



# UNDERSTANDING INCLUSIVITY PRACTICES AT “THIRD SPACES”

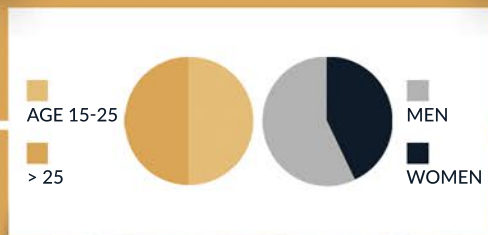
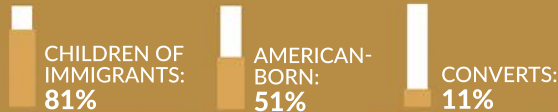
REIMAGINING MUSLIM SPACES

In recent years, the American Muslim community has witnessed the growth of a budding new religious and social institution: the Third Space.

## CASE STUDY: MakeSpace

Washington, D.C. area

### ATTENDEES AT A GLANCE:



## What is a “Third Space?”

A religious institution that seeks to strengthen bonds within a community while also imparting relevant religious understanding.



HOME

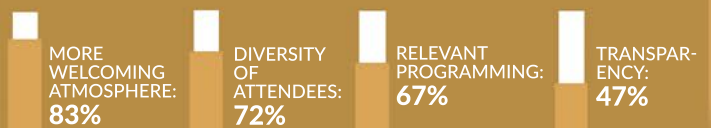


MOSQUE



“THIRD SPACE”

## What attracts people to MakeSpace?



## ISPU researchers asked: “How do Third Spaces establish inclusivity practices?”

### 1. Culture of Inclusion

HOW?

- Consistently communicating MakeSpace values at all levels of the organization
- Bringing together diverse individuals who prioritize inclusion
- Soliciting feedback from all individuals involved

### 2. Welcoming Atmosphere

MakeSpace achieves this by:

- A Content Committee ensures khutbahs, halaqas, and lectures reflect the vision of an inclusive and diverse community.
- Volunteer greeters and ushers wearing MakeSpace t-shirts welcome and assist attendees.
- Not criticizing attendees’ dress or requiring women to wear hijab.

### 3. Facilitating Friendships

WHY? Youth and convert engagement and assimilation depends on opportunities for making social bonds.

HOW? Through opportunities for attendees to:

- Volunteer
- Interact with the wider community
- Bond with others

### 4. Women’s Inclusion

Women’s inclusion should not be compartmentalized but achieved at all levels of the organization:

- On the board
- In decision-making
- In the organizational culture

### 5. Relevant Content

A majority (72%) of survey participants said they are attracted to MakeSpace because of its relevant programming.

MakeSpace defines “relevant content” as material that resonates with the needs, struggles, and values of American Muslims.

### 6. Effective Marketing

Social media and technology can be used to increase participation.

MakeSpace’s Juma’ah Rides app helps provide transportation to events.