

Catalyzing Newport: Sensing Newport
December 12 - 16, 2016
Circle of Conversation Guide
www.CatalyzingNewport.org



***Catalyzing Newport** invites the community to hold conversations and explore today's Newport -- its diverse communities and culture. We will explore this with something we all share in common as humans - our senses.*

Do you remember the smell of dinner cooking in your grandmother's kitchen? Or, the sound made by the bell on your first bicycle? That's because our memories are more than facts and dates; they are evoked by touch, scents, sounds, sights and tastes. Because we want to get a "Sense" of Newport, we're asking groups and organizations throughout the community to hold a 60 minute conversation about the human senses and how they inspire and connect residents to one another, create memories, and reflect histories, individually and collectively. We seek to spark conversations throughout the city, in a variety of spaces, hosted by different organizations and individuals all on the same day. These gatherings will launch *Catalyzing Newport's Sensing Newport* week with visiting catalysts **Estevan Rael-Galvez, PhD and Cindi Malinick** beginning Dec 12.

Below are the easy steps to a fun and meaningful conversation:

Step 1: Sign-up right now to be host! Shoot SueEllen Kroll a quick email at **Sue@RIHumanities.org** to tell us about your planned conversation so we can track who is participating.

Step 2: Pick a 60 minute period anytime on **Monday, December 12, 2016** and a location – a boardroom, kitchen table, a bakery counter, a theatre stage, a classroom, a park bench or picnic table – really anywhere that is easy for you.

Step 3: Invite your staff, board, coworkers, friends, family or any group of people with whom you'd like to discuss the value of culture in Newport. It doesn't need be a large group, **3 to 8 participants are perfect** – but larger groups are welcome too!

Step 4: Hold your conversation:

- Identify someone to take notes – just highlights or a summary of the conversation and any specific ideas or recommendations that came out of the conversation. This person can also be the host, but doesn't need to be.

- Conversations should be prompted with the following questions:

- > *What tastes, smells, sights, sounds, and feelings do you encounter in Newport? Everyone should take a few minutes to construct his or her own list.*

- > *What memories come to mind as you reflect on these senses? Tell a short story about one of those senses.*

- > *What did you notice about the sensory list your group developed? What is missing? What do you notice about the stories that were told? What connections can you make between stories?*

- Snap a few photos during your conversation. If you like, share them on Facebook or Twitter with the official hashtag:

#SensingNewport

Step 5: After your conversation, send your notes and photos of your conversation/group to SueEllen Kroll, Catalyzing Newport project director, at Sue@RIHumanities.org.