

WELCOME TO THE LOCAL VOICES NETWORK!

Welcome to a team of people committed to changing the way we talk and listen to each other, to lifting up the voices of people not normally heard, and to making the most of the power of human stories to connect and deepen understanding. Thank you for joining us, and for putting your desire for a better democracy into action.

The Local Voices Network (LVN) is a collaboration between Public Libraries, Cortico, the MIT Media Lab's Laboratory for Social Machines and a large and growing number of individuals and organizations across the US. This is an extraordinary opportunity for our community to have our voices heard and to listen to one another. Through our collective work, we can deepen our connections to each other, to our local public officials, and we can lift up the experiences of the lives of a wide variety of people to the local news media.

What is the central mission of the LVN?

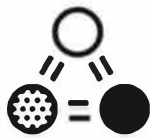
Our mission is to foster conversation in communities and in the media that improves our understanding of one another. As LVN grows into other communities over time, we envision a country connected through more constructive and empathic public dialogue.

Local Voices Network Values and Conversation Agreements:

LVN's five core values:



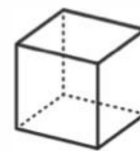
**Authentic
Voices**



**Diverse
Perspectives**



**Community-
First Approach**



**Transparent
Process**



**Measurable
Impact**

LVN Conversation Agreements:

1. Speak for yourself and out of your own experiences
2. Allow others to speak for themselves
3. Share the time – allow others to finish speaking and take turns
4. Stay curious – ask honest questions
5. Pause – take time for reflection
6. Listen generously – assume good intentions while recognizing that your words have an impact
7. When possible, close unnecessary programs, applications, and notifications and put your phone on silent.

For general questions about the long term goals of the LVN across the nation, or about Cortico, please contact hello@lvn.org, or call us on our support line at **608-618-0392**.

RECORDING GUIDELINES

Welcome to this conversation of the Local Voices Network. We're grateful that you decided to join us!

There are three main purposes for this conversation:

- First, we want to create a new space for community members to listen and learn about each other's lives.
- Second, we want to connect across groups and build our relationships with one another.
- Third, we want to create a unique listening channel through which we will lift up the voices and needs of the community to candidates, local policy makers, and members of the media.

This conversation will be recorded, transcribed and added to a growing collection of similar conversations. We'll be making the recordings available to journalists, public officials, researchers and other participants and partners in the project, at Cortico's discretion, with the goal of eventually making them accessible to the general public. As a participant in this conversation, you are providing consent to Cortico, the operator of the Local Voices Network, to use the recording in accordance with their mission of fostering conversations in communities and in the media that improves our understanding of one another.

This a public conversation and portions of it may appear in a local newspaper or website, or be broadcast on a local radio station, or appear elsewhere including other forms of media, so please don't say anything that you wouldn't want heard by the general public.

If you understand and agree to this, you will be asked to verbally "agree" during the conversation.

Following this conversation, you will receive an email with a link that will allow you to sign up for access to the LVN website. This will allow you to listen to this conversation and make highlights, as well as to listen in on other conversations.