

HmongTown Marketplace: Advocate Reflection Guide

As you explore, shop, and dine together, let these questions guide your observations and conversations. Tomorrow's reflection will build on these insights.

Community & Place-Making

Notice: How does this space create belonging? What makes this feel like "home" for the Hmong community?

Connect to your work: What spaces does your community need to thrive? How do policy decisions impact community gathering places?

Economic Justice

Observe: The range of businesses—restaurants, herbal medicine, textiles. What stories of entrepreneurship and resilience do you see?

Advocacy connection: How do your policy priorities impact immigrant entrepreneurs? What barriers might they face?

Food Systems & Health

While sharing meals: What traditional foods, herbs, or healing practices do you encounter? How does food bring people together across differences?

For your work: How do your health policies account for diverse cultural practices and traditional knowledge?

Language & Access

Pay attention to: How many languages do you hear? How do people navigate multilingual conversations and support each other?

Reflect: How accessible are your materials and meetings to non-English speakers? What would truly multilingual advocacy look like?

Intergenerational Wisdom

Notice interactions: Between older and younger generations—what knowledge is being passed down? How do traditions adapt?

Consider: How does your advocacy honor both tradition and innovation? What can you learn about long-term resilience?

Power & Representation

Consider: Whose voices are centered here? How does this community tell its own stories rather than being spoken about?

For advocacy: How can your work better amplify community self-determination? Whose voices are missing from your policy conversations?

Coalition Building Opportunities

During dinner conversations: What common values emerge across different backgrounds at your table? What unexpected connections arise?

Strategic thinking: How might deeper cultural understanding strengthen your advocacy coalitions?

Conversation Starters for Your Table

- "What brought you to advocacy work in the first place?"
- "How does your background inform your approach to social change?"
- "What's one thing outsiders often misunderstand about your community?"
- "How do you balance honoring tradition while pushing for change?"

Before You Leave, Consider:

- What will you remember most? Why?
- What question do you want to continue exploring?
- How might this experience change your advocacy approach?
- What relationship from tonight do you want to maintain?

Tomorrow's reflection will help you process these cultural insights alongside your formal learning from today's sessions.