

Calling All Small Group Leaders!

This January The Village Square is launching our second round of community lead small groups as a part of their Healing Starts Here community building initiative and we are looking for community minded people to lead new groups! The goal of these small groups is to bring together citizens who don't look or think alike, around a common interest, in order to break down our divides and strengthen the social fabric of community (and have fun!)

Are you passionate about building community and have a hobby or interest that inspires you that you would love to enjoy with others? Then you would make a perfect small group leader! Examples of some of our previous small groups include: knitting groups ("Civic Stitch 'n Bitch"), book clubs, podcast clubs, and even a trail walking group. A small group can be started around almost any hobby or topic that interests you: book club, dinner club, gardening group, craft beer club, pickleball group, wonky think-tank conversation, creative writing group, you name it – if it brings a group of people together who don't look or think alike and wouldn't normally find themselves hanging out together, it's a win!

Want to get behind our mission and be a small group leader? We are looking for enthusiastic, community and civic minded individuals that enjoy getting to know new people while participating in a shared interest.

What you get:

- You become a superhero: There is vast and growing evidence that it's a failure to do this small simple thing of gathering with people not like us face-to-face that is allowing conflict profiteers to poison our civic environment. Won't it be fun to launch a small act of rebellion, all while we save our hometown from accelerating anger?
- Compensation: Grant funding allows for The Village Square to provide a \$300 stipend for the coordination and facilitation of your series of a minimum of 4 small group meetings.

Responsibilities:

- Select a group topic or activity that would interest others, isn't TOO obscure, and people could easily participate in. Yay running club! Nay medieval stone masonry club.
- Recruit a group of 8+ participants by reaching out to community members through your personal and/or professional networks (or any other network!) Shoot for diversity (racial, religious, political), but don't let that stop you from recruiting interested group members.
- Choose, and schedule if needed, a location for your group activity that is public and easily accessible to attendees. If reservation fees are required, The Village Square is open to sponsoring a group location on a case-by-case basis.
- Host/facilitate a minimum of 4 small group meetings this spring. Groups could be held weekly, bi-monthly, or monthly – whatever works best for your schedule. Meeting length should be kept between 1-2 hours at max.
- Communicate meeting details and instructions to attendees, along with meeting reminders before each gathering.
- Complete a brief Village Square questionnaire after each meeting in order to help track attendance and attendee demographics for grant purposes.
- Help group participants get to know each other by facilitating meaningful conversation during your gathering/activity. We are happy to pass along conversation topics and pointers!