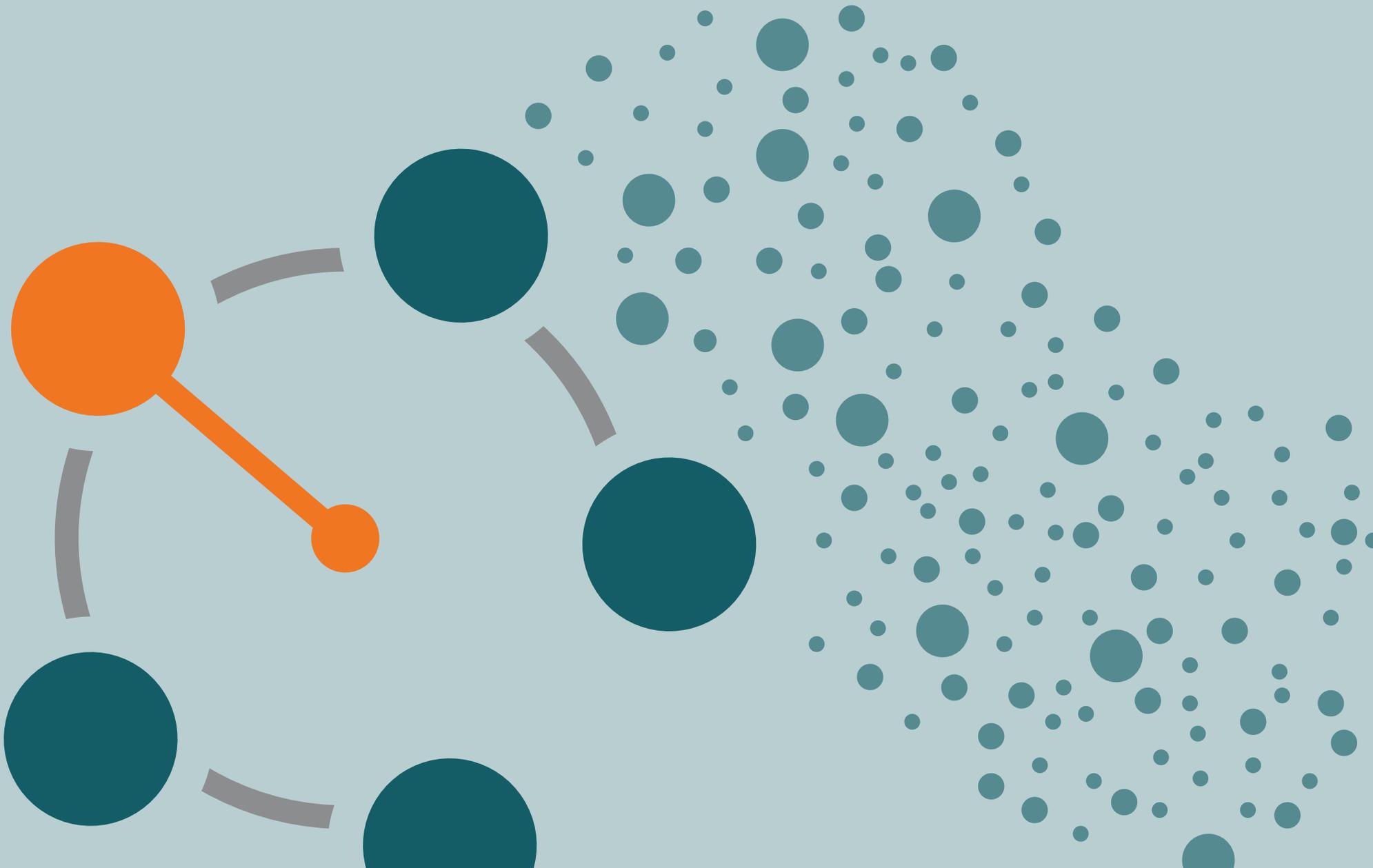




DEEP LISTENING
BRIDGING COMMUNITIES
FOSTERING TRUST

Join the dialogue





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Milwaukee Police & Resident Listening Circles



Post-Play Conversations at Milwaukee Rep



DR Congo Facilitator Training

OUR MISSION

To foster civil dialogue & invite trust in the midst of differences.

WHO WE ARE

Founded in 2006, the Zeidler Center for Public Discussion is an organization dedicated to facilitating dialogues between people of sharply different perspectives on timely issues. We provide structured and facilitated community conversations that bring together people with different beliefs and backgrounds in a safe atmosphere to increase mutual understanding about the core values that guide each other's lives. We also work privately with organizations, neighborhoods, and congregations, to offer facilitation and strategic planning.

We believe that positive and sustainable community action aimed at repairing relationships must start with trust building and humanizing. We believe that sustainable solutions begin with deep listening and feeling heard across boundaries in safe spaces.

We have seen facilitated dialogue transform communication and relationships in ways that make other kinds of change possible in hurting communities. Candid conversations lay the groundwork for sustainable change, and the Zeidler Center is committed to ensuring diverse community members have access to the tools to build a stronger, healthier and more vibrant community.

As we celebrate our 10th year as an organization, we are excited to celebrate the achievements of the past while looking to meet the needs of the future.



2015-2016

PROGRAMS



Police & Community Listening Circles

With generous funding through the Greater Milwaukee Foundation's Racial Equity and Inclusion Grant, the Zeidler Center has facilitated listening circles in Amani, Harambee, Metcalfe Park & Clarke Square neighborhoods through 2016 set to serve 600+ residents and 100+ officers.

Lutheran Congregations Facing Transformational Change

Through generous Siebert Foundation funding, we are facilitating a dialogue series with four ELCA congregations, each experiencing unique transformational change.

MKE Repertory Theater Conversations

The Zeidler Center facilitated post-play dialogues with over 3000 attendees of the play *American Song*. In 2017, we're again hosting dialogues after the play *Disgraced*.

Office of African American Affairs

Throughout 2016, we've partnered with OAAA to facilitate community dialogues focused on defining this new County office and sharing the concerns of Milwaukee's African American communities.

"Intersections of Sexuality & ..." Series

Partnering with the Wisconsin LGBT Chamber of Commerce, this series explores the various intersections between sexuality and topics such as race, class, mental health, & faith.

Interfaith Dialogue

In 2015, we were asked by visiting students of the Mar Elias HS of Ibillin Israel to host an interfaith dialogue with Christian, Jewish & Muslim communities.

Facilitator Trainings

We host both private trainings and a monthly public facilitator training for the general public. The Zeidler Center has trained over 250 facilitators.

Facilitator Training in the DR Congo

In 2015 and 2016, the Zeidler Center hosted facilitator training in Goma, DRC. We've trained over 100 community leaders in Reflective Structured Dialogue. These Congolese leaders are hosting local conversations to combat tribalism and assist in community education on child health.

Gun Violence Prevention Policy Dialogues

The Zeidler Center facilitates an ongoing, bipartisan group of Wisconsin leaders, including representatives and policy makers, discussing effective solutions to gun violence.

Milwaukee Film Festival Conversations

Zeidler Center trained facilitators lead over 100 post-film conversations during the 2015 and 2016 festival!

Intergenerational Women's Dialogue

Partnering with From Here to Her Women's Artist Collective, teens through +70-age women experienced Reflective Structured Dialogue to discover ways to offer each other support.

Zeidler Community Conversations Series

Throughout 2015 and 2016, we've hosted hundreds of community members in bi-monthly public conversations on a variety of issues including: Immigration, Segregation, Supporting Prisoner Re-entry, Violence Prevention, Downtown Redevelopment & the Bucks Arena, and Whiteness & Privilege.

Milwaukee County Budget Hearings

The Zeidler Center partnered with Milwaukee County to facilitate listening circles for the 2017 Budget Hearings, gathering qualitative and quantitative input from community members on the County's budget.

Let's Talk About... Series

This is a new series of dialogues on topics often considered unspeakable or taboo. Our first dialogue discussed miscarriage.

Bee the Change

"Bee the Change" is a leadership program empowering homeless men and women to be "Beevangelists" certified in beekeeping, environmental education, and dialogue facilitation.

Fellows & Facilitators Series

A partnership with Ex Fabula, events in this series combine powerful storytelling by Ex Fabula fellows with humanizing dialogue led by Zeidler facilitators on topics covering racism, segregation, privilege and oppression.

Creative Industry Brainstorms

Partnering with Greater Together, we led input sessions with designers and creative professionals to develop programs aimed at fair and just inclusion into Greater Milwaukee's Creative Industries.

Employers & Reformed Citizens

To address the stigma of ex-offenders seeking jobs, we partnered with 9to5.org and Pro Trade Job Development to give employers and returning citizens an opportunity to share deeply.

MKE County Leaders Action Planning

We are facilitating listening circles with hundreds of Milwaukee County employees discussing ways to improve County services.

Community Dialogue on Mental Illness

In 2016, the Zeidler Center is beginning a series on mental illness aimed at bringing residents and professionals together to raise awareness and discuss meaningful collaborations.

Private Facilitations

The Zeidler Center serves organizations, businesses, and faith communities who desire facilitation to help facing internal tension or decisions.

Milwaukee Police & Resident Listening Circles

“These circles give us safe spaces to deeply listen to each other and have our voices fully heard.”

The Zeidler Center believes that an important step in repairing relationships between law enforcement and communities of color in Milwaukee, is to come together in facilitated dialogue. Through this unique program, Zeidler Center facilitators lead structured listening circles with 600+ adults and youth and 100+ officers.

These circles create a platform for greater mutual trust and understanding, essential for establishing a constructive, collaborative environment for change. For the Zeidler Center, the primary goal and desired outcome of facilitating these listening circles is to increase trust, humanization, and relationships between residents & police.

Currently, we facilitate listening circles in Harambee, Metcalfe Park, Amani and Clarke Square neighborhoods, with others joining soon. Circles are professionally facilitated by Zeidler Center facilitators, and co-designed by residents and police to fit the needs of each community.

Our partners include the Milwaukee Police Department, Safe & Sound, and the Milwaukee District Attorney’s Office. 2016 funding for this program has been provided by the Greater Milwaukee Foundation’s Racial Equity and Inclusion Grant.



FEATURED PROGRAMS

Lutheran Congregations Facing Transformational Change



Since our founding by Mayor Frank Zeidler and other members of Redeemer Lutheran Church, the Zeidler Center has been dedicated to serving faith communities with facilitated dialogue. This program serves the leaders, congregations, and surrounding neighborhoods of four Lutheran churches around Milwaukee, WI.

Beginning several decades ago and in more recent years, it has become clear that status quo congregational ministry is often unsustainable and saddled with multiple challenges: shrinking membership and a resulting decline in financial support, disconnect with surrounding community, and other factors. With the need for change comes grief, which can take on negative energy when shaming and blaming, misunderstanding and confusion, and no clear sense of direction, are all allowed to fester. Further, if only a few voices are given the privilege to speak, decisions may lack the quality and depth made possible from hearing from many.

Each congregation in this program is poised for transformative change and has a pressing need for innovative, strategic tools to help them usher in change and embrace the potential for renewal that results.

The Zeidler Center works with church council members to design dialogue series that address the unique needs of each congregation. 2016 funding for this program has been provided by the Siebert Foundation and the Greater Milwaukee Synod.



OUR FUTURE

The Zeidler Center is driving the charge for much needed civil dialogue in the midst of polarized debates and divided communities. After the overwhelming success of our police & resident listening circles, recently featured in the *New York Times*, we are working to create a national model for police & community relations.

In the years to come, we will continue to expand our strong partnerships with Milwaukee's arts organizations including the Milwaukee Film Festival and the Milwaukee Repertory Theater.

In our international programs, we also look to expand our work in East Africa and Latin America. Each month, we are called in to assist faith communities, neighborhoods, organizations, and businesses to negotiate differences & build trust.

Continuing the Zeidler Center's current growth, we expect to triple our activity in the next three years (2017-2019). To meet this growing demand, the Zeidler Center is fiercely committed to building capacity. As the requests for our services increase, we have been working diligently to raise support for our operating expenses. At this critical stage in our development, we are working to secure the resources needed to meet the requests for facilitation and training both locally and internationally.

OUR BOARD

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Rev. Rick Deines
Zeidler Center founder

Reggie Jackson
America's Black Holocaust Museum

Margaret Swedish
Center for New Creation

Joyce Tang Boyland
Alverno University

Community Outreach

Engages community members &
organizational partners in our work &
develops new opportunities.

Program Development

Evaluates current programming &
develops new initiatives.

Fundraising & Events

Organizes year-round initiatives & events
in support of our programs.

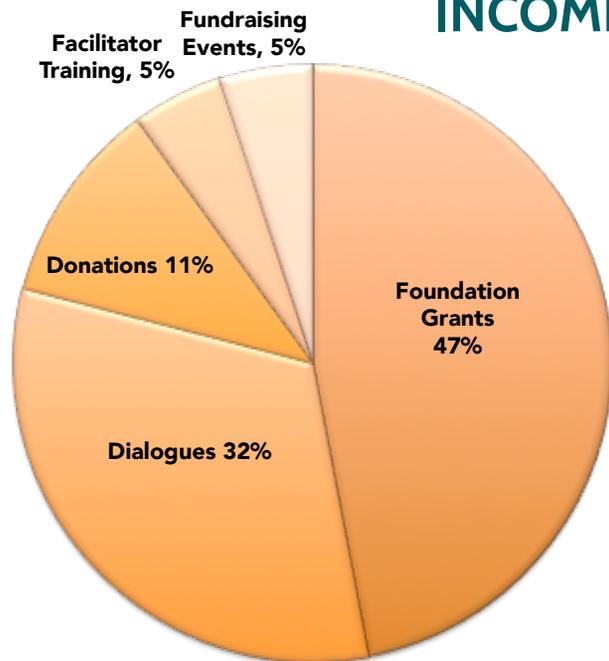
OUR COMMITTEES



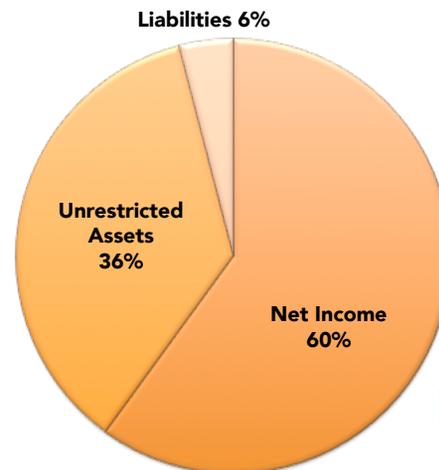
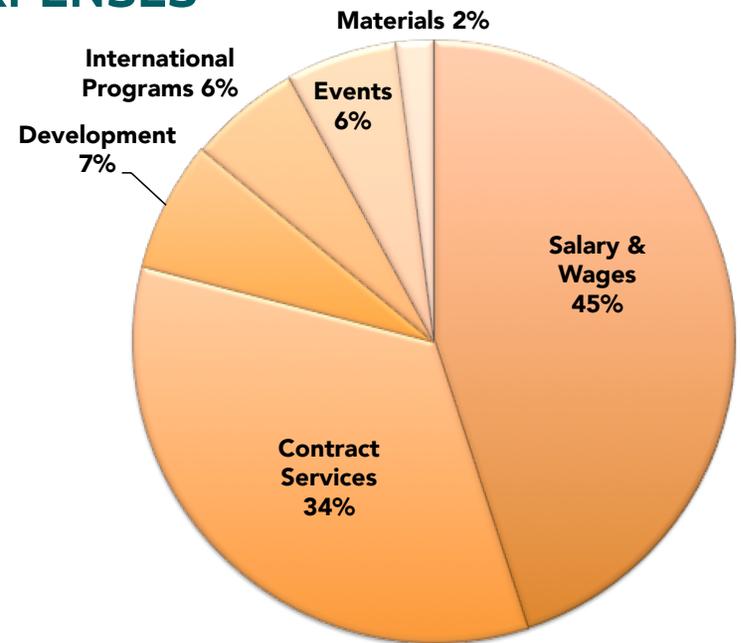
OUR FINANCES

The Frank P. Zeidler Center for Public Discussion is a 501(c)3 organization. Donations are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.

INCOME



EXPENSES



BALANCE