HOW IT WORKS

Bring what *you know.*

Whatever its size or form, it belongs. You bring it, it stays yours, and it starts talking to everything else people carry, across places and years.

What We Carry is a knowledge commons, stewarded by Civic Designers and shaped by the communities in it. Communities gather what they know, understand it in their own hands, connect it with what others know, and act on it, on the way to the Gathering of Tables in fall 2028.

10 communities and **21** public collections are already here. There's room for yours.

FROM WHAT YOU CARRY TO WHAT IT CAN CHANGE

Four steps, *and you decide at every one.*

01

Bring it

In any form and any size: a phone recording, boxes of tapes, a mural, twenty years of meetings, in any language.

02

We sit down together

A real person from our team talks with you first. Your community gets its own room, under its own key, and we bring in what you have with you.

03

See what it holds

Human Thread offers a first pass on what each voice says and where voices meet. Your people check it and have the last word.

04

Put it to work

A meeting, a report back to the people who spoke, a lesson, a public page if you want one, and a seat at the Gathering of Tables in 2028.

WHERE YOU MIGHT START

Start *wherever you are.*

01

Something already underway

A campaign, a project or a gathering you have going. Bring what it's gathering.

02

Something new

Gather your community around the questions that matter to you. That's setting a Table.

03

Something you've already done

Recordings, songs, murals, research. Past work that still matters.

04

A few friends and a conversation

One question, a few people you trust, a phone on the table.

HOLDING A COLLECTION

Oral histories, a library's recordings, a story project

Twenty-one public collections already sit here beside the communities, each credited and linked to the original. Bring yours the same way: you choose what opens, every voice leads back to your collection, and the people in it can find others asking what they asked.

FUNDING OR PARTNERING

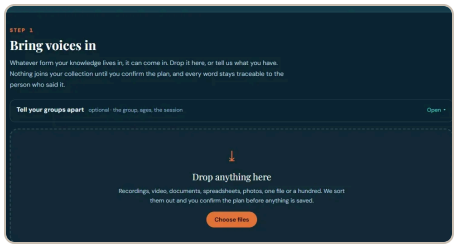
Strengthening democracy, one table at a time

Communities set their own tables, the tables come into conversation, and in 2028 they gather. Communities build power of their own, together, and what they know stays theirs. Start with the two-minute version.

THE TOOLS YOUR COMMUNITY GETS

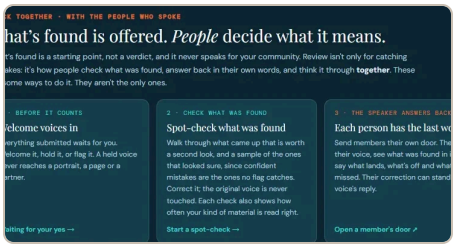
Human Thread, *with you the whole way*

Human Thread is the set of tools behind What We Carry. It sorts what comes in, offers a first pass on what people said, finds the threads between voices, and helps you make things with them: lessons, briefs, exhibits, social cards. There's no new software to learn first. We set it up with you.



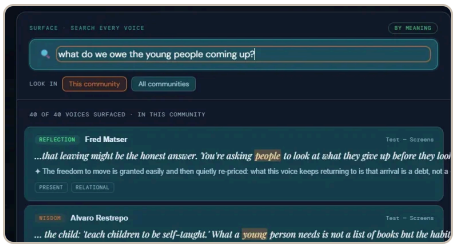
Your own room

Drop anything in. Nothing joins until you confirm.



A first pass, checked by people

What each voice says, offered for your people to confirm.



Find the threads

Ask in your own words and get people back, each with their name.

HOW WE KEEP IT YOURS

It stays *yours.* Always.

1 **You own it**

What you bring stays yours, in your own space, under your own key.

2 **Private until you choose**

Nothing shows anywhere until you say so, and you choose how much.

3 **Take it back any time**

Download everything, or take one voice back. Delete means delete.

4 **Never sold**

Never sold, and never used to train anyone else's models.

5 **Runs in our own system**

Human Thread's tools run on open models inside our own system, not someone else's.

6 **People have the last word**

The tools offer a first pass. What it means is for your people to say.

BEFORE YOU BRING ANYTHING

Do we have to go public, or set a Table?
No. Your community gets its own private space first, and nothing shows here unless you choose. The communities you see here chose to open up; others stay private until they're ready. A Table is one way to gather, never a requirement.

Who owns what we bring?
You do. It lives in your own space, under your own key. You can download all of it whenever you like, and delete means delete. It is never sold, and never used to train anyone else's models. Each community makes its own agreement with us, in writing, before anything comes in.

Will other communities see our knowledge?
Only what you choose to share, and only when you choose. Everything starts private. Connecting with another community is something you both agree to.

What does it cost?
We work that out with each community, and you're never signed up for anything automatically. No community should be priced out of holding its own knowledge.

What do you ask of us?
Three things. Honest feedback: tell us what works and what doesn't, and your answers change the tools. Your story, your words: we share how it went only in words you approve first. And one person who holds the key: someone in your group who holds your space and speaks for it. Nobody has to learn a new tool before you begin.

What happens after we reach out?
We talk first, about what you hope to learn and what you would do with it. Nothing gets set up until we have your yes. Then your space opens under your own key, and we bring in what you have with you. We sit down together to look at what came up, and you choose a first thing to do with it: a meeting, a report back to the people who spoke, a public page if you want one. That takes about a month, and we keep working alongside you after it.

What if what we have is songs, stories, or a pile of old recordings?
That's knowledge, and it belongs here. There's no standard to meet. The first Table is simply the first community in What We Carry. Every community sets its own measure.

ONE SEAT IS OPEN

Ready when you are.

Tell us what you carry. A real person from the Civic Designers team writes back, and nothing gets set up until we have your yes.

START A CONVERSATION

Set a Table: **tofv.org/table**

Write to us: **engage@civicdesigners.org**

See it all: **civicdesigners.org/fv**