



ONE SMALL STEP
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Field Manager

Jim Morgan

Community Curator

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ONE SMALL STEP

TakeOneSmallStep.org

2 Strangers
Different Views
50 Minutes
Facilitated Conversation
Virtual or In-Person

Not to debate,
but to discover the
humanity in us all.

What is One Small Step?

takeonesmallstep.org



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Take One Small Step, Richmond

One Small Step brings strangers with different political views together to record a 50-minute facilitated conversation—not to debate politics, but to learn more about who we are as people. Created by StoryCorps, **One Small Step** is an effort to remind the country of the humanity in all of us—even those with whom we disagree.

One Small Step is currently focused in **Richmond, VA** and a few other communities across the country, where we are working closely with community partners and civic leaders to showcase the potential of the initiative. To participate, **apply to be matched**. If you'd like more information before applying, visit **FAQs about One Small Step**.

Sign up to participate



Where on this scale would you place your thinking on social issues?*



I prefer not to place myself on this scale

- Politics & Beliefs
- Your Life
- Demographics
- Contact Info
- Confirmation

In-Person



Virtual Studio



How does it work?

takeonesmallstep.org

Perception Gap

9 out of 10 people believe we are more divided than ever

- We are less *ideologically* polarized than we think
- Instead, we are more *emotionally* polarized
- Misperception is greatest for politically engaged

<https://storycorps.org/how-we-can-overcome-fear-of-the-other-side/>
<https://www.moreincommon.com/>
<https://carnegieendowment.org/research>

Contact Theory (Hypothesis)

Origin: Gordon Allport 1950's - studied through today

- Reduces anxiety and bias
- Increases empathy and perspective taking
- Changes how we categorize others
- Fosters bonds and discovery of common goals

<https://www.simplypsychology.org/contact-hypothesis.html>

<https://storycorps.org/the-science-behind-one-small-step/>



Richmond One Small Step Conversation Sample

PlanRVA

Where the region comes together to look ahead.



Why are we here today?



Over 4,000+
Nationwide
Participants

Model Communities

Richmond

- Significant Growth
- Demographic Diversity
- Reconciling with History
- Politically Purple

Over 500+
Richmond
Conversations

Why Richmond?



Richmond  **'s**

ONE
SMALL
STEP

TakeOneSmallStep.org

LIBRARY 
OF VIRGINIA

VPM  



VIRGINIANS
FOR
RECONCILIATION

HUNTON
ANDREWS KURTH

Firms in Service


LEADERSHIP METRO RICHMOND

University
of Mary
Washington

 **TRINITY**
EPISCOPAL SCHOOL

ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Goochland, Virginia



OUTREACH & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
RICHMOND CENTER
VIRGINIA TECH.



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Second Step Events:

Coffee and Conversations

Mending Walls Mural Tour

Befriend Walk and Talk



What is a core value or belief you think most people would agree on despite their differences? Why?



One Small Step Richmond



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HOW TO TAKE THE NEXT STEP:

Participation:

- Sign up to participate in a One Small Step conversion by using this [special PlanRVA link](#). Using this specific link puts you in an exclusive pool where we can prioritize you for our next in-person recording event or a virtual conversation. Feel free to share this link with community members, friends, and family.

Partnership:

- Refer One Small Step to your local community leaders and organizations to learn more about a cost-free partnership to help us recruit participants and/or host a recording event. Contact Email: Jim Morgan, Richmond Field Coordinator at jmorgan@storycorps.org

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END OF PRESENTATION