



Many Religions, One Community: Lessons from Islamic Spain for Today's World

Community dialogues on the film *Cities of Light: The Rise and Fall of Islamic Spain* and what it means for interfaith and cross-cultural relations today

APPLY FOR A COMMUNITY DIALOGUES OPPORTUNITY GRANT

To help organizations spur greater cross-cultural understanding at a community level, **20,000 Dialogues**, a nationwide grassroots project using films about Muslims to promote dialogue and understanding, and **Public Agenda**, a nonprofit opinion research and civic engagement organization, have partnered to offer the documentary film, *Cities of Light: The Rise and Fall of Islamic Spain* and an accompanying dialogue guide to help community groups lead discussions on the film in community dialogue events.

All community dialogue hosts will receive a free copy of the dialogue guide and film. In addition, a limited number of communities will be selected to receive **financial support** of up to **\$500** and **technical assistance** and training on how to organize and facilitate a successful dialogue.

Applications for support will be accepted on a rolling basis until June 1, 2009

Questions about this application may be directed to:
McKenna Morrigan, Public Agenda at (212) 686-6610 x52 or mroc@publicagenda.org

Why Dialogue?

Dialogue is a new approach to an age-old challenge. It is the meeting of minds and hearts in candid discussion. Its goal is as simple as it is challenging: to enable participants to see the “other” in a new way and to learn and grow from the experience. Community dialogues are carefully constructed conversations that bring diverse stakeholders together to address an issue of shared concern. Trained moderators from your community help all participants contribute, while trained recorders capture the concerns, common ground and ideas for action generated during the discussion.

Who is Eligible to Apply?

To qualify to receive financial and technical assistance, your community dialogue must:

- Bring together a coalition of three to five diverse civic organizations. In addition to your organization, at least two additional civic organizations (faith-based, business, community service, interfaith, or arts and culture) must agree to collaborate with you and support your film screening and dialogue. These organizations can help you, the lead organizer, with funding, publicity, logistical support, etc. To promote a rich dialogue, try to partner with civic organizations of diverse viewpoints and backgrounds.
- Facilitate dialogue in small groups after screening the film and use the Choicework Discussion Starter (part of the dialogue guide) as the starting point for these conversations.

What Support Community Dialogues Sponsoring Coalitions Will Receive

Selected communities will receive **financial support** of up to **\$500** and **technical assistance** and training from Public Agenda and 20,000 Dialogues. This includes a webinar for members of the sponsoring coalition on how to organize and facilitate a successful dialogues, conference calls with experienced Public Agenda trainers and other customized support throughout the planning process.

4. **Why do you want to host a community dialogue on the film *Cities of Light* and what it means for interfaith and cross-cultural relations today?**

5. **What do you think the status of interfaith relations is in your community?**

6. **How do you think your community might benefit from this community dialogue?**

7. **What experience (none is required) have you or other sponsoring organizations had in engaging the community on a public issue?**

8. **Community dialogues seek to engage participants from diverse segments of the community. Comment on aspects of diversity in your community and describe your strategies for attracting diverse participants to your community dialogue.**

Completed applications and questions may be directed to:
McKenna Morrigan, Public Agenda at mroc@publicagenda.org
or mailed to **Public Agenda, Attn: McKenna Morrigan, 6 E 39th St, 9th floor, New York, NY 10016**

For more information, call McKenna at **(212) 686-6610 x52** or email mroc@publicagenda.org