



Community Conversation Leaders

Threshold 2008 trained a diverse group of citizens who expressed a desire to lead our Community Conversations in a volunteer capacity. Learn what some of them had to say about their interest in the opportunity to facilitate our small group discussions with participants from around San Mateo County.

Alan Joseph Allin: “I enjoy talking to people to present a point of view and to respond to questions. I see it as an opportunity and a challenge to talk to people ~ a challenge to encourage people to say what is their housing preference.” Alan continued his involvement in the project after participating as a randomly-selected attendee in the Countywide Assembly.

Kathy Armstrong: “I am interested in learning the process and potential to use it in other topic areas and to continue to be engaged in the Threshold 2008 ~ interesting!” Kathy continued her involvement in the project after leading as a moderator during the Countywide Assembly. She is affiliated with the League of Women Voters of South SMC.

Vicky Avila: “For me, it is important to be a bridge with the community and any resource information ~ I can be versed about the needs in my community about housing.”

Chris Bui: “I support this effort. It’s my life’s mission.” Chris continued his involvement in the project after participating as a randomly-selected attendee in the Countywide Assembly. He is also a social entrepreneur who coordinates interactive town hall meetings and has been involved in civic engagement efforts professionally for more than 15 years.

Kaye Crawford: “The Community Conversations align with my interest in facilitating civic involvement.” Kaye has more than 15 years as a volunteer facilitator and mediator. Kaye continued her involvement in the project after leading as a moderator during the Countywide Assembly. She is affiliated with the Peninsula Conflict Resolution Center.

Ursula Duncan: “I’m interested in Community Conversations because I think such meetings are a powerful way for people in the community to be heard on issues so that a solution can be found that supports most needs being met. I love being a facilitator.” She is affiliated with the Peninsula Conflict Resolution Center.

Elaine Elbizri: “I have been working and volunteering as a community facilitator for three years. I use every opportunity I can to develop my skills and extend my knowledge of small group facilitation and community involvement.” Elaine continued her involvement in the project after leading as a moderator during the Countywide Assembly. She is affiliated with the Peninsula Conflict Resolution Center.

Suzanne Fouché: “I would like to learn how to be a facilitator.” Suzanne continued her involvement in the project after participating as a randomly-selected attendee in the Countywide Assembly. She is a Board Director for the Center for Independence of the Disabled.



Beverly Garrity: "I am very committed to finding resolutions to the county's need for housing ~ as an architectural designer and community member." Beverly continued her involvement in the project after participating as a randomly-selected attendee in the Countywide Assembly.

Karen Gellerman: "I want to pursue non profit work on quality of life issues." Karen continued her involvement in the project after participating as a randomly-selected attendee in the Countywide Assembly.

Pradeep Gupta: "I am interested in increasing dialogue on housing issues, expanding my involvement in community affairs, and meeting people." Pradeep continued his involvement in the project after participating as a randomly-selected attendee in the Countywide Assembly.

Todd Hicks: "I am new to the area, and interested in being involved." Todd is the Assistant Director of Undergraduate Admissions at Santa Clara University.

Monika Hudson: "I want to help with housing discussions in San Mateo County." She is affiliated with the Peninsula Conflict Resolution Center.

Mary Ann Kanyal: " I am interested in obtaining facilitation experience, and doing community service." She is a volunteer moderator and facilitator with the Mountain View Mediation Group.

Linda Koo: "Threshold 2008 is a worthwhile effort." Linda continued her involvement in the project after participating as a randomly-selected attendee in the Countywide Assembly.

Lory Lorimer Lawson: "A large part of my time is spent communicating with people and helping them engage in the community. I am happy to help with this effort." Lory heads the San Mateo-Foster City Leadership Group through the San Mateo Area Chamber of Commerce.

Susan Moeller: "I am intrigued with the deliberative democracy approach of this project." Susan continued her involvement in the project after leading as a moderator during the Countywide Assembly.

Chris Mohr: "I'm interested in being trained as a facilitator to be a better housing advocate, and to train new housing advocates." Chris continued his involvement in the project after serving as an expert panelist during the Countywide Assembly.

Laurie Pearman: "I believe in the value of these forms of community participation." She is affiliated with the Peninsula Conflict Resolution Center.

Eric A. Reed: "I am passionate about deliberative democracy." Eric continued his involvement in the project after leading as a moderator during the Countywide Assembly.

Dena Reiner: "I love to facilitate ~ I am always interested in what other people think; and I enjoy fostering productive communication." She is affiliated with the Peninsula Conflict Resolution Center.



Jim Rochotte: “I am interested because I would like to give back to the community.” Jim continued his involvement in the project after participating as a randomly-selected attendee in the Countywide Assembly.

Noemi Ruelas: “I enjoy community relations, and also want to be informed about housing issues.” Noemi continued her involvement in the project after leading as a moderator during the Countywide Assembly. She is affiliated with the League of Women Voters.

Laura Snideman: “This process sounds like a fascinating new approach to a difficult and long-term problem.” She is the Economic Development Manager for the City of San Mateo.

Martina Tello: “I am interested because I work with different communities through my job and get asked various questions from families who want to speak up about their own communities.” She is a community specialist with San Mateo County Library, and a community member of Head Start Policy Council.