

Context

Our intention during this meeting was to define our target population, what characteristics made up a welcoming community, and based on the literature, interviews, and discussions, come up with several aspirational and realistic recommendations for creating a warm and welcoming community.

Defining the Target Population

For the purposes of this panel, we are looking to engage people who might already be in the community but want to be engaged and people who are coming to the community and want to be connected. While the final product may include bits about attracting people to St. Paul, it will largely focus on creating a welcoming community to people already living in St. Paul

Welcoming Characteristics and Dimensions

The panel discussed the characteristics that make up welcoming. These characteristics include that welcoming is:

- **Active, not passive.** It is vital for the community to make efforts to reach out to the unengaged. We can't just expect people to come to us.
- **Unites around a shared purpose.** There has to be a purpose for welcoming and engaging in community. People want to do something or be involved in something for a reason.
- **Has depth.** Welcoming efforts that are multi-layered are more successful in engaging people. As a community, we have to take our efforts to the next level.
- **Person-focused.** Welcoming people, has to be about what those people want, not about what institutions want or membership.

Other concepts the panel talked about include:

- **Place-based connections.** Being more conscious about where events are being held and welcoming people in all different locations.
- **Non-member options.** Recognizing that there might be opportunity in creating non-member options at agencies in St. Paul.

Review readings about Jewish Communities. Create realistic aspirational goal with a path forward

The panel spent a significant amount of time discussing potential ways to create future welcoming programs and activities.

Ideas for recommendations include:

- 1) Community Orientation

- 2) Weekly emails and social media
- 3) Funding different start-ups
- 4) Organization sponsored-individual events
- 5) Training Staff in effective welcoming practices
- 6) Concierge model-A place to go to help break down silos.
- 7) YouTube Tutorial Video
- 8) Community Fair

While discussing these ideas, issues of security and communication came up as an important lens to give thought to.

Next Steps

For the next meeting, a draft of recommendations will be created. Panelists will review this draft in between meetings. A meeting wizard will be sent to panelists with multiple dates and times that are on Sunday, Tuesday and Thursdays.