



CONVERSATION  
**CORPS**





**March 2015 – May 2016**  
Opportunities: 206  
Conversations: 144  
Participants: 563

# Conversation Topics

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- May 2015: Budget Priorities
- June 2015: Mobility
- August 2015: Workforce Development
- July 2015: Affordability
- September 2015: Community Engagement
- October 2015: Arts & Creativity
- November 2015: Special Events at City Parks
- January 2016: Water Conservation & Sustainability
- February 2016: Parking & Transit
- March 2016: Creating a Zero Waste City
- April 2016: Your Mobility Priorities
- May 2016: AISD Fiscal Realities
- June 2016: The Power of The People & Petitions
- July 2016: We Are Orlando

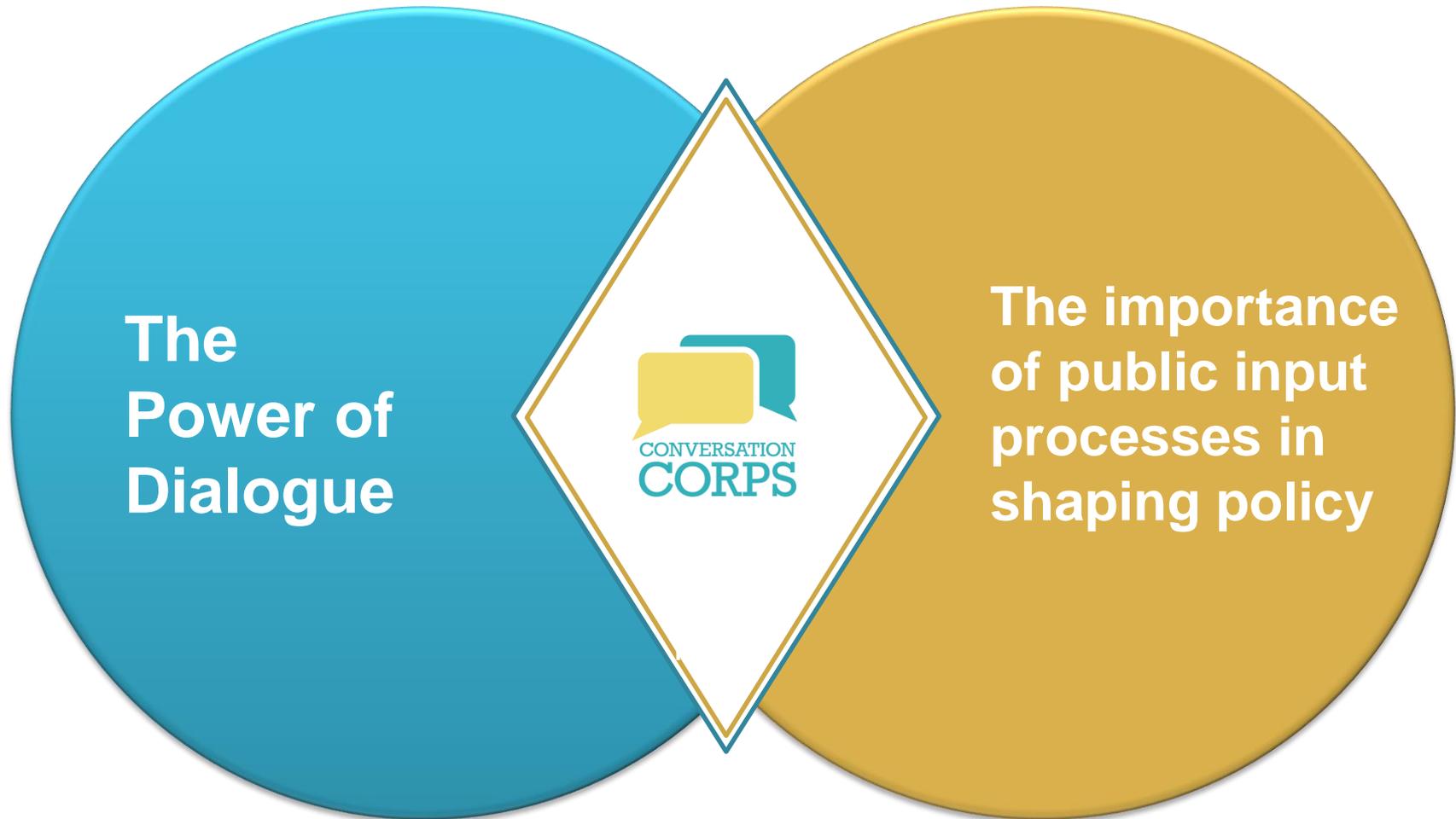


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# The Conversation Corps Model

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**The  
Power of  
Dialogue**

**The importance  
of public input  
processes in  
shaping policy**



## **Community Trusteeship**

We act with a commitment to stewardship of community and a personal responsibility to work toward the common good of Greater Austin. The community and its resources are a living trust to be preserved and enhanced for the future.

## **Inclusiveness**

We recognize the value of learning about and including different viewpoints. Communities are comprised of individuals and groups, each representing a different history, culture, passion, and perspective.

## **Collaborative Decision-Making**

We seek collaboration to bring constructive and inclusive engagement in creating the solutions or making decisions that serve the greater good—for the long-term.

## **Personal Responsibility**

We have the ability to choose how we engage with issues and our fellow citizens. As community leaders, we take personal responsibility for our behavior and our results; we recognize that we must always employ inclusiveness and integrity in our civic engagement.

# Top 10 Lessons Learned

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1. Expect and embrace resistance and pushback.
2. Sometimes “closer” still isn’t close enough.
3. Utilize people who are already trusted.
4. Incorporating an education component is difficult but needed.
5. Focusing on people’s personal experiences is key.
6. Find a balance between what people want to talk about with what decision makers need to hear about.
7. Training on neutrality is imperative.
8. Create shared ownership: Build buy-in about the process and vision from volunteers and ask for their input.
9. Keep morale up: Celebrate small successes while keeping larger, long-term goals in mind.
10. Start small, design for scalability, but don’t wait for perfection.