

CANADIANS OF SOUTH ASIAN HERITAGES MUSEUM / CULTURAL CENTRE
ENGAGEMENT QUESTIONS & CONVERSATION TOOLKIT

Engaging in meaningful conversations within communities fosters understanding, collaboration, and growth. Below are some versatile conversation formats to inspire and facilitate community-led discussions for this engagement. Community conversation hosts are encouraged to frame questions and design conversations in a way that makes sense for the community they are engaging.

Regardless of the format chosen for an engagement, the following community engagement questions should guide the conversation:

1. What are the core values of your community/organization?
2. Are there any principles, values and/or experiences shared with other communities of South Asian heritage in B.C.?
3. What aspects of your community's culture do you want to see reflected in the museum/cultural centre?
4. What history within your community is important to recognize and/or highlight?
5. How do you see your community represented in B.C. today?
6. What does the future look like for your community and the younger generations?
7. What's important in physically representing your culture/community?
8. Where should the museum/cultural centre be located and why?
9. Do you have any suggestions for the name of the museum/cultural centre? What would the meaning of the name(s) convey?
10. What other aspects of location are important for the museum/cultural centre?
11. What do you want the broader population of B.C. to know about your community? How should they interact with the museum/cultural centre? (collaborators, supporters, partners, etc.)
12. What do you think may be challenging in the creation of the museum/cultural centre as it relates to your community? Do you have suggestions to address this challenge?
13. Is there anything being missed through this engagement? (people, groups, information, etc.)

Sample Conversation Formats:

Format	Purpose	Method
In-Person Sharing Circle	Encourage open dialogue and sharing of personal experiences, and perspectives, fostering empathy and connection.	Gather participants in a circle, allowing each person to share their perspective on each question. This could also function like a group interview where each question is posed and participants provide their perspective.
Online or In-Person Facilitated Discussion	Provide structure while allowing for organic conversation flow, encouraging diverse viewpoints.	A facilitator guides a group conversation, ensuring everyone has a chance to contribute and creating opportunities for in-depth dialogue between participants.
Break-out Groups & Report Outs	Foster deeper exploration of complex issues while maintaining inclusivity and participation.	Divide participants into smaller groups to discuss engagement questions, then reconvene for group representatives to share key points.
Social Media Live Q&A	Increase accessibility and reach, facilitating real-time interaction with online audiences.	Host a live question and answer session on social media platforms, engaging with community members in real-time.
Online Webinar	Inform community members about the initiative while providing opportunities for engagement and dialogue	Organize a structured online presentation followed by interactive Q&A sessions, utilizing webinar platforms.