



# Sidewalk Talk Core Values

## **Compassion Between Equals**

- We don't offer advice or try to "fix" people because we see everyone as whole.
- We may take compassionate action and refer people to local resources, while treating everyone as our equal.

## **Listening as a Devotional Practice**

- We bring humility to our listening practice, regardless of our profession.
- Each encounter is an opportunity to learn about ourselves, others, and the art of listening.

## **Fostering Inclusion and Belonging**

- When listening, we avoid using cell phones and, if possible, avoid wearing sunglasses to connect with passersby through eye contact.
- We avoid chit-chatting with fellow listeners to prevent the appearance of exclusivity.
- We welcome all faiths, politics, identities, backgrounds, and opinions and are mindful of our biases.

## **Setting Compassionate Boundaries and Ensuring Safety**

- If we feel triggered or unsafe, we can say, "I am unable to listen to you in the way I would like." We can move, end the session, or ask for help.
- We are mindful about not going to the bathroom alone or walking to cars alone after events.

## **Being Rather Than Doing**

- Our role is to hold space, not to sell services, teach, or give advice. We soothe our anxieties about getting enough talkers to share so we are a calm presence on the sidewalk.
- We sit rather than stand as it is radical commitment to connection and slowing down and sitting down to punctuate that connection matters.

## **Listening to Create Culture Change**

- We aim to transform from "Me" to "We."
- We listen to rehumanize one another and inspire more receptive, space-holding individuals.
- We bring this practice into our daily lives.

## **Commitment to Conflict Resolution**

- We recognize and embrace our differences.
- We will listen to each other, understand each other's values, and share our own.
- We strive to restore care and understanding in our relationships.