

ENGINEERING PROXIMITY IN ACTION

*Proof of What Happens When We
Create the Conditions for Connection*

Love YOUR
NEIGHB[♥]R
PROJECT



Engineering Proximity is more than a philosophy.

It's the repeatable methodology Love Your Neighbor Project uses to recognize distance, design opportunities for connection, and strengthen the social fabric of our neighborhoods.

Every project begins with the same process: We follow the distance.

We observe.

We listen.

We design.

We connect.

The challenge changes.

The methodology does not.





The following examples demonstrate how this framework has guided our work across different moments, different needs, and different forms of community division.



CASE STUDY 01 | COVID-19



WHERE WE FOUND THE DISTANCE

The pandemic created unprecedented physical separation, uncertainty, and fear. Daily interactions disappeared almost overnight, leaving many neighbors isolated and unsure where to turn. Financial uncertainty left many families struggling to meet basic needs while also navigating an unfamiliar and frightening world.

WHAT WE OBSERVED

The greatest need wasn't only masks or hand sanitizer. It wasn't vaccine access. It wasn't activities to keep children busy. Those needs were real. But underneath them all was something even greater. Connection.

Our community needed trusted information, practical support, and visible reminders that no one had to navigate the moment alone.





ENGINEERING MOVE

Rather than responding with a single program, Love Your Neighbor Project designed multiple opportunities for neighbors to care for neighbors.

Protective equipment. Reliable information. Vaccine access. Virtual experiences. Resource sharing. Support for local businesses.

Each initiative looked different, yet was intentionally designed to reduce distance.

PROXIMITY CREATED

What began as an emergency response became community.

People who had never met became connected through acts of social goodness, care, and shared responsibility. Distance was reduced physically—and socially.





IMPACT SNAPSHOT

- Distributed more than 2,000 masks and 2,000 bottles of hand sanitizer
- Created Vaxapalooza, bringing vaccines directly into the community while providing local musicians one of their first opportunities to perform live again
- Developed Boredom Busters, connecting families with activities, toy exchanges, and local thrift store resources
- Hosted the community's first virtual trivia night, bringing more than 100 neighbors together during isolation
- Helped organize a fundraiser that raised more than \$70,000 for a beloved local business facing closure
- Across 18 projects, created the conditions to make connection over 1,500 times during a time of required separation





RESOURCES GENERATED

The relationships and trust established during the pandemic became the foundation from which Love Your Neighbor Project was founded and continued to grow, creating the capacity for future community initiatives.

ENGINEERING PRINCIPLE

Communities become resilient when neighbors become resources for one another.



CASE STUDY 02 | ROCK FOR LOVE PORCHFEST



WHERE WE FOUND THE DISTANCE

Following increasingly divisive local school board elections, neighbors who had once shared sidewalks and schools increasingly found themselves separated by disagreement and distrust.

WHAT WE OBSERVED

Our community didn't need another debate. It didn't need another Facebook community post. It needed another reason to gather.





ENGINEERING MOVE

Rather than creating another forum for discussion, we transformed streets into shared gathering spaces where music became the common language.

Every porch became an invitation.

Every performance became an opportunity to listen.

PROXIMITY CREATED

Music became common ground. Porches became gathering places. Organizations became collaborators. Neighbors rediscovered one another through shared experiences instead of shared opinions.





IMPACT SNAPSHOT

- Grew from approximately 400 attendees in 2022 to more than 1,000 by 2026
- Creates opportunities for musicians at every stage and every age—from first-time performers launching into the local scene to seasoned (and professional) fan faves
- Draws musicians and attendees from well beyond our local community, introducing new visitors to our neighborhood, local businesses, and the spirit of Sea Cliff
- Features over 100 musicians across a ten-hour neighborhood music festival
- Two families chose to relocate to our neighborhood after experiencing Porchfest
- Has generated more than \$70,000 to reinvest back into the community





RESOURCES GENERATED

Rock for Love Porchfest intentionally reinvests proceeds into future opportunities for connection, including:

- The Listening Project: Initiatives that teach how to listen to one another
- All You Need Is Love Scholarships & Grants: Students listening to their community
- Neighbors in Need: Neighbors listening to their neighbors
- Future Engineering Proximity initiatives

ENGINEERING PRINCIPLE

Shared experiences reduce distance faster than shared opinions.



CASE STUDY 03 | PRIDE STRIDE



WHERE WE FOUND THE DISTANCE

Increasing anti-LGBTQ+ rhetoric and incidents created fear, uncertainty, and isolation for many queer neighbors, their families, and allies.

WHAT WE OBSERVED

Our community needed more than statements of support. It needed visible belonging.





ENGINEERING MOVE

Pride Stride intentionally invites neighbors, families, schools, faith communities, businesses, elected officials, and local organizations to walk side by side through the heart of the neighborhood.

Support became something people could see—not simply something they could say.

PROXIMITY CREATED

Visibility became belonging. Allyship became action. The distance between "us" and "them" grew smaller. Pride became something the community celebrated together rather than something one part of the community celebrated alone. Belonging expanded—not because minds were changed, but because neighbors chose to show up for one another.





IMPACT SNAPSHOT

- Brings together more than 400 neighbors
- Funded North Shore Pride faculty T-shirts for middle and high school staff, with 130 educators choosing to wear them each Friday throughout June and inspired the expansion of the initiative into three elementary schools
- Helps local businesses visibly demonstrate their support by funding Pride flags and storefront decals
- Created a meaningful opportunity for municipal leaders to visibly participate in fostering a more welcoming community
- Expanded route as community support and neighborhood participation continued to grow
- Neighbors have shared that the experience deepened their understanding of why Pride visibility matters





RESOURCES GENERATED

The event wasn't the outcome. It became infrastructure for more connection.

Pride Stride generates resources that extend belonging beyond a single day, investing in initiatives that create visible, lasting reminders that every neighbor belongs. From supporting North Shore GSA initiatives to helping schools and local businesses demonstrate their commitment to inclusion, the impact continues long after the walk is over.

ENGINEERING PRINCIPLE

Belonging grows when neighbors choose to stand beside one another.



CASE STUDY 03 | LONGEST TABLE



WHERE WE FOUND THE DISTANCE

Not every form of distance arrives through crisis.

Sometimes it quietly returns through busy schedules, changing seasons, and fewer opportunities for neighbors to simply be together.

WHAT WE OBSERVED

Community requires intentional maintenance. Without opportunities to gather, everyday life slowly recreates distance.





ENGINEERING MOVE

One continuous table. One shared meal. One intentional seating design. Connection isn't left to chance. By limiting reserved seating to pairs, every table creates new opportunities for strangers to become neighbors.

Conversation begins before assumptions have the chance to.

PROXIMITY CREATED

Meals became memories. Conversation became relationship. Strangers became neighbors.

What began as assigned seating became shared stories, reminding us that community is built one seat—and one new connection—at a time.





IMPACT SNAPSHOT

- Timed to coincide with National Sit With a Stranger Day, reinforcing the event's purpose of creating new relationships through intentional connection
- In its inaugural year, 160 neighbors gathered around a 160-foot community table, the longest table built on the North Shore or Long Island
- Guests are intentionally seated in groups of no more than two, creating opportunities for new conversations and turning strangers into neighbors
- The overwhelming response affirmed both the need for intentional connection and the desire to make the experience an annual tradition





RESOURCES GENERATED

Because everyone deserves a seat at the table, our Longest Table generates resources that support the Love Your Neighbor Project School Club, extending Engineering Proximity into the next generation of community builders.

ENGINEERING PRINCIPLE

Community grows one seat at a time.



ONE METHOD. MANY MOMENTS.

Every project begins with a different form of division.

A pandemic.

Political differences.

Social exclusion.

The quiet drift of everyday life.

The circumstances change.

The methodology does not.





Love Your Neighbor Project follows the distance.
We observe where neighbors have become disconnected.
We listen before we design.
We intentionally create experiences that reduce that division.
Those experiences generate resources that create even more opportunities for connection.





Engineering Proximity is not a collection of projects.
It is a repeatable methodology for strengthening communities as they, and their needs, continue to evolve.

**Because stronger communities are not built through a single event.
They are built one intentional opportunity for connection at a time.
That's Engineering Proximity in practice.**





**WON'T YOU
BE OUR
NEIGHBOR?**

connect to social goodness.

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