



1.Q. 1. What is one of your favorite FreeIC memories to this point?

1.A. One of my favorite memories of FreeIC took place at one of our outings in San Francisco in 2018. One of our participants was a lesbian mother with an adopted son. When we went through our normal debrief at the end of the outing, she shared she was having a difficult time connecting with her son recently and that during the event, she met an adopted son who had a lesbian mother. After they met, they had spoken on such an empathetic level that they actually left the park and spent the entire time speaking before returning for the end of the event.

It is one of my favorite memories because while the overarching goal of FreeIC is to facilitate meaningful conversations among and within our communities, even we could not have predicted that we could potentially help on such a personal level for some people.

2.Q. What motivated you to be actively involved with FreeIC?

2.A. I approach this question in two ways: why I was (and still am!) interested in FreeIC and why I decided to become actively involved.

My interest in FreeIC stems from a personal hypothesis that fundamentally, everyone has a story that is worth sharing and owning. While I certainly can understand how that could be interpreted as provocative or presumptuous, what I truly mean is I believe people often discount or undercut the significance of their personal journey and the experiences they have gone through, mainly because I used to myself. It's a realization that emerged because I learned early I knew so little about life and there was so much to learn from others, especially those from dissimilar backgrounds.

I decided to get involved because when I met Kyle initially, I was genuinely curious. I had just participated in two hours of conversations with strangers in a park and there was a quiet thrill about it that compelled me to ask Kyle if I could help to spread the movement in Portland, OR, which is where I lived at the time.

3. Q. Why are you excited about FreelC partnering up with Rotary International?

3.A. I am beyond excited with this partnership because so much of FREEIC's vision aligns almost perfectly with Rotary International's. As an idealist, I hold immense hope that through conversation, folks who otherwise would never have met will be able to meet, speak, and ultimately learn from one another.

Through conversation, our aim is to create a space for respectful dialogue, celebrate individual differences, and to help communities rediscover the value of a face-to-face conversation. I firmly believe that eventually, community is inevitable and understanding the perspectives and experiences of others will both combine to serve as the bridge for that.

Partnering with Rotary Int'l is an opportunity to bring the spirit and vision FreelC to the global community

4.Q. What is one thing you are looking forward to experiencing in Hamburg, Germany?

4.A. I look forward to meeting and learning from Rotarians. Also, I can't go home without having a few döners and some currywurst.

5.Q. Ideally, what do you hope that FreelC accomplishes in Germany?

5.A. If we are able to communicate the vision, have people participate in an event, and inspire a few Rotarians to begin hosting events in their local communities and cities, then I think we will have succeeded.