The background of the entire page is a light gray topographic map with intricate contour lines. The lines are more densely packed in some areas, suggesting higher elevations, and more spread out in others, suggesting lower elevations. The overall effect is a textured, organic pattern that resembles a natural landscape.

BRIDGING THE GAP

CULTIVATING POWERFUL
CONVERSATIONS

AN ADVENTURE WITH

TED^x MileHigh

x = independently organized TED event

LET'S DO THIS.

WE ARE HERE TO HAVE THE
HARD CONVERSATIONS.

SETTING INTENTIONS

CLARIFY YOUR PURPOSE

WHAT ARE GROUND RULES FOR DIALOGUE?

1. Be respectful.
2. Be engaged.
3. Remember that the objective is dialogue, not debate.
4. Be open to learning something new.

WORDS THAT MATTER

We are starved for fresh language to approach each other. We need what Elizabeth Alexander calls “words that shimmer” — words with power that convey real truth, which cannot be captured in mere fact. Words have the force of action and become virtues in and of themselves. The words we use shape how we understand ourselves, how we interpret the world, how we treat others. Words are one of our primary ways to reach across the mystery of each other. As technology re-frames the meaning of basic human acts like making and leading and belonging, the world needs the most vivid and transformative universe of words we can muster.

ADVENTUROUS CIVILITY

The adventure of civility for our time can't be a mere matter of politeness or niceness. Adventurous civility honors the difficulty of what we face and the complexity of what it means to be human. It doesn't celebrate diversity by putting it up on a pedestal and ignoring its messiness and its depths. Civility, in our world of change, is about creating new possibilities for living forward while being different and even continuing to hold profound disagreement.

NOTES

GROUNDING VIRTUES

CLARIFY YOUR PURPOSE

GENEROUS LISTENING

Listening is an everyday art and virtue, but it's an art we have lost and must learn anew. Listening is more than being quiet while others have their say. It is about presence as much as receiving; it is about connection more than observing. Real listening is powered by curiosity. It involves vulnerability — a willingness to be surprised, to let go of assumptions and take in ambiguity. It is never in “gotcha” mode. The generous listener wants to understand the humanity behind the words of the other.

HOSPITALITY

Hospitality is a bridge to all the great virtues, but it is immediately accessible. But it's more than an invitation. It is the creation of a safe, inviting, trustworthy space. It shapes the experience to follow. It creates the intention, the spirit, and the boundaries for what is possible. As creatures, it seems, we imagine a homogeneity in other groups that we know not to be there in our own. But new social realities are brought into being over time by a quality of relationship between unlikely combinations of people.

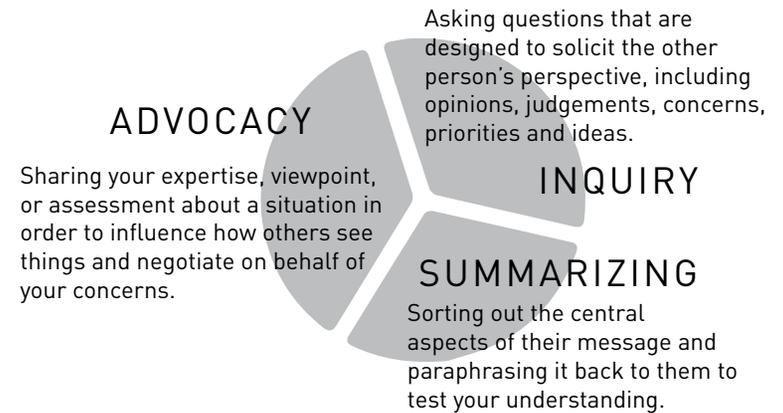
HUMILITY

Humility is a companion to curiosity, surprise, and delight. It is not about debasing oneself, but about approaching everything and everyone with a readiness to be surprised and delighted. This is the humility of the child, which Jesus lauded. It is the humility in the spirituality of the scientist and the mystic — to be planted in what you know, while living expectantly for discoveries yet to come.

*Adapted from The Civil Conversations Project.

DIALOGUE

THE THREE BALANCED TENETS



POWERFUL QUESTIONS

FOCUS ON INQUIRY

TIPS

- Are open ended and begin with “what” or “how”
- Cannot be answered with a yes or no
- Designed for introspection and reflection
- Have no “right” answer

- What do you make of it?
- What are possible solutions?
- What does that mean to you?
- How do you feel about it?
- If you had a choice what would you do?
- What is another perspective on this?
- How does this fit in with your values/perspective?
- What else should be taken into consideration?
- How does this affect the whole picture?

RESOURCES

TOOLS

SHOP TALK LIVE
shoptalklive.org

WHOLE TRUTH BOOTH
thewholetruthbooth.com

CIVIL CONVERSATIONS PROJECT
civilconversationsproject.org



LAURAN ARLEDGE started her career as high school social studies teacher in Wilmington, North Carolina. In the past 15 years Lauran has worked in public health violence prevention, community organizing, coaching, and organizational development. She currently holds a leadership position in talent development for a Denver-based technology company.



CAITLIN QUATTROMANI is a Colorado native and mom to two elementary school-age boys. She graduated from the University of Denver with an international business degree and has been fortunate to travel the world as a marketing and product leader, including living abroad in Luxembourg. She currently leads multicultural marketing for a Fortune 50 company in the Denver area.



THEO WILSON SLAM poet Theo E.J. Wilson, a.k.a Lucifury, is a founding member of Denver's SlamNUBA team, which won the National Poetry Slam in 2011. He began his speaking career with the NAACP at the age of 15 and has always been passionate about social justice. Theo is currently the Executive Director of Shop Talk Live, an organization that uses the barbershop as a staging ground for community dialogue and healing.

WHOLE TRUTH BOOTH

The truth matters. And everyone has a story to tell. The Whole Truth Booth is a mobile storytelling platform that allows companies and causes to collect authentic video stories from their customers and communities at the click of a button.

Download the app on Google Play or the Apple Store.

ADVENTURES

IDEAS WORTH EXPLORING

Adventures invite you to explore big ideas - up close and personal - as you experience the work and vision of Colorado creatives, innovators and thought-leaders. Through these experiences, we invite you to "get your hands dirty" with big ideas and take action to build a better Colorado and a better world. This year, we'll explore bold new ideas in design, science, tech, urbanism, and sustainability through 35+ distinct Adventures.

TEDXMILEHIGH.COM/ADVENTURES

WONDER

TEDXMILEHIGH'S FALL EVENT

This fall, join us for our biggest event yet, TEDxMileHigh 2017: Wonder. We're gathering ideas and experiences that will spark your imagination and stir your sense of adventure. Take advantage of Early Bird tickets on September 5!

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IDEAS WORTH EXPLORING