

Open Your Door to Dialogue on Housing Choices: Host a “Community Conversation” in San Mateo County

What is Threshold 2009?

Threshold 2009 is a nonprofit, citizen-driven effort to engage the people of San Mateo County in decision making about housing issues. We believe that by including more people in the discussion, leaders will be in a better position to understand what decisions the informed public will support to sustain our communities. We do not advocate for any specific policy agenda or development project. We provide an inclusive forum to build the public voice on housing choices.

How is Threshold 2009 engaging the public?

The discussion began at a two-day Countywide Assembly in March 2008 with a statistically representative sample of over 200 residents, followed by an interactive Online Dialogue in May 2008, and now a series of Community Conversations that began in 2008 and continue to engage all those who want to add their perspectives to the dialogue in 2009.

What is a Community Conversation?

The purpose of the Community Conversations is to extend the dialogue into our cities, neighborhoods, workplaces, organizations, and community groups – gathering input from a wide range of people who live or work in San Mateo County. The Conversations are structured as 2 ½ hour meetings, during which participants are presented with a range of issues and choices around housing, and asked to dialogue together in small groups about the various choices we might make.

Who is hosting the Conversations?

Anyone who can schedule a location for a meeting and bring 8 or more people to the table can host a Conversation. A group may include an organized gathering of neighbors, friends and family, colleagues, co-workers, members of your community or organization. Threshold 2009 will provide trained facilitators and meeting materials – at no charge – to guide the discussion.

How will the results be reported?

The results will be compiled into a written report available to participants at www.threshold2009.org. We have presented preliminary results to leaders, the public and the media for the 2008 sessions which are located in the Final Report 2008. We will continue to report results for Conversations held in 2009.

How can I get involved?

We are scheduling Conversations right now! This is a time-limited opportunity to include the public's point of view on housing in San Mateo County. If you are interested in hosting a Conversation, we can provide facilitators and materials to make it happen. Contact us at info@threshold2008.org or 650-655-5851.

