listed possibilities a reality. Start a new list capturing the advantages and assets that exist within the group. Spend five minutes listing the group's responses to the following questions:

- What are the strengths does your group/network have that can lead the community towards the positive scenarios?
- What are you able to do? What are you willing to do?

Then pose questions that focus on what the group would need to give up to make the possibilities a reality. Spend five minutes listing the group's responses to these questions:

- What would you or your group/network giving-up that might lead the community towards the positive scenarios?
- What are you willing to do differently?
- What will we — as individuals and as a social network — commit to do differently?

Part V. Wrap-up

Instructions: Conclude each discussion with at least five minutes of closing reflections. Below are some suggested prompts that will allow each participant to share final thoughts. Choose one or two to wrap up your session.

- Name one thing you learned today.
- Describe your experience today in three words.
- Tell us one thing you'll do differently after today.
- What surprised you most about today's discussion?

Share the **EVALUATION** and **AFTER TODAY...** information below.

EVALUATION

Distribute the evaluation material found in the **Evaluation Guide**. If you downloaded the material, you will have to make adequate copies for your group. Allow participants sufficient time to complete the material and then collect the completed sheets.

Evaluation materials should be submitted to Community Building Initiative:
Annetta Foard
217 South Tyron Street
Charlotte, NC 28202

AFTER TODAY...

Thank you for sharing your time, passions and input as part of CROSSROADS CHARLOTTE: LET'S TALK.

CROSSROADS CHARLOTTE: LET'S TALK is just one of a variety of activities, events, public forums and tools that invite many more people to get involved and that strengthen networks of people to do more.

Explore and connect through new and expanded features on the www.CrossroadsCharlotte.org website

Additional background information about Crossroads Charlotte is available in "the Box", and at www.crossroadscharlotte.org