



Community-Based Initiatives

## COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS SERIES

 DETROIT, MI

The Community Conversations Series provides a constructive space for community members to engage in discussion on topics and issues that directly impact their daily lives. Each month, the initiative selects one community-generated subject for discussion and organizes an in-person or virtual event focused on deepening shared understanding with the help of local leaders and experts in the field. Community members are invited to join the conversation, contribute their voice, and help generate action steps for creating change in their community based on the ideas generated during the session. The Community Conversations series is a joint effort between Strategic Community Partners (SCP), JOURNi and Social Tech.

## OUR APPROACH

After opening the SCP Community Center in the fall of 2019, we sought to create deeper engagement with our surrounding community. Based on input from our neighbors and partners, we identified a need for a consistent and constructive discussion space where community members were not only present, but were also leading the conversation and walking away with concrete steps to create meaningful change.

Working alongside two of our mission-driven partners, JOURNi and Social Tech, our team launched the Community Conversations Series in November 2019. So far, the initiative has reached several milestones including:



50+ community members engaged



Group-generated action steps and follow up information provided to all participants



15+ community leaders and area experts featured as event panelists



10+ local vendors, restaurants, and business engaged

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, SCP, JOURNi and Social Tech quickly pivoted in March 2020 and temporarily shifted the Community Conversation Series to an online format. This quick transition, along with timely programming content, allowed the initiative to continue delivering on its mission during a time when community engagement and resource sharing was most needed.

## OUR IMPACT

The engagement and participation in Community Conversations events prove there is a need for community-driven spaces that produce an informative and empowering discussion. So far, the creation of this platform has allowed dozens of Detroiters from a diverse range of backgrounds to connect with one another, engage around a central topic, and even network to help build future opportunities. Most importantly, the series helps ensure that everyday citizens and neighbors are included in important conversations that can shape the future of their communities.

With continued engagement and support from our community, SCP is excited to grow this initiative to engage and uplift the voices and agenda of our community.