A TOOLKIT TO HELP YOU HOST A WORLD CAFÉ INSPIRED DIALOGUE

Dear Advocate,

Thank you for your interest in using American Revolutionary: The Evolution of Grace Lee Boggs to bring together social justice activists with the goal of sparking cross-issue collaborations. When I first met Grace Lee Boggs in 2000, I was struck by her power to connect people and ideas across disparate realms and I’m so pleased to see this film is playing a part in inspiring that too.

I made American Revolutionary with the hope that it would help serve as a catalyst for activists and advocates like yourselves to initiate the kinds of conversations and thoughtful actions that Grace Lee Boggs has worked to engage in all her life. American Revolutionary had its broadcast premiere to a national audience on June 30th, 2014 on PBS. Thanks to the help of Active Voice, the World Café, The Whitman Institute, POV, the Knight Foundation and the James and Grace Lee Boggs Center, the film has been screened in dozens of cities—it may be that yours will soon be added to that growing list. As Grace Lee Boggs says in the film, "I don't know what the next American revolution will be, but you might be able to imagine it if your imagination is rich enough." We hope that you and your colleagues can use the film to help spark your own imaginations about the work being done in your communities.

I hope you will find this toolkit useful in designing a screening and subsequent conversation to connect with like-minded activists and advocates with whom you might not typically cross paths. Please do keep in touch with me on any work you may be planning. I’d love to be of support in any way I can.

Sincerely,
Grace Lee, Director
American Revolutionary: The Evolution of Grace Lee Boggs

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ABOUT THE FILM

American Revolutionary: The Evolution of Grace Lee Boggs tells the story of a 98-year-old Chinese American activist in Detroit whose vision of social change has inspired generations. A writer, activist, and philosopher rooted for more than 70 years in the African American movement, she has devoted her life to developing an understanding of “revolution” that brings together the contradictions of America’s past and its potentially radical and hopeful future. This film plunges us into Boggs’s lifetime of vital thinking and action, traversing the major U.S. social movements of the last century—from labor to civil rights, to Black Power, feminism, Asian American, environmental justice movements, and beyond.

To learn more about American Revolutionary and how to organize your own screening, visit: www.americanrevolutionaryfilm.com/screenings.

“Our ideas come out of conversation, and we don’t recognize that...our stories are basically the dialogues that we carry on with one another as we sort of begin looking at the past and future together.”

—Grace Lee Boggs

ABOUT THE TOOLKIT

This toolkit is designed for activists and advocates interested in organizing a dialogue-based film screening of American Revolutionary: The Evolution of Grace Lee Boggs. In the summer of 2014, Active Voice collaborated with the World Café (TWC) to conduct several dialogue-based pilot events with the film. Our goal was to develop an event design that brings forth the best of both this beautiful story and a tried-and-true dialogue process in a single event. As you may know, Ms. Boggs believes dialogue and conversation are central tenets to sustainable change and social action. Dialogue offers an opportunity for people to take a step back and reflect collaboratively on the overarching connections and trends that
exist in the work they commit to every day, inviting constant inquiry and inspiring creative action toward sustainable impact. By pairing a screening of this film with collaborative dialogue, our hope is that you too can create a powerful event in your community, connecting activists and advocates across issues and sectors.

This toolkit offers a step-by-step guide to best practices, based on the key lessons we learned in the pilots that will enable you to organize your own dialogue-based film screening with success! It’s designed so you can customize your event around your own specific needs, objectives, and community context. The toolkit introduces preliminary planning prompts to consider before you dive in (pg. 4), tips for both choosing the right venue (pg. 6) and setting it up (pg. 7). It offers a sample agenda that you can adapt for your event (pg. 9), as well as suggestions for how to design your dialogue questions to meet your specific needs (pg. 10) and it presents tips for World Café hosts (pg. 12). You’ll also find a Resources section (pg. 15) at the back of the toolkit that highlights how to access key books and speeches featured in American Revolutionary. Finally, there are a series of useful tools in the Appendix to make your preparations as easy as possible, including a logistics checklist and flyer template.

Use this toolkit to create an event of suitable size and atmosphere that feels right for your organization or community. Unlike the traditional TWC model (see insert to the right), the recommendations offered here are for a shorter dialogue. Should you be interested in designing a longer event or a sustained dialogue series, you can use the toolkit agenda as a template and adjust accordingly. We also recommend you take advantage of the information listed in the Resources and Suggested Reading section (pg. 14), such as World Café To Go and the award-winning book The World Café: Shaping Our Futures through Conversations that Matter, by Juanita Brown, David Isaacs, and the World Café community.

Why the World Café?
The World Café is a powerful social technology for engaging people in conversations that matter, offering an effective antidote to the fast-paced fragmentation and lack of connection in today’s world. Based on the understanding that conversation is the core process that drives personal, business, and organizational life, the World Café is more than a method, a process, or technique—it’s a way of thinking and being together sourced in a philosophy of conversational leadership. For more on the World Café, visit: www.theworldcafe.com.
DESIGNING A DIALOGUE-BASED FILM SCREENING

Preliminary Planning

Getting clear on exactly what you hope to get out of your dialogue-based film screening is an important first step in planning for success! Here are a few questions to consider as you get started:

1. **Why does a dialogue-based film screening of American Revolutionary sound appealing to you?**
   It is reasonable to expect this particular style of event can help with the following:
   - Generate creative ideas
   - Support critical thinking
   - Rejuvenate and inspire attendees in their activism
   - Spark cross-issue connections
   But if you want to do more, you can also design your event to support further social action with a little bit of extra planning. For example:
   - **Sustained dialogue**—Bill your screening as a dialogue series “kick-off.” Make sure your participants know when and where the next set of dialogues will be. Use the information from the “Harvest” (see pg. 12) at the “kick-off” event to design your next set of questions.
   - **Targeted activities**—These may emerge organically from the dialogue or you might consider introducing an issue or local problem as the focus for the event and tailor your “Harvest” around that. If this interests you, consider the question below.

2. **What pressing local needs would benefit from a screening and dialogue event like this?**
   Consider the following themes covered in the film to prime your thinking:
   - Identity and race
   - Movement-building
   - Urban renewal
   - Community
   - Conversation-as-action
   - Inter-generational learning
   - Economic and social justice
   - Women’s rights
   - Personal transformation
   - Waning activism

**Pro-Tip: Keep it Simple**
Remember, it’s fine to keep it simple. Your event doesn’t have to do it all for it to be a useful step toward long-term change. The most important thing is that you work within your means. While big community events can be exciting, sometimes a smaller more strategic event can be just as powerful, if not more powerful! Get clear on what’s possible now in the context of this event and how it fits into your long-term vision. That’s all you need to ensure you’re on your way!
Whatever you do, you’ll want to be clear with your audience about the intention for the event and the follow-up! You may also find the event sparks some unintended outcomes; for example, your event may generate unexpected interest among some participants to create a task force to tackle an issue or support for a local initiative. Be ready to help carry forward whatever an event as generative as this one could inspire. This could be as simple as an announcement following the event indicating to participants how they can get involved, offering a meeting room, and other in-kind support—or as involved as volunteering to spearhead the activity, action, or vision. The key is to make sure you are prepared in advance to channel the interest and enthusiasm productively.

3. **Who in your community is doing work that is related to your focus or the cross-section of issues that matter most to you?**

*American Revolutionary* is a story that resonates strongly with people who are working for social justice because it invites viewers to walk in the shoes of a revolutionary with a deep and rich history in movement-building and social action. So it is a great opportunity to pull people out of their day-to-day activities to participate in a broader conversation. If there are people, groups, or organizations in your community you’ve been hoping to connect with and who you think would value a chance to participate in something like this, now is the time to contact them! In some instances, the relationships you seed at these events have the potential to grow into long-term alliances with just a little bit of work.

Here are a few examples, pulled from the themes above, of the types of organizations you might find that are doing relevant work locally:

- **Intergenerational learning**—Boys and Girls Clubs, YMCAs, Big Brothers, Big Sisters, senior centers, universities, and high schools
- **Identity and Race**—ACLU affiliates, criminal defense lawyers, immigrant rights groups, and culture-based organizations
- **Women’s rights**—Planned Parenthood affiliates, National Organization of Women, women’s shelters and service providers

Remember, there is also great power in inviting community members who have not previously been involved in social action because the film’s storyline is both inspirational and accessible to all audiences.
4. What role should my partners play?

Identifying relevant partners or co-sponsors for your event is essential. They will help to ensure you are engaging the audiences most critical to the dialogue you’re hoping to have. A partner’s involvement can range depending on your needs and your partner’s interest and capacity. For example, at the very least, an outreach partner can help by spreading the word about the event through their listservs or websites. While this is incredibly important, more substantive collaboration around your event can be even more fruitful, leading to new lessons and ideas around how to creatively use the event to address shared concerns, knowledgably address issues you are less familiar with, sensitively engage new audiences, and seed ideas for sustained impact. So invite representatives from these organizations to get involved in planning early on. This will both help to shape the event in productive ways while also ensuring that partner’s commitment to the process and outcomes.

Choosing the Right Venue

There are various things to consider as you proceed with your event. Chief among them is what to look for in the ideal venue. Here are a few things to take into account:

- **Seating Arrangement**—For TWC dialogues, small round tables are ideal but not mandatory. Tables are best set up informally, with no more than five chairs at each table (four is preferable) to allow for participants to engage each other around a table. A conventional movie theatre is not ideal (see “Setting Up” on pg. 7).

- **Size**—Identify a space that is big enough to accommodate your anticipated audience size and your budget constraints. Some low-cost ideas might include: community center, school meeting space, or church social hall.

- **Accessibility**—Consider your target audience and whether or not your venue of choice is in a location they can easily access. If not, it may not be the best choice. Also consider:
  - Is it a neutral space?
  - Is it inclusive and community-oriented?
  - Is it convenient, that is, close to public transportation?
  - Is there parking available?

- **A/V equipment**—Does the space have suitable screening and audio equipment available? If any of the below are missing, additional planning and arrangements will be necessary.
  - Screen (or white wall)
  - Projector or relevant media player

**Pro-Tip: Size Matters!**

We recommend keeping the audience to no more than 50 attendees and no less than 30. This is the ideal size because it is small enough to create a bit of intimacy in between attendees—as each will have an opportunity to meet anywhere from 25-50% of the other participants by the end of the night—and yet it is also large enough to allow participants to draw from a multiplicity of perspectives! If you are planning to hold a longer dialogue, it is fine to increase attendance. Just remember that creating a sense of familiarity takes time—the more people in the room, the more time required.
THE NUTS AND BOLTS

The following screening and dialogue format presents an abbreviated version of a traditional TWC dialogue (a traditional TWC runs between 2-3 hours, not including a film screening). The difference with this version is that the number of rounds and timing of each have been shortened to make room for both an American Revolutionary film screening and a dialogue—all within a 3.5 hour time period. This adapted TWC dialogue is the primary focus of this toolkit, presuming that most organizations may not have the time or resources to devote an entire day to the traditional TWC process (but we suspect after one night of deep dialogue, you may reconsider)! Should you find that you want to host a follow-up dialogue, you can use the agenda (on pg. 9) as a template, elongating both the number of rounds and their length accordingly to fit your desired timeframe.

Setting-Up

This section outlines some basic set up suggestions that will support a TWC-inspired screening and dialogue event. Remember these are only recommendations, however if you decide to forgo a few of the items listed, just be sure you’ve accounted for their absence in your agenda and related planning. Above all, we want to make sure this dialogue serves your organization’s needs.

- Hang two pieces of large butcher (or white mural) paper (both available in most art supply stores) in a central location and title one “Harvest Wall” and the other “Connection Wall.” A corkboard or white board can be used alternatively as well.
- Set up tables so there is enough room to walk around them and so the walls are visible.
- Set up enough tables and chairs to accommodate four or five per table only. (While four chairs per table is ideal, space limitations will determine what is possible or realistic.)
- Put a copy of the World Café Guidelines Graphic on each table (see pg. 18).
- Put butcher paper (or chart pad paper), markers and 4”x6” stickies on each table.
- Prep wall, easel/flipchart, or PowerPoint slide with dialogue prompts so they can be seen all.
- Play café-type music in the background as people arrive (you can decide if background music would be helpful or distracting during the World Café dialogue itself).

Basic Supplies

- Pack of marking pens (for questions, posters, “Harvest Wall”, rainbow color selection suggested)
- Poster board and/or butcher and/or chart pad paper
- Flipchart and easel (or wall space) or PowerPoint (to present the dialogue questions)
Tape (for posting on walls, painters tape is suggested)
4x6” (or 5x8”) stickies (for participants to post their responses to the questions)
Colored markers (smaller doodle markers with points for tables, enough for 4-8 at each table)
Bell or some other sound device (of choice for ending Café rounds)
Music source (for ambiance)
Appropriate play list (for ambiance)
Snacks and refreshments, as appropriate
See A/V list above (on pg. 6)

Pre-Screening Tips

The film and dialogue rounds are the heart of this event. However there are various other considerations and event segments that are also important to keep in mind.

- **Nourish them!** As noted above, consider offering dinner or snacks, especially if your event is scheduled around a meal time. This is a long time for guests to sit with a grumbling belly, and you may lose them before the dialogue if you do not plan for this.

- **Get them there early!** Be sure to open doors a half hour before the official start of the event for people to arrive, get food, and settle in. In your invitation, remind people you’ll be serving food, and encourage them not to arrive late or they may miss out. This will help to get them there early. If you get food donated, be sure to give a shout-out to the caterer(s).

- **Welcome them!** Once everyone is settled, the lead organizer should welcome everyone, share what inspired the event, explain the flow of the event, and introduce the dialogue host.
Sample Agenda for a World Café-inspired Dialogue

Doors Open (20 mins)
- Guests arrive before official start to sign in, grab food, and get settled.
- Lead organization/co-sponsors welcome guests as they arrive.
- Lead organization/co-sponsors invite guests to sit next to people they haven’t worked with.

Welcome and Intro (8 mins)
- Lead organization/co-sponsor(s) offer an overview of intention and flow of event and introduce the film.
- Lead organization introduces World Café host.
- Café host says hello and invites people to stay for a stimulating conversation after the film.

Film Screening (82 mins)

Round 1: Dyads (5 mins)
- Café host welcomes guests, asks them to break into dyads (with whomever is near them who they know least).
- Guests respond to the Round 1 question (see pg. 10).

Intro to the Conversation (5 mins)
- Café host reminds the audience of the vision for the dialogue and introduces the guidelines (see pg. 18).
- Café host explains that the conversation will last an hour (with a 10-15 min. closing).

Round 2: Small Group Conversation (20 mins)
- Café host invites participants to stay at their current table and explore the next question with everyone at table
- Guests discuss the Round 2 question (see pg. 11).

Round 3: Small Group Conversation (20 mins)
- Café host invites guests to get up and sit with people they do not know and continue with the same question.
- As guests respond to the same questions from Round 2 with a new group of people, the Café host encourages them to listen for patterns, themes, and insights.

Round 4: The Harvest (15 mins)
- Café host invites each guest to take five minutes to respond to the “Harvest” question (see pg. 11) on a sticky pad, explains that all of the stickies will be collected on the “Harvest Wall”, and invites a few to stand and offer their insight to the room.
- After a few guests have presented their ideas to the room, the Café host invites them to place stickies that contain their written responses on the “Harvest Wall” (see pg. 12).

Closing & Lightning Mic: A Chance to Network (15 mins)
- Café host or lead organization offers closing reflections and, if applicable, invites attendees to an upcoming dialogue, meeting of relevance, or other follow-up action.
- Lead organization invites anyone in the room with a relevant announcement or desire to introduce themselves, offer services, and/ or make a request for support, to do so in 30 seconds during the “Lightening Mic.” This can also be done in the beginning of the event as a mixer, wherein the room meets one another.
- Lead organization should be the last speaker of the “Lightening Mic” and should direct participants to the sign-up sheets to stay in touch and to receive a report back from the “Harvest”.
Considerations at the Event

The sample agenda consists of a film screening, three rounds of dialogue, a “Harvest” process that gathers the collective wisdom of the room, and a chance to network (see pg. 9). Take a look and feel free to adapt it based on your needs. Some additional considerations follow below.

Building in More Opportunities to Connect

As you can see at the end of the agenda, including an additional 10-15 minute networking opportunity is a great way to conclude your event. While the dialogue allows for participants to be in-inquiry together, this networking portion will give them a chance to carry forward some of the creative ideas generated in other ways. It also gives a chance for anyone who may have burning ideas for further action a chance to present them. The exact structure of this can vary. For example:

- **Lightening Mic**—As featured in the agenda above, this is an ‘open-mic’ session where participants have 30 seconds to a minute to introduce themselves and invite other participants to get involved or carry the conversation forward.
- **Informal Mixer**—This is a way for participants to meet a number of participants, face-to-face. The Café host prompts everyone to greet someone new every minute, inviting them to present in 30 seconds what their work is focused on and how the other person can get involved.
- **Connection Wall**—As indicated in the “Setting Up” section above, your “Connection Wall” is a sheet of butcher paper, white mural paper, chart pads or a corkboard where people can post requests for support, details about upcoming actions, contact information, etc. This can also be organized by issue, with headers for different issues represented in the room.

“I think we have to get to that point that we are the leaders we’ve been looking for. One learns very soon that the changes we need are not going to come from the top by electing somebody else.”

—Grace Lee Boggs

**DESIGNING THE DIALOGUE QUESTIONS**

The key to a successful dialogue lies in the tone of the questions you craft. The suggestions below provide a starting point, but what’s true for one community may not be for another. There is no one right way to do it! The most important thing is that the questions align with your hopes for the event, resonate with your target audiences, and challenge them to think about their experience in a new way. So take a look at the below and pick or adapt a series of questions that work for you.

**Round 1: Dyads**

Immediately following the screening, we suggest inviting participants to turn to the person next to them and dive directly into a question that invites their immediate reactions to the film while the feelings are still fresh. Consider starting with a simple question.
For example:

- *Introduce yourself and what struck you about the film?*
- *What inspired, challenged, or surprised you in what you just saw?*

Note: Asking participants to turn to the person next to them—just as the lights go on—is a great way to engage them immediately and reduces the lag time that can sometimes open the door to early departures. Should you notice people prefer to speak in larger groups, allow for that to happen and don’t force anything that doesn’t feel right.

### Rounds 2 & 3: Small Group Question

Once the atmosphere of conversation has been established, it is time to deepen into the dialogue. For the second and third rounds, the Café host will ask participants to break into small groups of four or five at their tables or chair clusters. At the end of the first round, the group should pick a table host to stay while others spread out and travel to new tables/groups. Questions in both rounds will be the same, just discussed with different groups of people (see Tips for Café Host on pg. 13). The questions should help participants to make connections between their feelings and opinions associated with the film and the work they do in their community. For example:

- *How are these ideas and Boggs's vision relevant to your work/activism/efforts today?*
- *What about this story resonates for you, your work, your community?*
- *What would it really take to evolve together?*

### Round 4: Harvest Question

When it comes time to “Harvest” the information that has been cultivated in the room in the previous rounds, it is helpful to pose questions that allow attendees to share what they’ve learned and their interests for further exploration. For example:

- *What did the conversations we’ve just had spark you to think about or do moving forward?*
- *What feels unexplored in your life that Grace Lee Boggs’s story inspires you to explore?*
- *What actions (including collaborations or conversations) would you like to engage in after this event?*

### Other Considerations

In general, the questions above are designed to invite a diverse set of participants to remain in-inquiry around a series of broad and emerging questions. However, the questions can be reframed to invite more targeted reflection and to support the exploration of a specific issue. For example:

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**Pro-Tip: Further Reading**

Should you have the time and ability to design a full World Café dialogue we suggest reading *World Café To-Go* and *The Art of Powerful Questions* (referenced in the Appendix), which will give you further ideas for questions in this area. Generally, we encourage you to design questions that explore the intersection of the issues within the film and participants’ previous and current work.
• **Considering the current state of [insert specific issue] in our community, what conversation, if explored together in future gatherings, would make the biggest difference here?**

In addition, while this toolkit is designed to support a dialogue with a group of activists working on a cross-section of issues, it can also serve a community of activists who work within the same sector to dive deeper into inquiry with one-another around a specific issue. For example:

• **As a result of our experience working on [insert specific issue], what conversation, if explored together in future gatherings, would make the biggest difference to our community?**

### HARVESTING THE WISDOM

It is useful and often powerful to have participants share with the larger group about what was most alive in the small groups. In the World Café style, this is called the “Harvest.” It tends to represent the collective wisdom generated in the room through the various rounds of dialogue. It can therefore be both a useful assessment of what participants want to dialogue further about, as well as contribute to an understanding of what actions or activities should be prioritized locally (as well as who might have the resources to contribute to it). Therefore, at the end of your dialogue, organizing the “Harvest” and sharing it with attendees provides an immediate and powerful next step.

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Image: Word Cloud drawn from “Harvest” of the American Revolutionary pilot at Chicago’s Hull House. To create your own, visit: www.wordle.net

It is a good idea to follow up with attendees within a week of the event to help maintain the momentum you created while the event remains fresh in the participants’ minds. Use the opportunity to share
insights from the “Harvest” (see above image for a creative example), offer opportunities to get involved, and generally inspire further actions that are relevant. You might consider interactive ideas like hosting a “Tweet chat,” using Facebook or other platforms to post questions or create polls that invite further engagement, or post photos and video from the event and create buzz about the ideas generated (this can also happen in preparation for the event).

Remember to keep your partner organizations and groups in the loop too. Connect to their social media pages. And don’t forget about the American Revolutionary pages and partners!

- **American Revolutionary**
  @GLBoggsFilm
  #GLBoggsFilm
  www.facebook.com/americanrevolutionaryfilm

- **Active Voice**
  @active_voice
  #active_voice
  www.facebook.com/activevoices

- **The World Café**
  @TWCommunity

**TIPS FOR CAFÉ HOST**

World Café hosting evokes the warmth and friendliness expressed at a personal gathering. Making sure the Café host is prepared and confident in their role is key. The goal of the Café host is to maximize collective intelligence, welcome and listen to diverse viewpoints, encourage full participation and civility, and transform conflict into creative cooperation. As well, since TWC dialogues require so much movement around the room, the Café host must have a mind to managing the flow. In addition, the film American Revolutionary can be a catalyst for dialogue to help communities begin, or continue to think and talk through ways to collaborate more effectively.

In an ideal situation, you would bring in a trained dialogue facilitator or Café host with direct experience in hosting TWC dialogues or facilitating in other dialogue formats (the World Café can recommend an experienced host in your area, see the Resources section below). However, if your funding does not allow for this, you can seek out organizational partners with experience in dialogue hosting or facilitation, or request the involvement of an experienced TWC host who may be able to offer their services pro bono. If
none of these options work out, we suggest you identify someone who represents your community and has strong communication skills to serve as your dialogue host. In this case, it may be a good idea to consider keeping the event small as well. Lastly, we have provided basic hosting strategies to keep in mind.

Before the Event

- Watch the film at least once before you host the dialogue so you are aware of the major themes and your own “hot spots,” i.e., issues that evoke particularly strong emotions so you are better prepared to sensitively address other people’s “hot spots” and to create an environment where participants can listen with curiosity and attention and speak respectfully to each other.
- If you have the time, consider watching the film with a small group of people beforehand to see how they react; this will give you a sense of what you might anticipate from the conversation, as well as offering you insight into how best to frame the questions.

Just After the Film

- Immediately after viewing the film, give audience members a few moments to silently process their thoughts before directing them into dyads.
- After the dyads, establish the dialogue guidelines. See the World Café Guidelines graphic in the Appendix for some ideas.
- Remind participants that dialogue is about discovering together what is not already known, individually or by the group.
- Invite participants to speak from their heart and mind and to listen to understand.
- Encourage all participants to use the paper and pens to capture insights and images, rather than keep notes.

During the Dialogue

- Consider creative ways to host smooth transitions during table rotations, such as giving a specific amount of time to make the change (45 seconds) or a fun strategy to change seats (asking them to move five chairs to their right).
- During the small group dialogues, it is important to ask everyone to make notes and doodles on the tablecloths to help capture what is being said; this will help with the sharing of insights during the “Harvest”.
- At the “Harvest”, rather than the Café host making meaning for the group, the Café host can encourage participants to share what they are noticing and hearing in the room. Certainly, the Café host can reflect on trends and themes emerging, however it is more powerful when these insights come from the participants in the room.
RESOURCES AND SUGGESTED READING

Relevant Organizations

*The Art of Hosting* believes in an approach to leadership that scales up from the personal to the systemic using personal practice, dialogue, facilitation, and the co-creation of innovation to address complex challenges. They offer a large array of resources for those interested in hosting a World Café inspired dialogue on their website. [www.artofhosting.org](http://www.artofhosting.org)

*James and Grace Lee Boggs Center* honors the work of James and Grace Lee Boggs. The center focuses on leadership development. Its website includes updates on Grace Lee Boggs’ work, writing from others featured in the film (including Shea Howell, Scott Kurashige, and Stephen Ward) and links to articles that people at the Center are reading as they engage in the kind of dialectic thinking that Boggs embraces. [www.boggscenter.org](http://www.boggscenter.org)

*The World Café Community Foundation* supports the World Café website which provides materials, hosting guides, stories of Café’s around the globe, and information on learning programs as well as information on becoming “wiser together” through multi-generational collaboration for positive change. In addition, the global online community helps answer questions and provides informal support to those new to Café hosting. [www.theworldcafe.com](http://www.theworldcafe.com) and [www.theworldcafecommunity.org](http://www.theworldcafecommunity.org)

Further Reading About Dialogue


*World Café To Go* gives an overview on how to host a World Café dialogue for your group, organization or community. The document is available online for free at: [www.theworldcafe.com/pdfs/cafetogo.pdf](http://www.theworldcafe.com/pdfs/cafetogo.pdf)

For a list of experienced World Café dialogue hosts in your area, contact Amy Lenzo, [amy@theworldcafe.com](mailto:amy@theworldcafe.com). You can also join the World Café online community, [www.theworldcafecommunity.org](http://www.theworldcafecommunity.org), to connect with fellow World Café community members who may have experience hosting in your area.
**Texts Written by Grace Lee Boggs and James Boggs**

*The Next American Revolution: Sustainable Activism for the Twenty-First Century* by Grace Lee Boggs and Scott Kurashige presents a world dominated by America and driven by cheap oil, easy credit, and conspicuous consumption and unraveling before our eyes. In this powerful, deeply humanistic book, Grace Lee Boggs, a legendary figure in the struggle for justice in America, shrewdly assesses the current crisis—political, economical, and environmental—and shows how to create the radical social change we need to confront new realities. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2012.

*Living For Change: An Autobiography* by Grace Lee Boggs is a sweeping account of the life of an untraditional radical from the end of the thirties, through the cold war, the civil rights era, and the rise of Black Power, the Nation of Islam, and the Black Panthers to the present efforts to rebuild our crumbling urban communities. This fascinating autobiography traces the story of a woman who transcended class and racial boundaries to pursue her passionate belief in a better society. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1998.

*Conversations in Maine: Exploring Our Nation’s Future* by Grace Lee Boggs and James Boggs chronicles four seasoned activists as they discuss the challenges of creating social change in the U.S. The discussion focuses on the realization of a collective vision and social organization through art, class analysis, philosophy, and social strategy. Boston: South End Press, 1978.

*Revolution and Evolution in the Twentieth Century* by Grace Lee Boggs and James Boggs takes an in-depth look into the principal lessons of the world’s revolutions past and present, and draws comparisons between past global struggles, and the struggles facing America in the 1970s. Combining the principles of Marxism, Leninism, Maoism, and others, this title is a great introduction to Grace Lee Boggs’s philosophy. New York: Monthly Review Press, 1974.

**Further Reading Featured in American Revolutionary**

*Hegel and Marx: Introductory Lectures* by Elie Kedourie and Sylvia Kedourie is based on celebrated lectures at the London School of Economics, this is a sparkling introduction to the often difficult, sometimes opaque writings of Hegel and Marx. With characteristic eloquence and clarity, Kedourie provides an authoritative exposition of the contributions. Oxford, UK: Blackwell, 1995.

*The Autobiography of Malcolm X* by Alex Haley is an autobiography that recounts the life of Malcolm X from his traumatic childhood plagued by racism to his years as a drug dealer, his conversion to the Black Muslim sect (Nation of Islam) while in prison for burglary, his subsequent years of militant activism, and the turn late in his life to more orthodox Islam. New York: Ballantine Books, 1965.

Social Justice Speeches Appearing in American Revolutionary.

**The Ballot or the Bullet by Malcolm X.** This site provides the text of a speech given by Malcolm X in Detroit in 1964 that is referenced in the film.  
www.edchange.org/multicultural/speeches/malcolm_x_ballot.html

**Message to the Grassroots by Malcolm X.** This site provides an excerpt of the speech given by Malcolm X in Detroit in 1963 as part of the Grassroots Leadership Conference that Grace Lee Boggs helped organize, which is referenced in the film. www.csun.edu/~hcpas003/grassroots.html

**Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Global Freedom Struggle: Speech at the Great March on Detroit.** This site provides audio and text of King’s famous “I have a dream” speech, as given in Detroit at the rally that Boggs helped to organize and that took place just a few weeks prior to the famed 1963 March on Washington. www.mlk-kpp01.stanford.edu/index.php/kingpapers/index

For more reading selections, visit P.O.V’s Reading List:  
www.pbs.org/pov/americanrevolutionary/partner_toolkit.php
APPENDICES

APPENDIX I: World Café Guidelines
APPENDIX II: Logistics Checklist

Organizing a screening of American Revolutionary: The Evolution of Grace Lee Boggs is easy if you plan ahead! Not all the points below will be relevant to you if you’re planning a more intimate dialogue. But many are worth keeping in mind, no matter the size of your event. Take a look!

**Event design and partnerships – At least 8-12 weeks ahead**

- Recruit local partners to identify a shared vision for the event and broaden its reach, then help identify roles for each one (such as publicity, dialogue coordination, and reception planning).
- Determine event design and reach out to dialogue hosts, ideally World Café (TWC) hosts in the area.
- Adapt the sample agenda and design questions for your dialogue-based event. See Appendix and also refer to *The Art of Powerful Questions* for more on designing a successful TWC dialogue.

**Preliminary planning – 6-8 weeks ahead**

- Book the venue and date for your screening. Be sure to confirm all the basics: *Does the space have table-style or flexible seating? Is the screen big enough? Does the venue have a projector and adequate speaker system? Do you need mics, tables, and chairs? If so, do you have enough?*
- Hold planning call with main partners to go over the agenda, finalize it, and address questions.

**Promotional planning and initial outreach – 4-5 weeks ahead**

- Create and send outreach materials such as a flyer or email blast.
- Coordinate with relevant partners to get the word out electronically (Facebook, Twitter, etc.). Make sure to include a contact, your website, and RSVP information (if applicable).

**Other logistics – 3-4 weeks ahead**

- Check all of your equipment with the DVD or other media format you’ll be using for your event.
- Identify supplies and materials needed for TWC dialogue (paper, post-its, markers, etc.)
- Secure food and refreshments, highly encouraged for World Café-styled dialogue events.

**Final planning – 1 week to several days prior**

- Test screen your event equipment one last time to make sure there aren’t any glitches.
- Follow up with promotional partners and co-sponsors. Send a reminder email blast.
- Make copies of handouts to distribute at the event. Print out a sign-up sheet for follow-up.
- Confirm all details with event staff (caterer, venue, IT, etc).

**At the event itself**

- Conduct the set-up early and gather TWC hosts and event planners at least 45 minutes prior to event for last minute questions.
- As people arrive, ask them to sign up to receive updates from your organization.
- Have a timekeeper so that dialogue remains on schedule.
- Announce next steps or point to the materials available for attendees to follow up.
- Take photos!

**After your screening**

- Follow up with audience members and invite them to future meetings and events. Send a “Harvest” report and follow-up invitations if appropriate.
- Upload your event photos and connect with new fans on social media! *American Revolutionary on Facebook, American Revolutionary on Twitter, American Revolutionary on Instagram*
Join us on [xx] for a screening of the film *American Revolutionary* followed by a World Café inspired dialogue immediately after the film. This event is designed to bring together social justice activists across issues to discuss high priority needs and develop collaborative plans for action that will inspire immediate next steps to continue the conversation.

*American Revolutionary: The Evolution of Grace Lee Boggs*, tells the story of Grace Lee Boggs, a 98-year-old Chinese American woman in Detroit. Her vision of revolution will surprise you. A writer, activist, and philosopher rooted for more than 70 years in the African American movement, she has devoted her life to an evolving revolution that encompasses the contradictions of America’s past and its potentially radical and hopeful future.  

www.americanrevolutionaryfilm.com

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About Active Voice: Active Voice is a team of communications experts who specialize in working with powerful films to advance movements for social change. We believe that talented filmmakers and storytellers are as important to social change as policy makers, grassroots organizers, researchers, funders, and issue leaders. Since 2001, Active Voice has been working within this Ecosystem of Change to identify a film’s unique qualities to support movement building, and then help communities, networks, and organizations make the most of that narrative power to advance real, measurable change. www.activevoice.net

About the World Café: The World Café’s mission is to transform the world through convening and supporting collaborative conversation world-wide. Based on the understanding that conversation is the core process that drives personal, business, and organizational life, the World Café is more than a method, a process, or technique - it's a way of thinking and being together sourced in a philosophy of conversational leadership. www.theworldcafe.com

Special thanks to Oakland Asian Cultural Center and The Greenlining Institute in the Bay Area of California. Hull House in Chicago, Illinois and The Malcolm X and Betty Davis Shabazz Center in New York, New York. Should you have any interest in hosting a dialogue-based film screening in any of these cities, we recommend reaching out to these organizations for any tips as they have all hosted their own events using the strategies set forth in this toolkit.

~

“So many institutions of our society need reinventing. The time has come for a new dream. That’s what being a revolutionary is. I don’t know what the next American revolution is going to be like, but you might be able to imagine it if your imagination were rich enough.”

–Grace Lee Boggs

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