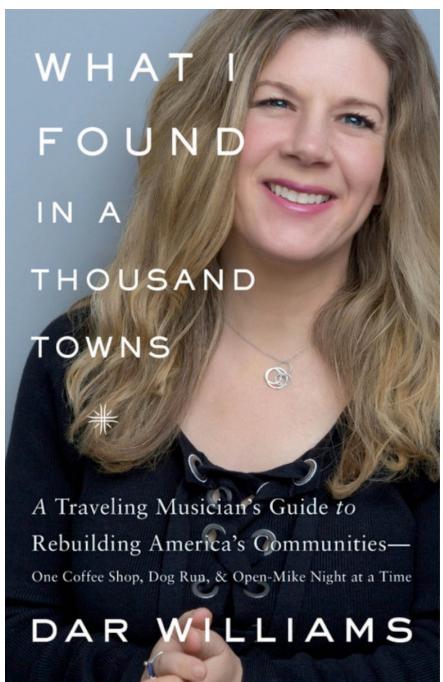




HOW TO HOST



"Translating ourselves, in an open and open-ended way, can be anxiety producing, and yet the habit of introducing ourselves to people around us can amount to a more solid, less fearful way of being in our community."

Dar Williams

YOUR HOSPITALITY can build POSITIVE PROXIMITY
SIX TIPS FOR HOSTING A GOOD CONVERSATION.

- 1** **Welcome each participant**, allowing for a meet-and-greet period. Don't assume everyone knows everyone else; help with introductions at the beginning.
- 2** **Provide light snacks**, and allow others to contribute food. That baker who shares her cookies with the group? That might just might be her launch point for more active community engagement.
- 3** **Set chairs in a simple circle.**
- 4** **Set a time limit** for the session and stick to it. One hour of structured conversation is plenty for most discussions.
- 5** **Encourage comments** from each participant with positive body language and an openness to responses. It's fine to say, "Let's hear from a new voice."
- 6** Encourage the continuation of informal conversations after the discussion's end.

Questions? Contact Virginia Main Street staff or Doug Jackson at 540-529-4879, douglas.jackson@dhcd.virginia.gov.

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