

CLIENT

The Welcoming Center

DATES

2025

REFERENCE

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Breaking Bread, Breaking Barriers
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BUDGET

\$18,000

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Connect the Dots partnered with The Welcoming Center (TWC) during its early rollout of the “Breaking Bread, Breaking Barriers” initiative, a citywide effort designed to foster dialogue around identity, belonging, and citizenship through a series of facilitated community dinners. CtD served as the engagement advisory and capacity-building partner, supporting TWC in designing the structures, tools, and guidance needed for community organizations (“Breaking Bread Partners”) to successfully lead outreach and encourage participation. Through hands-on workshops, tailored toolkits, and ongoing advisory support, CtD helped strengthen partner capacity, enhance communication and coordination with outreach partners, and embed inclusive engagement practices into a multi-part, community-led program.

SERVICES PERFORMED

- Provided ongoing advisory support to TWC to help troubleshoot engagement challenges, refine coordination practices, and strengthen inclusive participation throughout program rollout.
- Served as a thought-partner and offered guidance to ensure TWC and Breaking Bread Partners were well-equipped to recruit for dinner participants.
- Developed a tailored Partner Organization Outreach Toolkit, that equipped partners with practical messaging guidance, planning worksheets, and recruitment tools to enable Breaking Bread Partners to independently design outreach strategies aligned with TWC goals.
- Designed and facilitated two virtual Outreach Strategy Workshops, strengthening Breaking Bread Partner confidence and capacity through interactive learning, peer exchange, and implementation-focused exercises.
- Created a space for Breaking Bread Partners to discuss challenges, close information gaps, and tailor approaches across diverse communities.

PROJECT OUTCOMES

Engagement Outcomes:

- The Outreach Strategy Workshops increased partner capacity to plan and implement outreach, using clear tools and structured guidance (95% attendance).
- Stronger alignment among partner organizations on roles, responsibilities, and outreach expectations.
- Partners identified tailored, community-specific recruitment strategies to support sustained participation across the three-part dinner series.
- CtD’s trainings for Breaking Bread Partners allowed TWC to focus efforts on dinner series design and logistics.

Insights and Implications:

- Early role clarity and shared understanding of engagement goals significantly strengthen partner-led outreach.
- Structured advisory support and peer learning improve consistency and follow-through in decentralized initiatives.
- Lessons informed recommendations to strengthen upfront communication, clarify expectations, and maintain ongoing partner support in future phases.

