The proposed “Conflict Café,” funded by the APA Berry Fund for Public Philosophy, was originally scheduled to be held on April 24th, 2020. Due to the Covid pandemic, all Santa Fe College campus events had to be cancelled. Currently, student groups are only allowed to meet virtually.

Central to the project initiative is sharing a meal and conversation—bringing people together around a table to eat, where food becomes a vehicle and catalyst for engaging in dialogue with others. Although consideration was given to hosting a virtual version of the originally scheduled event, it is not clear the same objectives could be achieved, and it would change the fundamental character of a “Conflict Café.”

For these reasons, the “Conflict Café” has been tentatively rescheduled for April 2021. Its occurrence, however, is dependent on campus policy regarding student activities in spring 2021, and this has yet to be determined by Santa Fe College administration. If policy permits, the “Conflict Café” will take place as a face-to-face event, engaging Santa Fe students who have been involved this academic year in Ethics Bowl and/or the ICDP (Intercollegiate Civil Disagreement Partnership) programs. These students will share in a process of exchanging ideas over a meal, addressing some timely ethical topics (such as protests and property destruction, mandatory mask wearing during a pandemic, the ethics of evictions during Covid, the ethics of immigration policies, etc.)

If college policy in spring 2021 prohibits student groups from meeting face-to-face on campus, plans could be made to host a virtual “Conflict Café,” in which case funds could be repurposed for things like t-shirts, certificates, and advertising. Additionally, a virtual event could include ICDP Student Fellows from partnering institutions across the country, providing more cross-regional representation. Residual grant monies would be returned to APA’s Berry Fund.