

SACRAMENTO FACES RACE

Bridging Understanding from the Black-American Experience and Perspective.



Welcome Statement for Facilitators

UNDERSTAND OTHERS ♦ UNDERSTAND YOURSELF

WELCOME TO A SACRAMENTO FACES RACE TEACH-IN!

My name is _____

(Please introduce yourself and others who will be leading in an engaging and comfortable manner. This is your opportunity to set the tone for the Teach-In.)

Before we begin, Sacramento Faces Race (SFR) wants to make clear that we are a project focused on educating our community about the elements related to systemic and institutional racism. The focus of our inaugural project is bridging understanding from the Black-American experience and perspective. We recognize that in order to break down barriers and rebuild healthy access for individuals to create successful communities, we must learn more about how our country is experienced by all people, especially groups who are historically marginalized in the United States.

This project is totally grassroots. We are all volunteer and unfunded, requesting the open hearts and good citizenship of those who lead and participate. SFR is not a member of any political or religious organization. We believe strongly in every individual's right to justice and equality. One of our core values is the awareness of, and equal access to opportunity for all persons in our country.

As we begin, we need to agree on a few things:

- Share stories, note names - In order for our conversation to be as beneficial as it can be, we need everyone to feel safe to deeply share and really listen. Therefore,

when someone speaks in this conversation, their identity should remain anonymous outside this discussion. We encourage you to share what is said in this conversation, but do not attach it to the name (or other identifying information) of the person who said it.

- Speak from the "I" - Our aim is to create a space where we can understand others and understand ourselves, not to give advice or to argue ideas of objective truth. With that in mind, in this conversation we will agree to speak in the first-person, about our own truth.
- We will assume good faith in one another.
- We will open ourselves to listen and learn from one another.
- Step Up-Step Back! We all want to be heard. Encourage one another's participation. If you are participating a lot, please make space for those who are reserved in their expression.
- We will have an intention from the beginning of the conversation to walk away thinking that we can improve something in ourselves—maybe modify our opinion, communicate more effectively, or help to create social solutions that raise awareness about something we did not know before.
- We won't rush to fill the silence.
- Please be advised that some of the content may be harsh or contain inappropriate language.

Can we all agree to these things? If you feel, for whatever reason, that you cannot agree to these things, then please take this opportunity to exit. By staying in the circle, we all signify our intention to abide by these commitments and participate in a respectful, effective dialogue.

NOW, LET'S GET STARTED!