Building Bridges:
Creating safe, inclusive, and productive community conversation

Spring 2020 - Growing Up Boulder
What is Growing Up Boulder?

Our Vision:
To make Boulder an exemplary child and youth-friendly city in the US and the world.

Our Mission:
To empower Boulder’s young people by creating opportunities for inclusion, influence and deliberation on local issues that affect their lives.

Partners:
Why Involve Children and Youth, Ages 0-18?

- Young people are important community members, not in the future, BUT RIGHT NOW!
- Children & youth think creatively.
- When young people share their ideas with city leaders, they feel they have a voice in real issues, and can make positive changes in their community.
- Children and youth learn real-world skills--like how to compromise and problem-solve.
- A city that is friendly to children and youth is a city friendly to all.
Growing Up Boulder Model
Agenda

1. Learn about the Building Bridges project
2. 10 ideals for healthy conversation
3. Think about common barriers
4. Brainstorm solutions
5. Take our survey--share ideas with city
Building Bridges wants to work with its children, youth, and families to make community conversations safe, inclusive, and productive.

To get you started, here is a video that will describe the Building Bridges Project and tell you what’s been done so far!

https://bouldercolorado.gov/engage/building-bridges
Why is this project important?

Participants say that changing Boulder’s public engagement culture is rooted in two ideas:

1. Community members want to be heard and respected in public processes
2. All opinions matter in decision-making

The Building Bridges project findings will be applied to all future city & community conversations!
These 10 ideals (see right) provide a way to develop an atmosphere for more productive dialogue during community conversations.

- Read each ideal.
- Which of them are important to you?
What is a Barrier?

A barrier is something that keeps people apart or prevents conversation from being productive.

*Barriers make conversations unhealthy. Barriers come up in normal, everyday conversation, making it difficult to completely understand each other.*
What is a Solution?

A solution is a means of solving a problem or dealing with a difficult situation.

Learn how to listen

Talk to a variety of people w/ different backgrounds

Solutions make the conversation a win-win for everyone!
Barriers → Solutions

By working together, we can come up with solutions to many common barriers.

Ex 1) Power Imbalance → Give everyone a chance to speak

Ex 2) Child Care → Have meetings at a variety of different times for a variety of different needs, and/or offer child care

Ex 3) Meetings are in English and not everyone speaks English → Offer interpretation services at meetings
Talk Structures

Talk structures are ways that we talk to one another. We use different talk structures at home, school, and during civic meetings, and each one has a different purpose.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Talk Structure</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Norms</th>
<th>Pros</th>
<th>Cons</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>“Turn &amp; Talk”</td>
<td>Turn to a partner and say your ideas. Then share with the whole group.</td>
<td>4 L’s&lt;br&gt;Listen&lt;br&gt;Look&lt;br&gt;Lean&lt;br&gt;Low voice</td>
<td>*Everyone shares *You get more talking time with your partner</td>
<td>*Not enough time to share *You hear only your partner’s ideas</td>
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*Before moving on, click here for more talk structures:*
[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1tfgrBc6gld0FITf30y768BqTX-K90-rHXamapCCYdgY/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1tfgrBc6gld0FITf30y768BqTX-K90-rHXamapCCYdgY/edit?usp=sharing)
Give Us Your Feedback!

Tell us your thoughts on what makes a good or bad conversation...

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdnXrfjvCCBBX9K-fsVW516Lx6hX1EfmYzlmtqh6ggOC2EE8Q/viewform?usp=sf_link
Next Steps and Questions

- GUB will take your ideas, write a report, and share it with city staff and other interested community members.
- If you send us your email address, we’ll send you the report!
- Find updates on our website: growingupboulder.org
- Questions? Email us: growingupboulder@gmail.com

Thank you!