

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT TOOLKIT & HOW-TO GUIDE

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This guide is designed to help host neighborhood jazz story circles and listening parties in the community, school and home.

1. Identify jazz venues to:

- Identify jazz listeners and patrons – marketing and communication

2. Identify musical genre or theme:

- **Story Circle:** Focus on personal, live storytelling where participants share their own experiences based on a shared theme and its community connection.
- **Listening Party:** Play pre-recorded stories or songs for participants to listen to together, followed by a discussion about their significance.

3. Determine space and size:

For hosting a story circle or listening party, consider the following:

- **Small Groups:** Allows for more intimate conversations and ensures that everyone has enough time to share their stories and participate in activities.
- **Large Groups:** Consider hosting a dance or a silent disco listening party (a community center or library).

4. Communication:

- Utilize newsletters, signs, and community bulletin boards as effective means of communication.

5. Inclusivity:

- Ensure that everyone feels welcome and that the space is accessible and relatable.

6. Time frame:

- Set time limits and promote active listening and engagement to foster productive discussions.