



4th Annual Jefferson Forum Evaluation Summary

May 9, 2018 @ the Crowne Plaza South

General Results

- A significant number (49%, n=120) of attendees submitted **evaluation forms**
- 100% of attendees agreed that the Forum was **productive** to attend
- 100% of attendees responded they were **likely to attend next year's** Forum
- 99% of attendees were **satisfied or very satisfied**

The Story of This Year's Forum

Attendees described the Forum's activities as **engaging, helpful, and insightful**:



Featured Speaker Stephen Smith began the day by highlighting **the importance of grassroots organizing** based on his own experiences.



Local leaders told **personal stories of the passions, experiences, and struggles** that have shaped their lives and careers.



During breaks throughout the day, **attendees shared their stories and passions** at the Forum's **Photo Booth**.



Attendees participated in one of **six different workshops** to **build skills and gain resources** from field experts.



Saltworks performed select scenes from *The Way Out*, a powerful new play that **educates on the issue of opioid abuse**.



The **Jefferson Café** enabled attendees to participate in three different informal **conversations on a variety of topics**.

What People Liked Most

- Jefferson Café format & discussions
- Workshops
- Featured Speaker, Stephen Smith
- Storytelling Theme

What People Liked Least

- Cold Temperature in rooms
- More time needed for Jefferson Café discussions
- Rushed agenda in the morning
- Insufficient Parking

What People Want in the Future

- Opportunities to attend multiple workshops
- More time for both facilitated and open networking
- More activities involving movement & moving around

Attendee Composition

of People in Attendance

245

Organizations Represented

138

What People are Saying

"Well executed - the flow of the day was great given the large # of people in attendance."

"I liked the Storytelling theme and how it was woven throughout the Forum."

"Workshops & interactives added a lot to the depth of the Forum."

"Some wonderfully creative presentations - Saltworks was very impactful at lunch!"

"A breadth of topics covered - truly representative of our community."

"Stephen Smith was amazing & engaging. The morning storytellers were insightful."



Jefferson Café Summary



Comments about the Café

"Insightful. Helpful. Informative."

"Great addition to the Forum! Hearing the thoughts, concerns, & passions of other professionals was very enlightening."

"Excellent discussion - everyone spoke, great facilitation."

"Loved the honesty & openness of everyone at the table."

How do we foster & engage in courageous conversations?

1. Be Inclusive

Surround yourself with different people & perspectives

2. Practice Self-Reflection

Let others challenge the way you think

3. Build Relationships

Use difficult conversations as a way to connect with others

5. Be Intentional

Embrace opportunities to have uncomfortable conversations

5. Listen

Truly listen to what others are saying

The Jefferson Café enabled Forum attendees to participate in three rounds of Table Discussions: attendees selected their first two topic discussions from 20 options and all attendees concluded with the same discussion around how to foster and engage in courageous conversations. Discussions were led by volunteer facilitators and were geared towards discussing challenges and potential solutions around these issues.

Common Themes & Comments Emerging From Your Café Discussions

Advocacy

Policies need to be developed to effect change around issues that matter to residents.



- We are encouraged by **youth in our area advocating for themselves**. Youth should organize and continue to have their voices heard.
- **Storytelling opens doors that facts alone cannot**. It allows someone to share their perspective and can have a true impact in effecting large-scale change.
- Signage and policy change at schools, jobs, and other areas can help **encourage social interaction and decrease our addiction to technology**.
- Policy and advocacy around property rights will lead to **proactive solutions for reducing community blight**.

Stigma

We must be mindful of perceptions & biases around those who have differences or are in need.



- **Reducing the stigma of mental health disorders** helps make it easier for those suffering to ask for services and help.
- **Meet people experiencing homelessness where they are**: help people in the way they need and want to be helped instead of how we want to provide it.
- Reducing stigma, promoting access to healthy foods, and food preparation education is essential in **responding to food gaps** in our community.
- **Use empathy to better understand others**. Ask questions, be open-minded, celebrate differences. Feeling uncomfortable is a good sign.

Inclusion

To promote equity, we need to include those who are most impacted in our decision-making.



- **Immigrant Inclusion** starts with being intentional and having measurable outcomes for hiring immigrants and including immigrants as board members.
- Training opportunities for professionals and the general public on basic **LGBTQ terminology, education, and health** is needed.
- Involving more partners and voices in **determining how outdoor spaces are used** makes them more accessible.
- **Patient education at the community level should be expanded** and providers should be trained to assist low-income individuals.

