“Communities that are healthy are always recreating themselves. Communities that are healthy are always facing new trials. Because as you grow, new trials emerge. These are all trials in the short run, but they can be triumphs in the long run.” - Rich Harwood, President & Founder, The Harwood Institute

Drawing Parallels Between Then and Now

Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass: A Walk To Respect, a one act play written by The Patterson Foundation’s Beth Duda, provokes new questions around the ongoing challenges our society faces today and how those with polarized views can still find ways to come together in pursuit of shared aspirations. Through the performance’s panel discussion, participants learned how to gain someone’s respect and understanding through a conversation, deep listening, and arriving from a place of willingness.

A Brave New Respect

Following the performance’s panel discussion, some participants engaged in TFF’s Continue The Conversation discussion groups. By engaging the Harwood Institute’s approach to community conversations, these gatherings offered an opportunity to dive deep into the thematic elements of the play and allowed the chance for vulnerability and the building of new connective tissue.

The Patterson Foundation describes community conversations as providing a brave space for participants. We reason that we could never truly provide a safe space for people to discuss their ideas. Someone can always disagree or have push back. But what we can provide is a place where people feel courageous enough to bring forth their ideas. The conversation groups offer the chance to have potentially difficult conversations in a place where folks can feel valued and heard—a space where folks can bravely disagree without being disagreeable.

To read Connor’s full blog on Continue The Conversation groups, click here.

CONTACT US

Have questions? Want to share info about a community event? Interested in more information on Aspirations to Actions? Contact Cheri Coryea at: CCoryea@thepattersonfoundation.org

#Aspire2Action #SteppingForward @ThePattersonFdn

Would you like to receive a copy of Rich Harwood’s book Stepping Forward? Provide your mailing information and The Patterson Foundation will send you one! Request your copy here.

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