



Conversation guide

Projects and initiatives related to health and health equity in the built environment often start with a conversation between individuals or among small groups. It may be a formal convening led by a foundation or city agency, a workshop at a convention or even coffee between colleagues.

The Joint Call to Action to Promote Healthy Communities is engaged in a year-long effort to spur these conversations among our members and beyond. We've compiled stories about discussions that have led to healthy solutions at the community, regional and state levels.

Here are the questions they asked in Denver →



WHO'S COME TO THE TABLE SO FAR

- City and County of Denver
- Community stakeholders: general public, property and business owners, advocacy groups (Historic Denver, Bicycle Colorado, Walk Denver), and registered neighborhood organizations
- DHM Design (landscape architecture and planning)
- Felsburg Holt & Ullevig
- GBSM (public affairs)
- Livable Cities Studio
- Matrix Design Group (engineering)
- Mile High Flood District
- SEMA Construction, Inc.

1. STARTING THE CONVERSATION

To manage chronic flooding in a string of neighborhoods, the city of Denver was planning to build a massive stormwater detention basin. When landscape architects from Denver's Livable Cities Studio joined the project, they broadened the thinking with questions like:

- How can we use this much-needed infrastructure project as an opportunity to enhance community vibrancy, health and well-being?
- What design solutions may be available to bring health and health equity to the forefront?
- How can we involve community members from the many neighborhoods along the project's path, meet their unique and varied needs and ensure we are not displacing current residents?

2. BUILDING OUT THE CONVERSATION

As the planning for the project progressed, an array of different perspectives came to the table, from engineers and designers to the general public and others, raising new questions and considerations:

- How can we act as a team of conveners to bring together a range of perspectives and needs?
- What can additional parties bring to the table that's not already here?
- How can we continue to prioritize community voices as other partners come on board?

3. CLOSING THE LOOP

Moving through the planning process, other questions included:

- Have we considered a range of solutions that go beyond the obvious?
- How do we integrate the revitalized areas of the project into the city as a whole?
- What co-benefits can be achieved by looking beyond the bounds of our project into the surrounding urban infrastructure?