

Strategies to Ensure Success During Initial Conversations and First Meetings

- Find a good relationship broker who has a longstanding relationship with the constituencies you seek to engage. You can work via different brokers as you work to set up meetings with members of each constituency. Ask for help to establish the first meeting and to lock in input.
- State your intentions up front in the invitation emails ahead of your first meetings. Ensure that the topic and approach you lay out is accessible and relevant. Remain consistent by restating these intentions at the start of your meeting in the same language.
- Set up follow up meetings as necessary between project lead(s) and your growing community of partners, allies and supporters.
- Track progress of partner engagement and any other efforts to bring people to the table.
- Provide “care and feeding” for all relationships, new and past, to ensure that all partners are kept abreast of your progress and ways they can contribute.
- Create a public-facing library, file cabinet and toolkit to share with other movement groups, and local governments
 - Gather, organize, annotate, and archive relevant documents and writing with an emphasis on collective agreements, strategic plans, and other results of past multi-stakeholder agreements and deliberation processes