

A Mile Marker Checklist for Relationship Building

By Daniel Aguirre, [Pueblo](#)

The list of mile markers below was created through conversations led by Daniel Aguirre, and in the context of building relationships between science festival leaders and local community partners. Catalyst Consulting Group served as the evaluator for that project, and transcribed Daniels' advice into this checklist (with Daniel's permission).

Though developed in the context of science festival conversations, these mile markers are meaningful for any science communicator to consider as they form and foster relationships with community groups. As such, the language below is framed in relation to events broadly rather than science festivals specifically.

This list is not complete and so there is space at the end for you to suggest additional mile markers. When thinking about whether to add any new mile markers, think about the moments over the past year that made you feel proud and/or that made you feel like you were making progress with community members and relationships – those are ideal mile markers to add to this list.

Mile Marker	Yes	No	Not yet, but we plan to	NA for our event
Did you invite any community representatives to attend your event, experience it, and then share their ideas for what this can look like in the future so that it might involve their community more deeply?				
Did any of your new community contacts share the names of or put you in contact with others that they thought should know about the event or be involved in the event?				
If no, did you ask for their suggestions?				
If yes, did the new contacts become involved in meetings or other event activities?				
Did any of your event planning meetings include community groups?				
If yes, for those meetings, do community members invite others to attend?				
Did you attend a community meeting where your primary goal and role was to listen?				
Did you attend community meetings regularly throughout the year?				
Did you attend community meetings even when you didn't have anything to present or share?				
Did a community member thank you for attending a meeting and/or the contributions you made during a meeting?				
Did a community member invite you to attend other meetings or say that they hoped to see you again?				
If yes, did you attend another meeting after being invited back?				
Has a community member asked you to have a conversation with them based on your contributions to a meeting?				
If yes, did the conversation happen?				
Has a community member invited to visit or be part of another group or organization?				
If yes, did you join or visit the other group or organization?				

[illegible]