

Annual Report: Civil Discourse Project/NMListens

Submitted by Irene Epp

June 2021

June 7: CDP Zoom Conversation: “What Is My Personal Responsibility to Reparations?”

June 29 CDP Meeting

Irene reports to CDP that as the CDP Chair, she was invited to meet with the New Mexico Humanities Council along with Meredith Machen and Hannah Burling of LWVNM. The topic was an NEH Grant to NMHC to commemorate the 250th Anniversary of the Constitution. The NEH Grant title is “A More Perfect Union” . The funds are meant to encourage outreach to communities in all 50 states to foster active listening, exchanging views, and increasing positive civic engagement. NMHC has reached out to LWV in NM to implement the grant in partnership with NMHC.

July 2021

July 12: CDP Zoom Conversation: “Restorative Justice: How Do We Mend the Social Contract?”

July 13: CDP Meeting

CDP Definition for our CDP Zoom Conversations

- CDP Conversations are a convening, not of representatives or of educators. CDP Conversations are equitable, inclusive gatherings of voices talking about a topic set in advance, a topic that interests all of us.
- It is incumbent for CDP Conversations to be attractive to as many diverse people and views as we can. If we have connections to circles in our community SOMOS, NAACP etc. we can invite individuals from those communities to join our Conversations as participants.

Continued discussion and shift of focus to “A More Perfect Union” NMHC Grant

- Three local leagues: CNM, SNM, and SFC agreed to participate. The CDP will take the lead for SFC. The CDP team agreed to be active in implementing “A More Perfect Union”. We generated ideas for conversations, panels, involving the student outreach of Voter information and registration.

August 2021

August 24: CDP Meeting

- Focus shifts to NMListens. Ricann Bock and Irene take the lead in implementation with background support from Kristina Flanagan, Kelly Davis, and Stephanie Schlanger.
- CDP agrees to launch our SFC NMListens with a hybrid talk by Estévan Rael Galvez. We plan for mid-October (later shifted to December due to date conflicts)
- Irene explores venues at UU and at St. John’s Methodist for NMListens events.
- Discuss ideas for listening sessions and other types of presentations for NMListens.

NMListens

October 2021

October 5 NMListens Leadership Team Meeting

- NMHC Grant Application completed by Leadership Team composed of LWVCNM, SNM, SFC and submitted by NMHC to NEH in August.
- NEH posted notice of action on September 27, 2021 with promise to fulfill our request for \$50,000 to complete the A More Perfect Union project
- NMListens Leadership Team discusses planned budget for the project. Three local leagues will share funding. Some funding is for the project as a whole. Grant total is \$50,000.

October 14 Meeting

- NMHC Press Release
- Leadership Team work on logistics for launch

December 2021

December 5: Estévan Rael Gálvez: Telling Reflections of New Mexico at St. John's Methodist

December 9 NMListens Leadership Meeting

- Develop one page flyer for NMListens conversation ground rules and norms
- Create form for payment to support function entities, persons

January 2022

Regular Bi-weekly meetings on NMListens statewide Leadership Team continue. Chaired by NMHC Project Director, Bethany Tabor. Ricann and Bethany represent SFC.

February 2022

(Facilitator training by Christa Slaton implemented in February and continues to present.)

February 5: "Santa Fe Stories You've Never Heard" at St. John's Methodist

February 19: Edgewood Public Library: "Old Roots, New Routes: Connecting Our Past & Present"

March 2022

March 3 Leadership Team Meeting

- Bethany Tabor and Irene reach out to Karen Wentworth co-president at CNM about having a collaboration for a listening session at the Gordon Bernell Charter School in Albuquerque. We will begin that connection in May.

March 19: Edgewood Public Library: "Visions for Our Future"

April 2022

- Irene begins active collaboration with Kristen Sandoval, Programs Director at Southside Branch Library for a NMListens session with a panel on May 21: "Southside Voices: Essential Contributors in Our Community".

- Irene opens talks with St' John's United Methodist Food Distribution for a NMListens session with volunteers, clients, the church on hunger in Santa Fe. This would be in June.

May 2022

May 21: Southside Library: "Southside Voices: Our Essential Contributors"