



Picnic tables are an iconic representation of people gathering for hospitality, for food, to take time to sit and hear each other's stories.

OVERVIEW

Tri-Faith Initiative utilizes art as a vehicle to inspire participation and public discussion on social issues and core values. Tri-Faith Initiative is accepting submissions from creatives for the public art initiative “To-Gather”. Teams will be Architect led and are encouraged to include an artist as well as contractor and/or fabricator. It is intended that each team will self-sponsor their project. If a team cannot self-sponsor their own project, Tri-Faith can provide a stipend to assist.

Submissions should encourage conversation around religious diversity and bridging difference.

PROJECT PARTICIPANTS WILL BE ASKED TO:

We invite architectural teams to submit a “To-Gather” picnic table design proposal for a table to be placed in a public site with the intention to cultivate gathering, sharing stories, food, and collaboration. (Locations to be determined)

1. Submit design compliance to all maintenance, safety, and load-bearing specifications as provided.
2. Design, fabricate and install as outlined at April 15 Informational call.
 - One table and benches to seat approximately 8-12 people (roughly 5’wide x 12’long)
 - Specify table foundation preference:
 - 12’ x 15’ concrete pad
 - (4) 24” diameter footings
3. (Optional) Apply for a stipend. Stipends may vary depending upon need, ranging from \$2,500-\$5,000.

WHY PICNIC TABLES

The basic features of an iconic American picnic table are similar yet distinguishable by the details. In the differences, we notice the table's essence-- the aspects that make it both unique and familiar. Religious pluralism honors space for both the unique and the familiar. The picnic table compels us to face one another squarely across a shared surface. The form — a structurally sturdy frame that unites bench seats and table — has remained largely unchanged since the 1930s. Picnic tables are a place we come together to share food, stories, and a sense of community. Like the Tri-Faith Commons, the picnic table is a symbol of a place where we can build relationships and trust across lines of difference.

PROJECT TIMELINE

- ❑ MAY 21: Architecture firms notified of site assignment.
- ❑ JUNE 11: Deadline for submitting construction and design drawings for sculptural picnic tables, plus specifications for any footings/foundations to review committee. Submit signed agreement confirming design with Tri-Faith and nonprofit partner.
- ❑ JUNE 25: Progress report due to review committee, outlining construction team, proposed timeline and schedule for construction and installation between June 25 - July 30. Teams will receive up to \$5,000 to subsidize the construction and design costs of their sculptural picnic tables, including footing and foundations.
- ❑ JULY 19-30: Teams install tables at assigned sites, including any footings/foundations.
- ❑ JULY 19-AUGUST 1: To-Gather PR Campaign.
- ❑ AUGUST 1: Public dedication part of Tri-Faith Picnic on the Commons.

ABOUT TRI-FAITH INITIATIVE

MISSION

Inspired by the faith of Jewish, Christian, and Muslim communities, we cultivate inclusive environments to advance interfaith relationships and understanding.

VISION

Be a best practice model, resource, and trainer for successful interfaith relationships and understanding.

WHO WE ARE

Tri-Faith Initiative brings together in permanent residency a synagogue, church, mosque, and interfaith center on one 38-acre campus in America's heartland. From this intentionally built, religiously diverse space in Omaha, we bridge divides among three faith communities, neighbors throughout our larger local community, and, increasingly, people across the U.S. and around the world. Since 2006, we've been imagining and growing an unprecedented interfaith initiative that transforms lives and communities. We have a big vision for expanding what Tri-Faith can do to meet the need. Through our 2020 Strategic Plan, Tri-Faith Initiative will create a more inclusive culture in which religious pluralism is the social norm.

ABOUT TRI-FAITH

Tri-Faith Initiative is a unique and ambitious project in the field of interfaith relations in its design, scale, and scope. The Tri-Faith Commons is located at 132nd and Pacific in Omaha, Nebraska. In 2020, the Tri-Faith Center, headquarters for Tri-Faith Initiative, joined Temple Israel, Countryside Community Church, and the American Muslim Institute as the final building on the Commons. The Tri-Faith Center is a physical place where we do not just talk about how good it would be if we were in harmony with each other -- instead, we gather both virtually and in-person to practice the act of listening.

For more about Tri-Faith Initiative, visit:

Trifaith.org