



# la conversación

conversational Spanish for English speakers

6:00 - 7:00 PM,  
2nd & 4th Thursday every month  
192 Lorax Lane



- February 13 & 27: Fair Game Beverage Co., Wheelhouse
  - March 13 & 27: BMC Brewing Game Room
- April 10 & 24: Fair Game Beverage Co., Wheelhouse
  - May 8 & 22: BMC Brewing Game Room





Pittsboro North  
Carolina

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## **Bridging the Communication Divide, One Conversation at A Time**

Beginning next month, The Plant in Pittsboro, North Carolina is launching a free outreach initiative known as **La Conversación** to bridge the language barrier and build communication between Spanish- and non-Spanish speaking people in the community. It's a casual way to learn and practice speaking Spanish so you can expand your language chops, be more confident in multi-cultural business settings, improve your ability to help patients as a healthcare worker, and expand your worldview.

Communication is the key to relationships, and when language barriers exist, a breakdown occurs. Multi-cultural conversation skills are an easy way to bridge the divide. **La Conversación** is the brainchild of Dolly Sickles and Tami Schwerin. "My husband is a volunteer first responder, and he's had several calls with people in need where English is not their primary language, making it difficult to clearly communicate in an emergency situation," said Sickles, a local freelance journalist and novelist. "He asked me to see if I could come up with a good solution for improving his conversational Spanish skills. I was fluent in Spanish for many years, but don't have as much opportunity to use it as often. I want to be conversational again, as well."

And so the idea took wings, and found the perfect landing spot. "It fits with our mission of welcoming everyone and creating an inclusive community," said Tami Schwerin, co-founder of The Plant, which is a food and beverage campus located in Pittsboro. It's home to a local economy-focused small businesses that range from amazing spirits and restaurants to a coffee roaster, farmers market, native plants nursery, and hemp clothing companies. The Plant is a place of gatherings, events and music.

*La Conversación*, like The Plant, promotes local resilience. "Nobody's going to build community better than the people who live here," Schwerin said. "It's an honor and a privilege to do more—to be better. The Plant is a safe space, and to close the communication gap as much as we can is a responsibility we can get behind. It makes all of us stronger."

Whether you're beefing up your conversational Spanish to show respect to the Piedmont-area Spanish-speaking population, offering positive support to immigrant families in our community, or learning Spanish to improve experiences and opportunities at work, you can practice it all during *La Conversación*.

**La Conversación** will be held from 6:00 – 7:00 PM at The Plant, on the second and fourth Thursdays each month, just after the weekly farmers market closes. All the businesses, restaurants, and beverage companies are open until 8:00, so make an evening of it! **The inaugural event will be February 13, in the Whiskey Tasting Room at Fair Game Beverage Co.** (192 Lorax Lane, Pittsboro NC 27312).

*La Conversación* upcoming schedule:

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- March 13 & 27: BMC Brewing Game Room
- April 10 & 24: Fair Game Beverage Co., Wheelhouse
- May 8 & 22: BMC Brewing Game Room

For more information about The Plant and its businesses, please go to [www.ThePlantNC.com](http://www.ThePlantNC.com). Gracias!