
Now-Mayor Mitch Landrieu and his staff approach the Winter Institute with an idea for the Welcome Table to be a key element of NOLA FOR LIFE, New Orleans’s comprehensive murder reduction strategy.

Welcome Table New Orleans launches, thanks to funding from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. More than 300 people attend initial information sessions.

Three base neighborhood groups embark on WT process, meeting about once a month.
- St. Roch
- Central City
- Algiers

“Initially I was skeptical. The common thought is, ‘We’ve tried this before.’ But we hadn’t tried it before. We’ve tried to get straight to the ‘doing’ and missed the opportunity to trust one another. The Welcome Table’s trust building work is a huge missing piece. It’s been awesome.”

“What I appreciate most is [the Winter Institute’s] flexibility. They listen more than they talk. They listened and then flooded us with resources.”
 Mothers’ Circle, where mothers of perpetrators of violent crime, and mothers of victims, support one another, begins meeting

**OCTOBER 2014**

- Unplanned “Emergency” Circle held after non-indictment of Darren Wilson in killing Michael Brown in Ferguson, Mo.
- 45 stakeholders attend holiday Welcome Table celebration at Ashé Cultural Arts Center in New Orleans

**DECEMBER 2014**

- 50 community stakeholders attend 2 separate weekend trust-building & planning retreats outside New Orleans

**MARCH 2015**

- 25 stakeholders participate in Problem Solving/Root Cause Analysis workshop
- Civic Leaders’ Circle, by which business owners citywide support neighborhood groups and their grassroots projects, takes shape

**APRIL 2015**

- 20 stakeholders participate in Implicit Bias/Structural Racism workshop

**MAY 2015**

- Neighborhood projects launch
- Youth Circles convene
- Locally-focused Oral History Project begins
- Welcome Table cohort grows to include more local stakeholders

**2015-16**

- “There’s a lot of room to have things organically develop. I never felt that you guys come in with an agenda.”

- “One of the things this circle provides is healing. It’s a place to talk about these things across lines. There’s something magical that happens in the circle.”

- “Three hundred people showed up! That’s a small percentage of the city but it’s a diverse lot, young, old, racially diverse. They have a real hope to change things.”