

BEGINNING CONVERSATIONS

MODEL

- Set a date for an opportunity for people to gather for conversation (3-4 hours)
- Invite people from diverse backgrounds and/or who have an interest in reaching out to all people
- Start the day with a contemplative devotion. The Sankofa litany could be used here.
- Share the concept of Sankofa
- Conduct an interview/panel discussion that gives insights into a different ethnicity, race and/or culture. Or identify a contemporary issue or movie that might help to explore different experiences (i.e. local social concerns/successes, movie: “The Help,” the phenomenon of Jeremy Lin, etc).
- Using reflection questions allow a time for individual, small group and large group discussions that work toward goal setting and identifying first steps
- Conclude with action items for both individuals and the group. Be sure to have a follow up date to gather the participants again to continue the conversation/work.
- Provide demographic information for relevant geographical locations to help attendees gain perspective on the communities where they are located