In summer of 2021 TH Media/Telegraph Herald partnered with the Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque and the Dubuque Museum of Art to host a community conversation around a mural (located on a building across the street from the paper and commissioned by the museum) exploring what it means to be a person of color in our community. In spite of a tornado warning(!) just 90 minutes before the planned outdoor event, more than 100 people jammed the museum for a great conversation with a local panel.

Many people asked us to do a follow-up event and, after many months of research and planning, TH Media worked with the Community Foundation to put together a seven-part series of community conversations around diversity, equity and inclusion on the topics of 1) housing, 2) workforce 3) education 4) arts and culture 5) health and wellness 6) safe neighborhoods and 7) transportation.

Seven local businesses were asked to financially support the event series and all seven agreed, due in part to the significant impact these topics have on workforce issues.

All events included panel experts and were moderated by a TH editor along with another key official. They were held in a space that was a former church that has been converted to a community center and is located in an area of town well known, accessible and comfortable to many of those affected by those issues. Attendance ranged anywhere from 50 to 150+ for each of the sessions.

We provided free food and urged people to connect with others. At the end of each session we, identified key takeaways and potential action items, and the results from the Community Equity Profile were presented at a "Data Walk" in May 2023.

This has resulted in many interest groups continuing to address the various topics, including the Community Foundation building a "Better Together" initiative to address welcoming immigrants into the community and helping them attain the language and other skills needed to be successful.

The newspaper is proud of the leadership and facilitation role we played (and continue to play) in the awareness and solutions-based journalism in this area. We plan to continue our leadership to grow the community (and workforce), in partnership with others, toward these important topics.