



2nd Annual Bridging Movement Summit

**TURNING DOWN THE HEAT: REBUILDING
TRUST IN AN AGE OF OUTRAGE**

September 23-25, 2026

The Offices at Park 39
300 E 39th Street, Kansas City, MO 64111

Welcome!

We are so grateful that you decided to join us for this second annual, in-person Bridging Movement Summit. Building on the momentum of our inaugural Summit at George Washington’s Mount Vernon in 2025, we look forward to gathering with you in Kansas City to deepen our connections, build new relationships, and learn together about models and insights that can strengthen our practice.

In stewardship of our theme, “Turning Down the Heat: Rebuilding Trust in an Age of Outrage,” we encourage you to immerse yourselves in the content, colleagues, and conversations at the Summit to explore how we as the bridging divides movement – and individually – can collaborate to achieve greater impact together.

In this packet you will find helpful information to make the most of your Summit experience:

Purpose of the Summit:..... 3
Thank you to our sponsors!..... 3

LOGISTICS

Venue: The Offices at Park 39..... 4
Parking at Park 39..... 4
Recommended Hotel: Kansas City Marriott Country Club Plaza.....5
Ground Transportation..... 5
Optional Activities for Thursday Evening..... 6

PROGRAMMING AGENDA

APS Signature Event / Bridge Building Innovation Awards.....7
Bridging Movement Summit: Day 1..... 9
Bridging Movement Summit: Day 2..... 15

PRESENTER DIRECTORY

Hosts..... 19
Signature Event Panelists..... 21
Bridge Building Innovation Awardees:..... 23
Speaker Bios..... 27

Attendee List (DRAFT)..... 43

Purpose of the Summit:

- Celebrating the innovative work happening at the local and national levels across the country to rebuild trust in individuals, communities and institutions.
- Strengthen the social networks and relationships between bridging movement partners.
- Engage in collaborative problem solving around tough questions/issues facing our movement, particularly the “trust recession.”
- Learn alongside each other to strengthen our awareness of best practices, emerging insights, and innovative models for building trust and fostering social cohesion.

Thank you to our sponsors!



J. RIEGER & CO



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BRIDGE

**David & Cathi
Brain**

Good Faith

Venue: The Offices at Park 39

Our generous co-hosts at American Public Square are welcoming us into their space at The Offices at Park 39, the 7-story building that was formerly Westport Middle School. In addition to the large gathering spaces and designated for plenary presentations and breakout sessions during the Summit, there are dozens of side rooms and quiet spaces for Summit attendees to engage in sidebar conversation, networking and building connections throughout the time we are together.

The venue is located at:
300 E 39th St., Kansas City, MO 64111



Parking at Park 39

We recommend using the free KC Streetcar to travel from the hotel to the venue. However, if you are driving, there are three free parking lots available: Park 39 Visitor Parking Lot (uncovered), Park 39 Employee Parking Lot (covered) & Nour's Parking Lot (uncovered).

The parking areas must be accessed from Warwick Boulevard, located on the west side of the campus. Turn north onto Warwick Blvd from 39th Street. The designated visitor lot and parking garage entrance will be immediately on your right, situated between 39th Street and 38th Street.

A map to assist with entrance and parking can be found [here](#).

Recommended Hotel: Kansas City Marriott Country Club Plaza

Summit attendees will be offered a generously discounted rate of \$175.00 for booking rooms at the *Kansas City Marriott Country Club Plaza* during the Summit (Sept. 23-25, 2026). The last day to book rooms at this rate is Wednesday, September 02, 2026. [Make your reservation here](#).

Ground Transportation

From the Airport:

We do not have transportation available between the airport and the hotel, but here are a few options you may find helpful:

- Public transportation utilizing the 229 Bus (\$2 oneway fare) and StreetCar (free) operated by KC Transit. This bus runs every hour and Streetcar runs every 5 minutes. You can learn more about the [recommended public transit route here](#).
- We set up an "[Arrivals - Rideshare Coordination Sheet](#)" for those arriving on **Wednesday, September 23, 2026**. If you are flying into **Kansas City International Airport (MCI)** and heading to the recommended hotel (Kansas City Marriott Country Club Plaza (4445 Main St, Kansas City, MO 64111)) please add your details to our [shared coordination sheet](#) and use it to connect with other attendees interested in sharing a ride!
- More options for Ground Transportation offered at the airport [are here](#).

Downtown Kansas City:

Free transportation is available in Downtown Kansas City via the [KC Streetcar](#). Stops are available within a 5 minute walk from the hotel and the Summit venue. See map for assistance. [See map here](#).

Optional Activities for Thursday Evening

Official programming on Thursday, 9/24 will conclude at 5:15pm, but that doesn't mean the relationship building and conversations have to end. The incredible Ryan Bernstein at American Public Square has arranged three excellent optional evening activities. Please [SIGN UP HERE](#) for the activity you plan to attend. RSVP is required.

- **Discount tickets to see a Tony Award-Winning Play!** Thanks to the generosity of Kansas City Actors Theatre, Summit attendees can purchase \$15 tickets to see Jonathan Spector's 2025 Tony Award-winning play, [Eureka Day](#), on Thursday, Sept. 24th at 7:30pm. *"In this ...sharp satire of well-meaning but misguided liberalism" (New York Theatre Guide) a mumps outbreak has put the Board of Directors of the Eureka Day School on their backfoot, forced to reexamine their vaccination policy. Until now they have only made decisions through consensus, not majority, but now they must decide: is it possible to make a decision about vaccinations that will please everyone? "Eureka Day was already timely when it made its local debut off-Broadway in 2019. It is even more so now." (Time Out New York).* The KC Actors Theatre is conveniently along the free Streetcar route at the historic Union Station, making for easy transportation to and from the theatre. **Use the promo code "BRIDGING26"** to [purchase your ticket here](#) and prepare for an evening of laughs and reflection.
- **Grab a Drink, or two... it's free!** If you are looking for something a bit lively and a cool place to hangout, enjoy 2 free drink tickets per person at [Rock Island Bridge](#). Just a short Uber/Lyft ride away, this landmark destination bar and event space is located on the 120-year-old bridge at the Kansas-Missouri border.
- **Explore the Art Museum:** As another option, you can engage with 5000 years of art by visiting the [Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art](#). It is free, walkable from the Summit venue, and open until 9pm on Thursdays.

APS Signature Event / Bridge Building Innovation Awards

Held in the Medallion Theater @ The Offices at Park 39

5:30pm - Doors open / Summit Check-In (*Park 39 Annex*)

6:00pm - Welcome Remarks

6:05pm - “Turning Down the Heat: Rebuilding Trust in an Age of Outrage” (*Medallion Theater*)

Trust is the foundation of a healthy democracy. Yet trust in our institutions, media, communities, and even one another has fallen to historic lows. How did we arrive at this moment? Who—or what—is responsible for the growing distrust that shapes American life? And most importantly, what can we do to rebuild it?

As the opening Signature Event of the 2026 Bridging Movement Summit, this timely conversation will bring together an esteemed panel to examine the roots of America’s trust crisis. From political polarization and misinformation to social isolation and institutional failures, panelists will explore the forces driving the erosion of public trust and confidence. They will also highlight promising solutions and innovative approaches for rebuilding trust across differences, strengthening civic relationships, and renewing the foundations of self-government in America.

Moderator:

- [Jeremy Hobson](#), host of NPR’s “The Middle,” will moderate this event. The recording will be broadcast nationally through “The Middle” on September 24th, extending the reach of the Summit’s conversations to hundreds of public radio stations.

Panelists:

- [Mike Abrams](#) - Deputy Editor for Trust at The New York Times
- [Olajumoke “Jummy” Banjo](#) - Senior Director of the Alliance for Social Trust at the Aspen Institute
- [Rev. Dr. Branden S. Polk](#) - Director of Activations at Stand Together

**7:05pm (25 min) - Bridge Building Innovation Awards Ceremony
(Medallion Theater)**

- [Karissa Raskin](#) (CEO of Listen First Project) will introduce the eight filmmakers selected for the 3rd Annual Better Together Film Festival. These incredible artists have dedicated their talents to telling stories through film that model bridge building behaviors and are embedded with values of pluralism and belonging. The filmmakers being celebrated include:
 - [Josh Sabey](#) - Director, *9/11: Reclaiming Ground Zero*
 - [Louise Woehrle](#) - Director/Producer, *A Binding Truth*
 - [Elinor Pierce](#) - Director/Producer, *Abraham's Bridge*
 - [Eric Liebman](#) - Director, *Breaking the Cycle*
 - [Kahane Corn Cooperman](#) - Director/Producer, *Creede, USA*
 - [Nick Beaulieu](#) - Director/Writer/Producer, *My Omaha*
 - [Nadia Gill](#) - Director/Producer, *The [Conserv]atives*
 - [Peter Tamaribuchi](#) - Director/Writer/Editor, *The Question*
- A video montage will be shared to highlight each of the eight films.
- Awards will be presented to each filmmaker.

7:30 (75 min) - Closing remarks + Reception (Park 39 Annex)

- [Karissa Raskin](#) & [Claire Bishop](#) will provide closing remarks.
- Cocktail hour and heavy hors d'oeuvres will be served in the Annex room, where Check-In occurred.

Bridging Movement Summit: Day 1

Held in the Main Building @ The Offices at Park 39

8:15am (45 min) - Breakfast + Check-In (*Main Gathering Room*)

9:00am (15 min) - Welcome Remarks (*Main Gathering Room*)

9:15am (45 min) What Gets Rewarded Gets Repeated: Bridging's Big Incentive Problem (*Main Gathering Room*)

- Speaker: [Jonathan Webster](#) (Story Corps' One Small Step)
- Session Type: Plenary; Interactive / Experiential
- If we know people are capable of listening, connecting, and finding common ground, why does outrage still seem to dominate our public life? Using audience input from live polling and paired conversations, this session explores the factors that shape our behavior and the levers we have available to tilt Americans toward connection.

10:10am (60 min) - BREAKOUT BLOCK #1: Bridging Outside the Box... Innovative Models for Building Trust

A. Using Music to Find Common Ground (*Room TBD*)

- Speakers: [Shaka Mitchell](#) (Come Together Music Project); [Fr. Justin Matthews](#) (Reconciliation Services)
- Session Type: Interactive / Experiential
- Come Together Music Project founder Shaka Mitchell sits down with two Kansas City guests to unpack the songs tied to common life experiences. As the stories unfold, so does a real conversation between people who might otherwise see each other as strangers, or even opponents. It's part listening party, part conversation, entirely genuine. Attendees leave with more than a good listen—they'll walk away with practical prompts for using music in their own bridging efforts and beyond.

B. Scaling Social Cohesion Through Technology (*Room TBD*)

- Speakers: [Ann Reidy](#) (Civic Health Project); [Neal Miskell](#) (reFrame); [Neil Sogard](#) (Civil Disco); [Clare Ashcraft](#) (AllSides); [Gabriel Plata](#) (Plurality); [Adam Hong](#) (Plurality)
- Session Type: Lightning Presentations
- Technology has the power to fuel polarization, but when leveraged for good, it can scale the impact of our bridging movement. Through lightning presentations, this session will feature four unique, yet complementary tech tools to designed to increase users' awareness of their own patterns; teach bridging skills through AI-powered role play simulations; organize small group, civil conversations on topics of choice; and deepen connection between neighbors. The session will conclude with a moderated discussion among the presenters, highlighting the value each tech tool offers to support trust building and connection across differences. The platforms featured include: 1.) reFrame, 2.) Civil Disco, 3.) AllSides Roundtables, and 4.) Plurality

C. Telling Better Stories of Us: Leveraging the Power of Film to Bridge Divides (*Room TBD*)

- Speaker: [Jeff Abramson](#) (Bridge Entertainment Labs); [Josh Sabey](#) (9/11: Reclaiming Ground Zero); [Louise Woehrle](#) (A Binding Truth); [Elinor Pierce](#) (Abraham's Bridge); [Eric Liebman](#) (Breaking the Cycle); [Kahane Corn Cooperman](#) (CREEDE, USA); [Nick Beaulieu](#) (My Omaha); [Peter Tamaribuchi](#) (The Question)
- Session Type: Panel Discussion
- At a time when Americans' trust in others - and in our institutions - is at an all time low, Americans need to hear, see, and experience stories of people coming together across their differences to solve problems together. It is through story that we understand ourselves, others, and the world in which we live. In this panel discussion, filmmakers selected for the 3rd Annual Better Together Film Festival – each of whom received the 2026 Bridge Building Innovation Award – will share their experiences as storytellers who are called to drive impact.. They will discuss what inspired them to create their films, how their film has impacted their own bridging mindset, and will share guidance on how bridging practitioners can leverage the power of films as well as improve our own storytelling practices.

11:20am (60 min) - BREAKOUT BLOCK #2: What Bridging Looks Like In Times of Crisis

A. Meeting the Moment: State-based Initiatives Building Resilience (*Room TBD*)

- Speaker: [Louis Reed](#) (Common Ground USA); [Becca Kearn](#) (Mormon Women for Ethical Government); [Libby Stegger](#) (Civic Bridgers); [Jill Carey](#) (Civic Bridgers); [Wilk Wilkinson](#) (Braver Angels)
- Session Type: Panel Discussion; Interactive / Experiential
- Our current moment wants us to believe that we are more divided than we actually are. Join us for an intimate panel discussion that pushes back on this idea by showcasing two distinct efforts: Minnesota: Land of Neighbors and Utah's Turn Toward. Each successfully leaned on local and national relationships to foster and leverage resiliency in turbulent times—. Participants will be invited to consider their own civic and relational infrastructure and how that may serve them in times of crisis.

B. Trust and Believe: Peacebuilding Lessons for Trust-Building Bridging Interventions (*Room TBD*)

- Speakers: [Elizabeth Hume](#) (Alliance for Peacebuilding); [Jake Harriman](#) (The Brickyard); [Garrett Cathcart](#) (The Brickyard)
- Session Type: Panel Discussion
- It is vital to understand that “trust recessions” follow at least some recognizable patterns regardless of geography, and that indicators and evidence models from proven trust-building methods across various contexts can shed light on how to counter toxic polarization and strengthen democratic institutions. This session will explore case studies of countries experiencing similar declines in trust amidst rising political violence and mainstreaming of “violent populism,” driven by societal and demographic changes. The conversation will build connections between the peacebuilding field/research and the bridging space to tackle the breakdown of trust and leverage sources of resilience in the U.S.

C. Threats to Pluralism: How Bridgebuilders can Respond (Breakout Room C)

- Speakers: [Allison Ralph](#) (Cohesion Strategy); [Lauren Higgins](#) (New Pluralists); [Amy McIsaac](#) (PACE Funders); [Hodayra Ziad](#) (Interfaith America)
- Session Type: Interactive / Experiential
- Bridging and pluralistic organizations increasingly face punitive state actions that constrain civic life, chill participation, and undermine trust. How can organizations respond to these threats without sacrificing their commitment to pluralism or alienating the diverse communities they serve? This interactive session explores that challenge through role-played scenario planning, inviting participants to test responses to situations such as government efforts to target or discredit a local nonprofit. Together, we'll examine the tradeoffs and likely consequences of different approaches and consider how organizations can respond while preserving the diverse relationships at the heart of bridge-building.

12:20pm (70 min) - LUNCH (*Main Gathering Room*)

1:30pm (50 min) - How to Inspire America's Exhausted Majority (*Main Gathering Room*)

- Speaker: [Daniel Yudkin](#) (More in Common / The Beacon Project)
- Session Type: Plenary; Informational Presentation
- Political polarization has fueled distrust, social division, and government dysfunction. Yet More in Common's research finds that two-thirds of Americans belong to the Exhausted Majority: people tired of division and ready for something new. Drawing on national polling, social science, and hundreds of interviews, this presentation identifies three qualities of a vision that can inspire them. It must offer a positive picture of what America can become, transcend either/or thinking by recognizing truths on both sides, and give people opportunities to contribute to their communities and country. We conclude by presenting a prototype vision embodying these principles.

2:30pm (60 min) - BREAKOUT BLOCK #3: Seeking Truths and Finding Balance to Improve our Resonance

A. The Machinery of Outrage and the Challenge of Scale (*Room TBD*)

- Speaker: [David Beckemeyer](#) (Outrage Overload); [James Coan](#) (More Like US)
- Session Type: Informational Presentation
- This dual presentation first maps the algorithmic, psychological, and technological machinery of the outrage industry. It then analyzes strategic growth of the bridging movement. First, David Beckemeyer presents "Outrage 201." Drawing on 150+ "Outrage Overload" podcast interviews, he explores why standard "bridging 101" tropes are often rejected by the public as unappealing "broccoli" or "left-coded" traps, and what adjustments are needed. Second, More Like US Executive Director James Coan challenges the field's reliance on the bridging metaphor and its heavy reliance on micro-scale interpersonal workshops. He then outlines potential rhetorical changes and "air game" strategies. The session ends with Q&A.

B. What is the Best Temperature? Finding the Right Level of Civility, Polarization, and Tolerance in Bridging Organizations (*Room TBD*)

- Speaker: [Dr. Ashley Muddiman](#) (University of Kansas); [Dr. Christopher Koliba](#) (University of Kansas & Braver Angels Civic Scholars Council)
- Session Type: Interactive / Experiential
- While heated, uncivil, and polarized interactions have negative outcomes, turning the heat down too low can discourage civic participation in multiple ways. Drs. Muddiman and Koliba will briefly share academic approaches to incivility, polarization, and tolerance. They will lead a discussion about the strategies that bridging organizations use to turn down the heat while also keeping the discussion hot enough to engage diverse, and sometimes emotional, public audiences. We plan to use the session to generate a list of Goldilocks Principles that bridging organizations can use to find the discussion temperature that is just right for them.

C. Uncovering Cross-Partisan Agreement in a Polarized Environment (*Room TBD*)

- Speaker: [Tara Chandra](#) (More in Common); [Fred Duong](#) (More in Common)
- Session Type: Informational Presentation
- Americans are divided, but don't want to be. In this two-part presentation, we share our research on uncovering agreement amidst polarization. In the first part, we share results from surveys of 8,000+ Americans across three projects, which found cross-partisan appetite for bridging – but also found that people doubt it can be done authentically. In the second part, we discuss Hidden Truths, a message-testing project that surfaces surprising cross-partisan agreement on important topics such as AI, money in politics, and government responsibility. We share those findings, including qualitatively and quantitatively tested messages that practitioners can apply to their own work.

3:30pm (20 min) - BREAK

3:50pm (70 min) Building Consensus on Addressing Common Field Challenges (*Main Gathering Room*)

- Speaker: [Kira Hamman](#) (Urban Rural Action); [Pearce Godwin](#) (Urban Rural Action, Listen First Project)
- Session Type: Plenary; Interactive / Experiential
- Participants will work in groups to analyze and come to consensus on ways to address common problems in the bridge-building field. Using UR Action's highly participatory 4-D Consensus-Building Propeller tool, groups will align on a definition of the problem, explore a wide range of possible causes, brainstorm many potential solutions, and ultimately agree on clear next steps. We'll wrap the session with a discussion in plenary about take-aways of using the tool and next steps that participants are excited to implement to address their challenges.

5:00pm (15 min) Wrapping Up Day #1 (*Main Gathering Room*)

- Speaker: [Karissa Raskin](#) (Listen First Project);
- Attendees interested in facilitating an 'unconference breakout' on Friday will make quick-pitches to propose topics. Everyone will vote for sessions they plan to attend. Based on voting, the breakouts to be offered will be announced Friday morning.
- Don't forget to participate in the [Evening Activities](#) you signed up for! Let us know if you want to opt-in to an activity you did not RSVP for... we will do our best to help!

Bridging Movement Summit: Day 2

Held in the Main Building @ The Offices at Park 39

8:15am (45 min) - Breakfast + Check-In (*Main Gathering Room*)

9:00am (10 min) - Welcome Back + Announcing Unconference Sessions (*Main Gathering Room*)

9:10am (15 min) Portraits of Trust (*Main Gathering Room*)

- Speaker: [John Notlner](#) (A Peace of My Mind)
- Session Type: Plenary; Interactive / Experiential
- After being present at the Summit for the past 2 days, John Noltner (A Peace of My Mind) will share a video that compiles many of the photographs and quotes shared by participants over the past two days.

9:35am (60 min) - BREAKOUT BLOCK #4: Neighboring to Build Strong Communities

A. How Civic Homes Build Belonging & Trust (*Room TBD*)

- Speaker: [Elena Saltzman](#) (Civic Nation); [Kamy Akhavan](#) (USC Dornsife for the Political Future); Civic Home Leader TBD
- Session Type: Panel Discussion
- For decades, America has been experiencing a cycle of civic unraveling, bringing our democracy and country to the brink. The antidote to this unraveling is belonging, and finding a “civic home” — a place in your community where you can build trust with neighbors, find common ground, and take action together. In this session, we’ll talk about how civic homes are bridging divides in their communities and what the research tells us about how these kinds of spaces can thrive by bringing neighbors together over something we all have in common: we care about the place where we live. Civic Nation and the USC Dornsife Center for the Political Future will discuss why we are less divided than we think and what strategies can increase trust within campuses and communities

B. From Front Doors to Stronger Communities: Rebuilding Trust Through Neighbor-to-Neighbor Connection (*Room TBD*)

- Speakers: [Jennifer Prophete](#) (National Good Neighbor Day, Hopeful Neighborhood Project); [Vanessa Elias](#) (Block Party USA)
- Session Type: Informational Presentation
- In an era of increasing loneliness, polarization, and social fragmentation, the most powerful solutions often begin right outside our front doors. This interactive session explores how intentional neighbor-to-neighbor connection can improve well-being, increase resilience, strengthen communities, and foster a culture of mutual support and trust. Drawing from their work mobilizing thousands of residents across the country, the presenters will share practical strategies to build meaningful connection among neighbors. Through storytelling, audience participation, and actionable takeaways, participants will leave with tools they can immediately implement. Participants will learn how simple acts can transform social isolation into belonging and build trust.

C. The Team Up Toolkit: Practical and Proven Strategies for Bridging Divides (*Room TBD*)

- Speakers: [Abbie Haug](#) (Interfaith America);
- Session Type: Interactive / Experiential
- Amid growing trust deficits, community leaders need more than inspiration. They need practical tools. This interactive session introduces the Team Up Project's framework and resources that rebuild trust through community partnerships and shared action. Through hands-on activities and small-group dialogue, participants will explore proven strategies to foster belonging, strengthen relationships, and co-create solutions across lines of difference — all while experiencing key bridgebuilding practices in real time and seeing how trust-building can be supported, scaled, and sustained. Join this session and walk away with actionable tools, adaptable frameworks, and renewed confidence to lead bridgebuilding efforts in your community.

10:35am (15 min) - BREAK

10:50am (60 min) - BREAKOUT BLOCK #5: Through Love and Faith, we Bridge

A. Building Trust and Fostering Connection through Faith (*Room TBD*)

- Speaker: [Becca Kearl](#) (Mormon Women for Ethical Government); [Becca Tyvoll](#) (Shoulder to Shoulder Campaign); [Jerad Morey](#) (Minnesota Council of Churches); [Matthew Cotton Jr.](#) (US Baha'i Office of Public Affairs)
- Session Type: Panel Discussion
- Misperceptions between people of different faiths, and the role that politics plays in faith communities, are significant drivers of polarization in America. These discrepancies build mistrust between faith communities, increasing division and risk of targeted violence. Providing opportunities for skill building and intergroup contact can help individuals challenge the untruths they hold about people of different faith-traditions, and ultimately improve understanding, respect and social cohesion. In this session, a panel of leaders from four different faith traditions will share models they use to foster inter- and intra-faith bridging. Speakers will share examples of interventions at the local level and provide concrete guidance on how to partner with faith-based communities to build trust and bridge divides.

B. From Research to Practice: Talking Through Political Differences in Families (*Room TBD*)

- Speakers: [Dr. Emily Van Duyn](#) (Univ. of Illinois Urbana-Champaign; [Eve Sullivan](#) (Parents Forum), [Christy Moreno](#) (Parents Forum)
- Session Type: Interactive / Experiential
- Political disagreements affect our institutions, our communities, and our homes. While much attention focuses on public life, families and close relationships are often where trust is tested and bridge-building can begin. Drawing on new research from the forthcoming book *Hearts Divided* (Oxford University Press), participants will learn how parents and romantic partners navigate political differences, including how perceived value gaps erode trust, contribute to relationship breakdown, and shape children's experiences. Parents Forum will then introduce their signature workshop, "How To Tell Somebody Something They'd Rather Not Hear," equipping attendees with a tool for strengthening relationships across differences from mundane to philosophical.

Friday, Sept. 25, 2026

C. Unconference / Mini-Breakouts - - Topics TBD (*Various locations throughout building*)

- Facilitators: TBD
- Session Type: Mini-Breakouts
- Summit attendees can opt to join small breakout group discussions on topics pitched by their peers. These topics may be a continuation of discussions spurred at the Summit, or new topics that were not yet covered during other sessions.

11:50pm (15 min) - LUNCH (*Main Gathering Room*)

- Grab a plate of food to enjoy as we hear a final panel discussion to close out the Summit.

12:05pm (45 min) - Where do we go from here? Reflecting on the Summit and Looking Ahead (*Main Gathering Room*)

- Speakers: [Maureen Ecclestone](#) (Service Year Alliance); [Maury Giles](#) (Braver Angels); BridgeUSA Student Leader; [Karissa Raskin](#) (Listen First Project)
- Session Type: Plenary; Working Lunch
- After 3 days together, we will close out the Summit by hearing reflections, as well as forward looking inspirations, from a diverse panel of movement leaders. They will share what experiences or insights stood out most for them during the Summit, and how they are carrying the themes of trust-building and collaboration into their work ahead. All of us will be encouraged to commit to at least one concrete action that tightens our bonds and strengthens our collective work so we can achieve greater impact together.

12:50pm (10 min) - CLOSING REMARKS + GRATITUDES (*Main Gathering Room*)

Hosting Team

<u>Karissa Raskin</u> CEO, Listen First Project 	<u>Bio:</u> As CEO of Listen First Project, the bridging movement's backbone organization, Karissa supports a Coalition of 550+ partner organizations dedicated to bringing people together across differences to build understanding, trust, relationships, and solutions that increase social cohesion in our communities and country. Karissa supports the bridging movement by stewarding five core functions: community building through convening; coordination around collaborative initiatives; amplification support; measurement and evaluation tools; and sharing emerging insights. She also serves as a leading voice for the movement and promotes the vision of creating 'greater impact together.'
<u>Claire Bishop</u> Executive Director & CEO, American Public Square 	<u>Bio:</u> As the Executive Director and CEO of American Public Square, Claire leads a dynamic nonprofit committed to elevating the tone and quality of public discourse on complex and often divisive topics. Claire's career profile blends strategic leadership, nonprofit stewardship, and communication expertise -- all grounded in a deep belief that healthy communities depend on thoughtful, respectful engagement. Before her role at APS, Claire served in senior marketing and engagement leadership positions in both nonprofit and corporate sectors. She is also a proud Kansas City native and excited to welcome everyone to her hometown for the 2nd Annual Bridging Movement Summit!
<u>Ryan Bernsten</u> Director of Brand & Partnerships, American Public Square 	<u>Bio:</u> Ryan brings a dynamic background to his work at American Public Square. He is an award-winning creative with a background working in presidential politics, high school classrooms, Fortune 500 companies, tech companies, and nonprofits. As a speaker and author, he has been recognized as a thought leader on fostering constructive conversations on difficult topics, bringing a sense of humor, integrity, leadership, and a drive to increase efficiency and collaboration to any workplace. He earned Webby and Telly awards for his work on The Trevor Project and authored 50 States of Mind: A Journey to Rediscover American Democracy. In addition to speaking internationally on dialogue and democracy, he is the Playwright-in-Residence at KCPublic Theatre and a recent graduate of the University of Oxford.

<u>Xavier Mara</u> Program Coordinator, American Public Square 	<u>Bio:</u> Born in the United States to Kansan and Guinean parents, Xavier spent his childhood and education abroad, living in Burkina Faso, Zambia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Spain, Cameroon, Botswana and Lesotho. Through academic, professional, and cross-cultural experiences spanning multiple continents, he developed a strong interest in public service, dialogue across differences, and internationally minded civic engagement. Prior to joining APS, Xavier contributed to initiatives at U.S. embassies in Cameroon, Botswana, and Lesotho.
<u>Tricia Maxfield</u> Program Director, American Public Square 	<u>Bio:</u> Tricia is a Kansas native and lifelong learner. A graduate of Kansas State University, KU Law, and Rockhurst University (MEd), she taught middle school social studies before leading APS' Civics Education Initiative, promoting critical thinking, civic engagement, and media literacy in Kansas City. A newshound and curiosity seeker, she now enjoys directing the APS program calendar.
<u>Erinn Skepneck</u> Operation Manager, American Public Square 	<u>Bio:</u> Erinn Skepnek brings over a decade of nonprofit experience in event planning, operations, and community outreach. She's led everything from major luncheons to grassroots programs and loves creating spaces for connection. At American Public Square, she's excited to support meaningful conversations and community-building efforts

Signature Event Participants

<u>Jeremy Hobson</u> Host and Executive Producer, NPR's "The Middle" 	<u>Bio:</u> Jeremy Hobson is the creator, host, and executive producer of The Middle with Jeremy Hobson, which airs live weekly on nearly 500 NPR stations, SiriusXM, podcast platforms, and YouTube. At a time when much of the media ecosystem rewards outrage and ideological silos, The Middle is built around a different idea: that Americans who don't live on the political extremes still have something valuable and necessary to say. The show is the only national public radio program that regularly takes live calls from listeners across the country, creating unscripted conversations between people who often disagree but are willing to engage. Its mission is to elevate voices from the geographic, political, and philosophical middle, and to allow people of different views to "meet in the middle" on important issues. Guests have included Kara Swisher, Katie Couric, Kmele Foster, David Frum, Mark Cuban, Neil deGrasse Tyson, Utah Governor Spencer Cox, and former Iraqi President Barham Salih, along with politicians and thinkers from across the political spectrum. Hobson is the former host of NPR's Here & Now, which he helped grow into public radio's top midday news program, tripling its audience to more than five million listeners. Known for his ability to press newsmakers while staying accessible to a broad audience, he interviewed leaders in politics, business, science, and culture with a focus on making complex issues understandable and relevant to everyday Americans. Full Bio
<u>Mike Abrams</u> Deputy Editor for Trust, New York Times 	<u>Bio:</u> Mike Abrams is the deputy editor for Trust at The New York Times, leading a team that helps readers better understand the organization's journalism and values. While at The Times, Mike has also been a deputy editor on the Standards team and was the director of journalism practices and principles. He has been an editor at The Times since 2004. Before joining The Times, Mike was an award-winning reporter and editor at newspapers in Virginia and Pennsylvania. He is a 1994 graduate of Penn State University, where he was a four-year member of The Daily Collegian student newspaper and served as editor in chief in 1993-94. Mike and his wife, Rebecca, met while working at The Collegian. They live in New Jersey and have two kids – one in college, one a recent graduate – and a clingy dog.

Olajumoke “Jummy” Banjo

Senior Director of the Alliance for Social Trust at the Aspen Institute



Bio: As Senior Director of the Alliance for Social Trust at the Aspen Institute, Jummy leads a national initiative to strengthen social trust by convening leaders across sectors, fostering communities of practice, sharing resources, and elevating local efforts that are demonstrating effective approaches to building trust. Jummy has built a career at the intersection of education, law, public policy, and nonprofit leadership, helping institutions develop strategy, foster collaboration, and create lasting social impact. Prior to joining Aspen, she served as Senior Director of the National Racial Equity Initiative for Social Justice at the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, where she led national policy and leadership initiatives advancing racial equity across criminal justice, education, health, and economic opportunity. Earlier in her career, Jummy served as a judicial law clerk to the Honorable Craig Iscoe of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia. She later joined Georgetown Law as the inaugural Racial Justice & Juvenile Defense Fellow, where she developed advocacy resources and trainings to help juvenile defenders address racial bias in the legal system. Jummy began her career as a middle school teacher in Charlotte, North Carolina, an experience that continues to shape her belief in the power of education, relationships, and community-centered leadership. Her leadership and commitment to public service have been recognized through numerous honors.

Rev. Dr. Branden S. Polk

Director of Activations at Stand Together



Bio: Rev. Dr. Branden S. Polk is the Director of Activations at Stand Together, where he leads efforts to build partnerships and advance solutions that address the root causes of intolerance and division. His work focuses on inspiring people to come together across lines of difference, discover shared solutions, and strengthen communities. A social worker, ordained minister, and artist, Branden has devoted his career to advancing human flourishing and removing barriers for vulnerable communities through love, redemption, and bottom-up solutions. At Stand Together, he leads the organization's investment in Realize the Dream, an initiative founded by Martin Luther King III to advance racial healing, civic renewal, and the vision of Beloved Community. He also helped launch the New Pluralists Funder and Field Collaborative, an initiative advancing pluralism nationally. Branden holds a Doctor of Social Work from Simmons University and an undergraduate degree in Theatre from William & Mary. He currently lives in New York City.

Bridge Building Innovation Awardees:

3rd Annual Better Together Film Festival Filmmakers

<u>Josh Sabey</u> Director, <i>9/11: Reclaiming Ground Zero</i> 	<u>Film Summary:</u> After the 9/11 attacks, after the smoke was gone, after the rubble cleared away, New Yorkers had a city to rebuild. After the towers fell, no one could agree on what should be done with Ground Zero. In response to fast tracked redevelopment plans, New York decided to do one of the bravest – or maybe one of the most unconventional – things in the history of city planning: they gathered 5,000 representative New Yorkers for the largest town hall in American history and asked them to decide. They came to vote on the city's six proposals for rebuilding Ground Zero. But instead, the people rejected the top down approach and successfully charted a new path forward. Their work determined what is at Ground Zero today. People expected chaos, yelling, maybe even a fistfight. But what happened was democracy. Learn more here. <u>Bio:</u> Josh Sabey is the co-founder of Matters Media. He is the filmmaker behind American Tragedy, The Basement Talks, Blue Baby, Going Sane, and 9/11: Reclaiming Ground Zero. His films have been featured on PBS World, NPR, and have ranked on Amazon Prime's coveted top ten lists.
<u>Louise Woehrle</u> Director/Producer, <i>A Binding Truth</i> 	<u>Film Summary:</u> In 1965, Jimmie transferred his senior year from an all-Black high school to an affluent white high school in Charlotte - he was their first Black football star. That decision swept him into one of North Carolina's most volatile civil rights cases, played out at the explosive intersection of football and race. De, a white student, watched that case unfold and wrote about it in his college essay application. He said it got him into Harvard. Decades later, a shocking discovery reveals secrets buried in church records that would change their lives forever. What unfolds is a deeply personal yet profoundly American story — one that reveals the legacy of slavery, the complexities of race and privilege, and, ultimately, the power of truth in their journey toward healing. Learn more here. <u>Bio:</u> Louise Woehrle, owner of Whirlygig Productions, is a passionate storyteller whose films inspire us to see ourselves and others in new ways, promote healing, and connect us as human beings. With over twenty-five years as a multi-award-winning documentary filmmaker, her various feature projects represent culturally diverse human stories with global reach, including <i>A Binding Truth</i> (PBS), <i>Stalag Luft III-One Man's Story</i> (PBS), <i>Pride of Lions</i>, <i>The Pathway</i>, <i>BUSHIDO</i>, <i>Sweet Blood</i>, and the short dramatic film <i>Grandfather's Birthday</i> (PBS, Regional Emmy).

<u>Elinor Pierce</u> Director/Producer, <i>Abraham's Bridge</i> 	<u>Film Summary:</u> <i>Abraham's Bridge</i> chronicles the construction of a mosque, synagogue, church, and interfaith center on 38 acres in Omaha: connected by a circular wooden bridge, a vast donation garden, and a quietly disruptive vision, Tri-Faith seeks to cross boundaries and build new forms of engagement. Yet they must also confront difficult questions about the limits of the Abrahamic model, declining affiliation, and the rising currents of division. After October 7, 2023, they can no longer avoid the topic of Israel/Palestine and must find a way forward. <i>Abraham's Bridge</i> follows the Tri-Faith Initiative from an initial idea in 2005 to the present day, as diverse communities work together to construct their dream, confront unanticipated challenges, and look towards an uncertain future. Learn more here. <u>Bio:</u> Elinor (Ellie) Pierce is a Boston-based filmmaker, writer, and humanities professional. Her multimedia work includes a Webby Award–winning website and the films <i>Fremont, USA</i> (2008), <i>Autism: A Somali-American Story</i> (2013), <i>Les Deux</i> (2019), and <i>Abraham's Bridge</i> (2024), which she produced and directed. She is the author of <i>Pluralism in Practice</i> (Orbis, 2023) and co-editor of <i>With the Best of Intentions</i> and the festschrift <i>Pilgrimage, Place, and Pluralism</i>.
<u>Eric Liebman</u> Director, <i>Breaking the Cycle</i> 	<u>Film Summary:</u> America is arguing about homelessness while people die on the sidewalk. So Ken Craft – a Christian conservative – and Rowan Vansleve – a pseudo-intellectual tree-hugger – do something impossible to ignore: they leave Santa Monica on bicycles with a promise to arrive in D.C. before Congress breaks, to raise money for new shelters, and to plead for a simple national standard of dignity: a safe bed for anyone who needs one. Across deserts, plains, and the Appalachians, the unlikely duo collides with the crisis face to face: a survivor feeding her town from a tiny kitchen, Albuquerque's civilian first-response teams, small city leaders building cabin villages, LGBTQ youth advocates opening safe space, cops who admit what they once got wrong, and families one paycheck from the street. Weather turns violent. Bodies break. Pneumonia slows them, pranks test them, politics divide them. Yet generosity keeps finding them at gas stations and county lines, and the ride keeps pulling them forward. When Ken and Rowan finally roll into Washington on fumes and resolve, they've raised real dollars for new beds, flipped stereotypes of who a homeless person "always is," and proven that unlikely partners can move both hearts and policy. Learn more here. <u>Bio:</u> Eric is a director and producer with 20+ years across major networks, web platforms, and theatrical features. He executive produced and co-directed "Sex Magic," distributed theatrically by IFC and a hit on Sundance Channel. His work has since turned toward social impact: the award-winning short "Hear Me," about an Iraqi war orphan, and two award-winning documentaries now touring festivals — "Breaking the Cycle," on homelessness in America, and "No Sleep Till Kyiv," on the Ukrainian conflict.

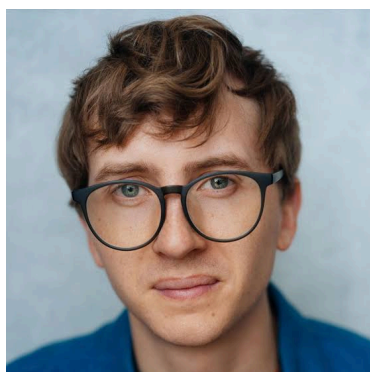
Kahane Corn Cooperman
Director/Producer, *Creede, USA*



Film Summary: In *CREEDE U.S.A.*, a remote Colorado mountain mining town becomes an unexpected model for public discourse. For generations, Creede's residents have held tightly to their heritage and values. But when the town brought in a theater company to revitalize the economy, the citizens were introduced to new ideas and perspectives—creating an ongoing tension between tradition and change. Nearly 60 years and countless performances later, Creede is a stunning microcosm of America's national divisions. Issues like guns in classrooms and gender pronouns spark tense debates, yet the town remains bound by a shared sense of place and community. Through intimate portraits, charged town meetings, and a rich historical lens, *CREEDE U.S.A.* explores how this evolving community continues to find common ground - both inside and outside of the mining shafts, ranches and the Creede Repertory Theatre. Hopeful and urgent, the film offers a poignant reflection on the challenges and possibilities of coexistence and change in an increasingly polarized world. [Learn more here.](#)

Bio: Kahane is an Academy Award-nominated documentary filmmaker and Emmy and Peabody award-winning producer, director, and showrunner. She is known for her focus on emotional, intimate, powerful storytelling and has made films on subjects as wide-ranging as mental health, civility's role in democracy, life with autism, and ice sculpting. Select credits include the Academy Award-nominated *Joe's Violin*, *The Antidote*, *The Me You Can't See*, *the New Yorker Presents*, and *Making Dazed*. Kahane's work has premiered at festivals including Sundance, Tribeca, HotDocs, DocNYC, and IDFA and can be seen on PBS, HBO, AppleTV+, and Amazon.

Nick Beaulieu
Director/Writer/Producer, *My Omaha*



Film Summary: *My Omaha* begins in 2016, as Donald Trump is elected President and political and racial divisions intensify across the United States. Returning home after journalism school, filmmaker Nick Beaulieu seeks to understand how these forces are colliding in his hometown of Omaha. Along the way, Nick meets Leo Louis II, a fiercely independent community activist who introduces him to the birthplace of Malcolm X in North Omaha. Through Leo, Nick encounters a side of his hometown he had never fully seen: a community fighting to protect itself, preserve its history, and survive systems that have long neglected it. At the same time, Nick begins filming a series of increasingly difficult conversations with his father, a conservative Christian and devoted Trump supporter whose sudden diagnosis of stage-4 cancer forces both men to confront the emotional and political distance between them before time runs out. As Omaha faces protests, political unrest, and the aftermath of a polarizing death of a protestor, Nick finds himself caught between family tensions, a personal awakening, and the realities Leo has spent his life navigating. What begins as a documentary about political division gradually becomes something more intimate and unsettling: a reckoning with identity, legacy, community, and America's unresolved contradictions. [Learn more.](#)

Bio: Nick is a documentary film director and producer based in NYC. His feature debut, *MY OMAHA*, was made in association with Kartemquin films, premiered at the Slamdance Film Festival and was acquired by Independent Lens and ITVS. Nick was also a contributing writer on "The Last Tear" and produced short films for the PBS series "American Portrait."

<u>Nadia Gill</u> Director/Producer, <i>The [Conserv]atives</i> 	<u>Film Summary:</u> From summer 2021 through Donald Trump's re-election campaign, four Republican insiders wage an uphill battle to transform their party's stance on climate change from within. A young grassroots organizer, a big-city mayor, an Iowa farmer, and an evangelical pastor—each embedded in different corners of the conservative ecosystem—risk alienation from their own communities as they attempt to reframe climate action as a conservative value. As extreme weather intensifies and the 2024 election approaches, they confront a political machine built on denial, testing whether personal conviction can overcome tribal loyalty. This is a deeply personal story about the cost of defying your own side and the haunting question that drives them all: will their efforts be enough before time runs out? Learn more here. <u>Bio:</u> Nadia Gill is an award-winning filmmaker and co-founder of Encompass Films. A former attorney who traded the courtroom for the camera, she specializes in documentaries that explore American identity, ideological complexity and the environment. Her work has been featured by Netflix, the Los Angeles Times, and the Redford Center, and supported by brands, including REI, Red Bull and Black Diamond. Gill co-directed <i>Planetwalker</i>, shortlisted for the Academy Awards, and is the co-director of <i>The [Conserv]atives</i> (Mountainfilm 2026), alongside Dominic Gill. She also founded the Bristlecone Film Collective, a nonprofit nurturing film culture in the Sierra Nevada.
<u>Peter Tamaribuchi</u> Director/Writer/Editor, <i>The Question</i> 	<u>Film Summary:</u> <i>The Question</i> is a narrative short about a couple whose relationship is tested by America's political divide. Lisa, a progressive theater director, wants to mount an anti-Trump adaptation of Hamlet, while her boyfriend Matthew, a conservative actor who voted for Trump, refuses to participate. Their clash forces them to confront buried histories: Lisa's family's trauma from Japanese American incarceration in the 1940s and Matthew's economic pain following the 2008 financial crisis. Through their intimate, often uncomfortable conversation, the film explores how personal experience shapes political identity and why disagreement so easily becomes dehumanizing. Learn more here. <u>Bio:</u> Peter Tamaribuchi is the Director, Writer and Editor of <i>The Question</i>, and founder of the film production company, Storytelling for the Screen LLC. He started out as a playwright and earned his MA at Boston University and his MFA from UCLA. His plays have been produced at a wide range of theaters and venues including Boston Playwrights Theater, Francis Ford Coppola's One Act Festival, Kennedy Center Festival, Oakland's Black Box Theater and Stanford University. In early 2000, he began to transition to writing screenplays which have received a wide variety of accolades including Slamdance, Austin Film Festival, Final Draft's Big Break and Nicholls. His last screenplay, LINK, has made it onto Coverfly's Red List and was listed in the top 6 percent out of over 11,000 short film screenplays. Peter has also been a drama and film teacher for twenty years and has worked with youth from the inner city to the suburbs.

Speaker Bios

<u>Jonathan Webster</u> Managing Director, One Small Step (StoryCorps) 	<u>Bio:</u> Coming Soon <u>Session Title:</u> What Gets Rewarded Gets Repeated - Bridging's Big Incentive Problem
<u>Shaka Mitchell</u> Founder, Come Together Music Project 	<u>Bio:</u> Shaka Mitchell is a Nashville-based lawyer, facilitator, and national leader in education reform policy. He is also a member of the Civil Society Fellowship (a project of the Aspen Institute). As the creator and host of the Come Together Music Project and podcast, Shaka uses the medium of music to find common ground between people from divergent political, ideological, and socio-economic backgrounds. <u>Session Title:</u> Using Music to Find Common Ground
<u>Fr. Justin Matthews</u> CEO, Reconciliation Services 	<u>Bio:</u> Father Justin Mathews is an Orthodox Christian priest, social entrepreneur, nonprofit executive, and artist with 25 years of experience. As CEO of Reconciliation Services, he is dedicated to cultivating social and economic reconciliation in Kansas City and healing historic dividing lines. Among his many accomplishments and recognitions, Father Justin is a Fellow of the Civil Society Fellowship and a member of the Aspen Global Leadership Network. <u>Session Title:</u> Using Music to Find Common Ground

<u>Ann Reidy</u> Managing Director, Civic Health Project 	<u>Bio:</u> As Civic Health Project’s Managing Director, Ann works to identify and scale initiatives that promote social cohesion and foster the civic norms foundational to a pluralist democracy. In addition to her work with the Civic Health Project, Ann has led the incubation of Bridge Entertainment Labs and is the Founder and Director of American Pals, a national schools-based bridging initiative. Ann brings leadership experience in academia, non-profit management, and secondary education to her role. She holds a BA in Literature from UC Santa Cruz and a PhD from Harvard University’s Graduate School of Arts and Sciences. <u>Session Title:</u> Scaling Social Cohesion Through Technology
<u>Neal Miskell</u> Founder, reFrame 	<u>Bio:</u> Neal Miskell is the founder and CEO of WEreFrame LLC and the creator of reFrame, which reveals the patterns in what people send and what they receive so they can see a conversation clearly before they act. He is also a Marine Corps Civil Affairs veteran, who served in Iraq and Afghanistan, building trust across cultural and political divides. <u>Session Title:</u> Scaling Social Cohesion Through Technology
<u>Neil Sogard</u> Founder, Civil Disco 	<u>Bio:</u> Neil Sogard is the Founder & CEO of Civil Disco, an infrastructure layer that helps bridging movement organizations scale the reach, impact, and measurable efficacy of the community programs they're already running, powered by the SCIM behavioral framework developed by the Civic Health Project. Civil Disco is built by the same team behind ClassMate, an AI education platform that has earned ISTE Best of Show and the CODiE Award for Best AI in Education. Prior to founding Civil Disco, Neil served as Head of Strategy and Global Partnerships at Singularity University, where he scaled and supported a global network of 150+ chapters across 74 countries — experience he's now applying toward strengthening critical thinking and productive communication in learning communities around the world. <u>Session Title:</u> Scaling Social Cohesion Through Technology

<u>Clare Ashcraft</u> Product Manager, AllSides Roundtables 	<u>Bio:</u> Clare Ashcraft is the product manager for AllSides Roundtables. She also serves as a media analyst and bridging coordinator for AllSides, with five years of experience working in the bridging field. She lives in Dayton, Ohio. <u>Session Title:</u> Scaling Social Cohesion Through Technology
<u>Gabriel Plata</u> Founder and CEO, Plurality 	<u>Bio:</u> Coming Soon <u>Session Title:</u> Scaling Social Cohesion Through Technology
<u>Adam Hong</u> Founder and CTO, Plurality 	<u>Bio:</u> Coming Soon <u>Session Title:</u> Scaling Social Cohesion Through Technology

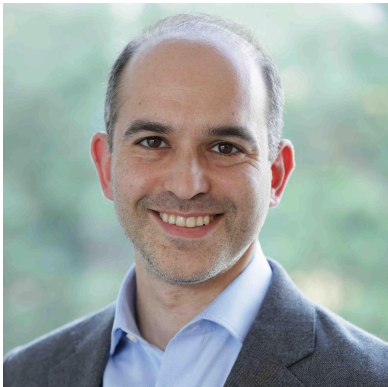
<u>Jeffrey Abramson</u> Chief Programming Officer, Bridge Entertainment Labs 	<u>Bio:</u> Jeff has over 25 years of experience leading creative business teams at the intersection of storytelling, culture, technology, and brand marketing. He specializes in innovative creative strategies and guiding teams through uncharted territory. Prior to his leadership role at Bridge Entertainment Labs, he led partner marketing for virtual events and audio storytelling at Meta, was the Head of Virtual Reality Content at Warner Bros. Discovery and Co-President of arts org turned experiential agency, Gen Art, where he led the annual Gen Art Film Festival for over a decade. Over the course of his career, he has supported a wide range of companies including Google, Canon, Cadillac, Delta Air Lines and REI on programs connected to culture and social impact. <u>Session Title:</u> Telling Better Stories of Us: Leveraging the Power of Film to Bridge Divides
<u>Louis Reed</u> National Senior Advisor, Common Ground USA 	<u>Bio:</u> Louis L. Reed, LADC, AADC is a nationally recognized social impact leader focused on justice reform, democratic resilience, and cross-partisan civic engagement. After serving nearly 14 years in federal prison, Reed became a key contributor to the First Step Act of 2018 and has since been directly involved in the passage of 30 federal and state bills, advancing sentencing reform, supervision reform, reentry, and voting rights restoration. Reed has held senior leadership roles at REFORM Alliance and Dream.org, and previously served as Executive Vice President of the Douglass Project for Justice. He currently serves as Senior National Advisor at Common Ground USA, where he supports national strategy to reduce political violence, strengthen democratic norms, and build durable, cross-partisan civic coalitions. <u>Session Title:</u> Meeting the Moment: State-based Initiatives Building Across Differences in Times of Crisis
<u>Becca Kearl</u> Director of Empowerment (Mormon Women for Ethical Government) 	<u>Bio:</u> Becca Kearl is the Director of Empowerment at Mormon Women for Ethical Government overseeing several teams focused on empowering women to see themselves as active participants of civil society. With a career rooted in nonprofit leadership and advocacy, Becca has dedicated her work to building connections and fostering healthy, respectful dialogue. Prior to this role, she served as the Executive Director of Living Room Conversations, where she spearheaded national efforts to bridge divides and democratize dialogue across diverse communities. <u>Session Title:</u> Meeting the Moment: State-based Initiatives Building Across Differences in Times of Crisis and Building Trust and Fostering Connection through Faith

<u>Jill Carey</u> Vice President of Programs, Civic Bridgers 	<u>Bio:</u> Jill Carey is the VP of Programs at Civic Bridgers, a Minnesota-based nonprofit that strengthens democracy by training leaders to bridge divides. In her role, she designs and implements evidence-based curricula that equips teens through adults with the skill and will to bridge divides. Prior to this, she founded Youth Alliance Yoga, the official SEL provider for Chicago Public Schools. Jill has earned distinction as both the Points of Light Civic Accelerator Winner and a University of Wisconsin-Madison Forward Under 40 honoree. <u>Session Title:</u> Meeting the Moment: State-based Initiatives Building Across Differences in Times of Crisis
<u>Libby Stegger</u> Civic Bridgers 	<u>Bio:</u> Libby Stegger is a social entrepreneur and the founder and executive director of Civic Bridgers. She is fueled by her belief that when we see others more fully, we will work more collaboratively. Libby excels in turning bold ideas into action. She has successfully scaled several initiatives addressing our nation's most pressing needs. Before founding Civic Bridgers, she spent a decade scaling hunger relief systems and K-12 schools. <u>Session Title:</u> Meeting the Moment: State-based Initiatives Building Across Differences in Times of Crisis
<u>Wilk Wilkinson</u> Braver Angels 	<u>Bio:</u> Wilk Wilkinson is a speaker, podcast host, and Director of Media Systems & Operations for Braver Angels, one of America's leading organizations promoting collaborative action across cultural and political divides. With decades of blue-collar leadership experience, Wilk brings a grounded perspective to polarization, personal responsibility, and civic renewal. As host of the Derate The Hate podcast, he challenges the fear, outrage, and grievance driving our divisions, believing a better country begins with better conversations and attitudes. <u>Session Title:</u> Meeting the Moment: State-based Initiatives Building Across Differences in Times of Crisis

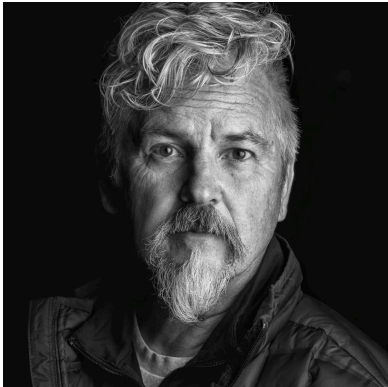
<u>Elizabeth Hume</u> Executive Director, Alliance for Peacebuilding 	<u>Bio:</u> Elizabeth (Liz) Hume is the Executive Director at the Alliance for Peacebuilding. She is an international lawyer and a conflict expert with more than 25 years of experience in senior leadership positions in bilateral, multilateral institutions and NGOs. She has extensive experience in policy and advocacy and overseeing sizeable and complex peacebuilding programs in conflict-affected and fragile states in Asia, Eastern Europe and Africa. <u>Session Title:</u> Trust and Believe: Peacebuilding Lessons for Trust-Building Bridging Interventions
<u>Jake Harriman</u> Founder and President, The Brickyard 	<u>Bio:</u> Prior to founding The Brickyard (formerly +More Perfect Union), Jake graduated with distinction from the United States Naval Academy and served seven and a half years in the U.S. Marine Corps as a Platoon Commander in the Infantry and Force Recon. While enrolled at the Stanford Graduate School of Business, he founded Nuru International to eradicate extreme poverty in the world's most unstable, vulnerable regions to help end violent extremism. Jake also played a vital role in drafting, introducing, and passing the Global Fragility Act of 2019. <u>Session Title:</u> Trust and Believe: Peacebuilding Lessons for Trust-Building Bridging Interventions
<u>Garrett Cathcart</u> Co-Founder and Executive Director, The Brickyard 	<u>Bio:</u> Garrett leads the mission to establish The Brickyard (formerly +More Perfect Union) as the next-generation civic and service organization. Prior to joining The Brickyard, Garrett served as the founding Executive Director of Mission Roll Call, a national organization that provides veterans a powerful and unified voice in public policy, and as the first Southeast Regional Director of veteran service organization Team Red, White and Blue. Garrett Cathcart served 9 years as a United States Army Cavalry officer and is a veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. <u>Session Title:</u> Trust and Believe: Peacebuilding Lessons for Trust-Building Bridging Interventions

Allison Ralph Founder and Principal, Cohesion Strategy 	Bio: A thought leader in religious pluralism and social cohesion, Allison Ralph brings 20 years' experience in strategy, research, and nonprofit and philanthropic leadership. She previously worked at The Aspen Institute, where she served as Associate Director of the Religion & Society Program and Director of its Religion and Philanthropy Initiative. Allison has a PhD in church history from The Catholic University of America, and an MPhil from Cambridge University. Her graduate research focused on how societies manage or fail to manage their internal diversity, and how they create and maintain social boundaries. Session Title: Threats to Pluralism: How Bridgebuilders can Respond
Lauren Higgins Director of Learning & Impact, New Pluralists 	Bio: Lauren Higgins is Director of Learning and Impact at New Pluralists, where she has led cross-ideological collaboration and grantmaking for four years. In her new role, she translates collective insights into strategic action—sharpening the ecosystem's ability to learn, adapt, and build social trust, mutual respect, and cross-ideological cooperation. A seasoned relationship builder, Lauren works where pluralism meets complex societal challenges—connecting community resilience, pragmatic financial innovation, adaptive capacity in times of crisis, and inner spiritual development. Session Title: Threats to Pluralism: How Bridgebuilders can Respond
Amy McIsaac Managing Director, PACE Funders 	Bio: As Managing Director at PACE Funders, Amy helps funders learn, connect, and experiment in an effort to strengthen American democracy and civic engagement. Currently, she is leading the development of a new initiative for PACE (soon to be announced). From 2020-2025, Amy led learning among PACE's network and specifically led the Civic Language Perceptions Project and the Faith In/And Democracy initiative. Amy is a proud AmeriCorps Alum, having served as an AmeriCorps VISTA in Washington, DC, during the height of the 2008 economic crisis. She has led multiple national and international nonprofit organizations focused on community engagement and service over her career, including with LIFT and 2Seeds Network, and most notably, was part of the small leadership team that established Service Year Alliance in 2015. Session Title: Threats to Pluralism: How Bridgebuilders can Respond

<u>Homayra Ziad</u> Program Director, Special Assignments, Interfaith America 	<u>Bio:</u> Dr. Homayra Ziad is a scholar of Islam, interfaith practitioner, and consultant on religion and civic life, with a focus on navigating institutional dynamics around religious diversity. With a doctorate in religion from Yale, Dr. Ziad has held several leadership roles, including Director of Islamic Studies at Johns Hopkins and Director of Campus Partnerships at Interfaith America. She served as Board President of the Maryland ACLU and is co-editor of Words to Live By: Sacred Sources for Interreligious Engagement. <u>Session Title:</u> Threats to Pluralism: How Bridgebuilders can Respond
<u>Daniel Yudkin</u> Founding Director, The Beacon Project (More in Common) 	<u>Bio:</u> Daniel Yudkin is the founding director of the Beacon Project, an effort at More in Common to leverage multidisciplinary methods to advance a new vision for America's Exhausted Majority. Prior to this, he was a visiting scholar at the Wharton School, where he studied issues related to moral decision-making and its implications for individuals, organizations, and society. His award-winning research has appeared on the front page of The New York Times, in multiple presidential campaigns, and in thousands of other media outlets. He lives in New Orleans with his wife and daughter. <u>Session Title:</u> How to Inspire America's Exhausted Majority
<u>David Beckemeyer</u> Host of the Outrage Overload Podcast 	<u>Bio:</u> David Beckemeyer is a science communicator, host of the Outrage Overload podcast, certified moderator for Crossing Party Lines, and former Silicon Valley tech executive. His work examines how media incentives and ragebait fuel toxic political polarization. Through intentionally curious conversations with social scientists and bridge-building practitioners, David deconstructs the structural drivers of outrage to help audiences navigate media overload, lower the temperature, and foster more thoughtful, constructive civic dialogue. <u>Session Title:</u> The Machinery of Outrage and the Challenge of Scale

<u>James Coan</u> Executive Director, More Like US 	<u>Bio:</u> James Coan is Co-Founder and Executive Director of More Like US, which motivates civil discourse on college campuses by correcting misperceptions that make students unnecessarily hesitant to engage with one another. Since 2016, he has focused on improving the US political environment at scale by leveraging social science research, including as a long-time Braver Angels volunteer. He brings 15 years of US-focused strategy consulting and think tank experience, and he received a public policy degree from Princeton. <u>Session Title:</u> The Machinery of Outrage and the Challenge of Scale
<u>Ashley Muddiman</u> Associate Professor, Dept. of Communication Studies at Univ. of Kansas 	<u>Bio:</u> Dr. Ashley Muddiman is an associate professor in the Department of Communication Studies and Co-Director of the Center for Democratic Governance at the University of Kansas. She is also a faculty research affiliate with the Center for Media Engagement housed at the University of Texas at Austin. For over a decade, she has been researching democracy and political communication, specifically incivility and democratic norms, media content and its effects on the public, and mis- and disinformation. <u>Session Title:</u> What is the Best Temperature? Finding the Right Level of Civility, Polarization, and Tolerance in Bridging Organizations
<u>Christopher Koliba</u> Edwin O. Stene Distinguished Professor, School of Public Affairs and Administration at Univ. of Kansas 	<u>Bio:</u> Christopher Koliba is the Edwin O. Stene Distinguished Professor of Public Administration, Policy & Governance at the University of Kansas (KU) School of Public Affairs and Administration (SPAA). His research interests include the areas of democratic accountability and governance, the governance of critical infrastructure, and the application of the theories and science of networks and complexity to matters of democratic institutional design and policy. He is Co-Director of the KU Center for Democratic Governance and a Fellow of the National Academy of Public Administration. <u>Session Title:</u> What is the Best Temperature? Finding the Right Level of Civility, Polarization, and Tolerance in Bridging Organizations

<u>Tara Chandra</u> Senior Research Manager, More in Common 	<u>Bio:</u> Dr. Tara Chandra is a Senior Research Manager at More in Common. She received her PhD in Political Science from the University of California, Berkeley. Her areas of expertise include democracy and authoritarianism, gender, political violence, foreign policy, and tech policy. She completed her Master's degree in Global Affairs at Yale University's Jackson School, and received her undergraduate degree from the University of Chicago. Prior to her graduate studies, Tara worked in Washington, DC for several years in foreign policy and national security. <u>Session Title:</u> Uncovering Cross-Partisan Agreement in a Polarized Environment
<u>Fred Duong</u> More in Common 	<u>Bio:</u> Fred Duong is a Senior Research Manager at More in Common, where he leads nationally representative mixed-methods research on polarization, democracy, and social cohesion. His work spans segmentation analyses, survey experiments, and public opinion research on topics including civil dialogue, democratic resilience, and language perception. He completed a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Toronto and holds a Ph.D. from Northeastern University and an M.A. from New York University, with training in social and personality psychology. <u>Session Title:</u> Uncovering Cross-Partisan Agreement in a Polarized Environment
<u>Kira Hamman</u> Senior Director of Programs, Urban Rural Action 	<u>Bio:</u> Kira Hamman is the Senior Director of Programs at Urban Rural Action, leading the design and implementation of UR Action programming in Uniting for Action Hubs across the country. She also directs UR Action's Hubs in southwestern and south-central Pennsylvania and facilitates UR Action workshops throughout the northeast. <u>Session Title:</u> Building Consensus on Addressing Common Field Challenges

<u>Pearce Godwin</u> Senior Director of Communications, Urban Rural Action; Founder, Listen First Project 	<u>Bio:</u> Pearce Godwin serves as Senior Director of Communications at UR Action and leader of Uniting for Action in Eastern North Carolina. He also co-leads Conservative Leadership for a United America. Pearce has been described as the beating heart of the movement to bridge divides in America. He is the founder of Listen First Project and the #ListenFirst Coalition of 550 organizations bringing Americans together across divides to build understanding, trust, relationships, and solutions — to turn down the heat and find a way forward together. <u>Session Title:</u> Building Consensus on Addressing Common Field Challenges
<u>John Notlner</u> Founder, A Peace of My Mind 	<u>Bio:</u> John is an award-winning author and photographer who has worked on five continents, gathering stories of human courage, grace, and resilience. He has produced projects for national magazines, Fortune 500 companies, and non-profit organizations. In 2008, frustrated with the quality of our national dialogue, and all the things that ask us to focus what divides us, he wondered if he could use his storytelling and art to rediscover what connects us. <u>Session Title:</u> Portraits of Trust
<u>Elena Saltzman</u> Director of Campaigns, Civic Nation 	<u>Bio:</u> Elena Saltzman (she/her) is the Director of Campaigns at Civic Nation, where she currently leads the development of the Civic Homes Project, a new network and fund to support and grow local spaces that help people build trust, belonging, and civic agency with their neighbors. Before joining Civic Nation in 2021, Elena spent several years working on political campaigns. She holds a B.A. in Political Science from Brown University and lives in Washington, DC, but is a proud Philadelphia native (go birds). <u>Session Title:</u> How Civic Homes Build Belonging & Trust

<u>Kamy Akhavan</u> Managing Director, Univ. of Southern California's USC Dornsife for the Political Future 	<u>Bio:</u> Kamy Akhavan, former CEO of ProCon.org, now leads USC's Center for the Political Future. Kamy oversees the operations of all Center components including the Unruh Institute of Politics, Fellows Program, the USC Dornsife Poll, and community and global engagement. Kamy writes and speaks on numerous topics including the origins of and solutions to political polarization, improving interpersonal communication, the awesome power of debate, nonprofit leadership, digital marketing, civics education, and how to teach controversial issues. With more than 20 years of experience in bridging divides at national levels, Kamy's work has served more than 300 million people. <u>Session Title:</u> How Civic Homes Build Belonging & Trust
<u>Jennifer Prophete</u> Director, The Hopeful Neighborhood Project / National Good Neighbor Day 	<u>Bio:</u> Jennifer Prophete is the Director of The Hopeful Neighborhood Project and a national leader behind National Good Neighbor Day. Leveraging 20+ years of experience in urban education, community development, and nonprofit leadership, she empowers everyday neighbors to pursue the common good. Jennifer resides in St. Charles with her husband, three children, and a close-knit neighborhood community. <u>Session Title:</u> From Front Doors to Stronger Communities: Rebuilding Trust Through Neighbor-to-Neighbor Connection
<u>Vanessa Elias</u> Founder, Block Party USA 	<u>Bio:</u> Vanessa Elias is a human connection and mental health activist, certified parent coach and parent support group facilitator for the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI). Her approach combines experience and expertise, transforming families and communities for greater well-being and resilience. Vanessa founded Block Party USA as an actionable cure for loneliness, social isolation, divisiveness, and the youth mental health crisis. Vanessa is a member of The Aspen Institute's Weave Social Fabric Project Speakers Bureau. <u>Session Title:</u> From Front Doors to Stronger Communities: Rebuilding Trust Through Neighbor-to-Neighbor Connection

<u>Abbie Haug</u> Assistant Director for National Bridgebuilding Initiatives, Interfaith America 	<u>Bio:</u> Abbie Haug is Assistant Director for National Bridgebuilding Initiatives at Interfaith America, where she supports the Team Up Project and related efforts to strengthen trust and belonging across communities. She holds a Master of Theological Studies from Harvard Divinity School, where she focused on religion, ethics, and politics, and brings extensive experience in religious pluralism and interfaith engagement. Abbie works closely with national partners to advance bridgebuilding strategies and elevate local stories of impact. Based in Chicago, Abbie is also a writer whose work is informed by her commitment to connection across differences. <u>Session Title:</u> The Team Up Toolkit: Practical and Proven Strategies for Bridging Divides
<u>Becca Tyvoll</u> Local Partners and Program Coordinator, Shoulder to Shoulder Campaign 	<u>Bio:</u> Becca Tyvoll serves as Shoulder to Shoulder's Local Partners and Program Coordinator, and previously served as the Operations and Local Partnerships Manager. Before joining Shoulder to Shoulder Campaign full-time, Becca worked with Peace Catalyst International in the Washington, DC area, helping to form Christian peacebuilders through bridge-building with their Muslim neighbors, and through deepening engagement on conflicts and issues locally and abroad, including Israel-Palestine. She holds a M.A. in International Peace and Conflict Resolution and a B.A. in International Studies from the School of International Service at American University. <u>Session Title:</u> Building Trust and Fostering Connection through Faith
<u>Jerad Morey</u> Director of Strategic Relationships, Minnesota Council of Churches 	<u>Bio:</u> In his role at Minnesota Council of Churches, Jerad leads the Respectful Conversations Project, a peacebuilding initiative that aims to boost empathy, improve social cohesion, and strengthen democracy through structured, facilitated conversations among people with diverse beliefs. He is also a pastor and peacemaker who is passionate about leading people with differences to experience positive feelings toward one another and identify common ground to advance society. Jerad has dedicated his role as a clergy person to build bridges between diverse communities on controversial issues, especially across differing viewpoints to further the role of religious pluralism in strengthening democracy. He is also an Obama Foundation USA Leader. <u>Session Title:</u> Building Trust and Fostering Connection through Faith

<u>Matthew Cotton Jr.</u> Race Discourse Officer, US Baha'i Office of Public Affairs 	<u>Bio:</u> In his role at the USBaha'i Office of Public Affairs, Mat co-coordinates the office's collaboration with individuals, organizations, and agencies in the U.S. engaged in public discourses and policy advocacy directed toward racial justice and racial unity. Prior to joining the office in 2022, Mat worked at the North American Bahá'í House of Worship as a coordinator of its outreach and educational endeavors to build capacity in young people and families to engage in acts of service in their local community. Mat holds a B.A in International Studies and Global Environmental Sustainability. His passion is engaging in community-building and social action with his family and an ever-expanding number of his neighbors on the southside of Chicago. <u>Session Title:</u> Building Trust and Fostering Connection through Faith
<u>Dr. Emily Van Duyn</u> Associate Professor, Dept. of Communication at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign 	<u>Bio:</u> Dr. Emily Van Duyn is an Associate Professor in the Department of Communication at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. Her research examines how people navigate deep differences, sustain relationships across disagreement, and build trust in contexts marked by political and social division. Her main focus is around what happens when political difference becomes hyper-personal—within families, friendships, and romantic relationships. <u>Session Title:</u> From Research to Practice: Talking Through Political Differences in Families
<u>Eve Sullivan</u> Founder and Board Chair, Parents Forum 	<u>Bio:</u> Trained as a language teacher, Eve founded Parents Forum in 1991 as a way to pay forward the help she received in raising her own children. She also served as a senior editorial assistant at MIT for many years. She is active on behalf of Parents Forum with other organizations, including having served on the board of the International Federation for Parent Education based in Paris. <u>Session Title:</u> From Research to Practice: Talking Through Political Differences in Families

<u>Christy Moreno</u> Advisor, Parents Forum 	<u>Bio:</u> Christy Moreno is a nationally recognized organizer and bilingual communications leader dedicated to advancing opportunity for children and families. As National Organizing Director for the National Parents Union, she mobilizes parents and communities to shape public policy and drive change from the local level to the halls of Congress. Previously, she served as Advocacy Officer at Revolución Educativa, championing Latino success through education and civic engagement. Christy also spent nearly a decade leading cultural identity brands and consumer advocacy in the private sector and owns Moreno Denton Language Services. <u>Session Title:</u> From Research to Practice: Talking Through Political Differences in Families
<u>Maureen Eccleston</u> Chief Impact Officer, Service Year Alliance 	<u>Bio:</u> Maureen is a mission-driven leader who believes in the power of service to open pathways, develop leaders, and bridge divides. A proud AmeriCorps alum, Maureen has worked with nearly every part of the AmeriCorps ecosystem and brings more than two decades of experience advancing national service, civic engagement, and youth development. Originally from Philadelphia, she lived in multiple states before landing in Lancaster, PA, where she lives with her husband, two children, and their West Highland Terrier, Mozzarella. <u>Session Title:</u> Where do we go from here? Reflecting on the Summit and Looking Ahead
<u>Maury Giles</u> CEO, Braver Angels 	<u>Bio:</u> Maury Giles is CEO of Braver Angels, the nation's largest grassroots organization inspiring Americans to build together across differences – learning to contend without contempt, rebuild trust, and engage in the shared practice of self-government. Maury brings more than three decades of experience from the commercial and civic sectors, spanning journalism, market research, and experience design. As a former executive and entrepreneur, he specialized in decoding human motivation and building high-trust engagement strategies for complex organizations. Maury views the private sector as a vital laboratory for innovation and results-oriented leadership, applying those same rigorous disciplines to making courageous citizenship the honored norm in America. <u>Session Title:</u> Where do we go from here? Reflecting on the Summit and Looking Ahead

<u>TBD</u> Chapter Leader, BridgeUSA	<u>Bio:</u> Coming Soon <u>Session Title:</u> Where do we go from here? Reflecting on the Summit and Looking Ahead

Attendee List (DRAFT TO BE UPDATED)

Organization	Name	Title
Abraham's Bridge (film)	Elinor Pierce	Filmmaker
Alliance for Peacebuilding	Elizabeth (Liz) Hume	Executive Director
Alliance for Social Trust, Aspen Institute	Oprah Cunningham	Senior Associate, Programs & Communications
AllSides	John Gable	CEO
AllSides	Clare Ashcraft	Bridging Coordinator, Media Analyst, AllSides Roundtables Product Manager
American Public Square (Co-Hosting Organization)	Claire Bishop	CEO & Executive Director
American Public Square (Co-Hosting Organization)	Ryan Bernsten	Director of Brand & Partnerships
American Public Square (Co-Hosting Organization)	Tricia Maxfield	Program Director
American Public Square (Co-Hosting Organization)	Erinn Skepnek	Operation Manager
American Public Square (Co-Hosting Organization)	Xavier Mara	Program Coordinator
A Peace of My Mind	John Notlner	Founder & Executive Director
A Peace of My Mind	Bridget Lynch	Studio Assistant
Association for Women's Health Obstetrics and Neonatal Nurses	Danielle Jones	Vice President
Author and Speaker	Tania Israel	Author and Speaker
Block Party USA	Vanessa Elias	Founder
Braver Angels	Maury Giles	CEO
Braver Angels / Derate the Hate Podcast	Wilk Wilkinson	Director of Media Operations (BA) Creator/Host (Derate the Hate podcast)

Breaking The Cycle Movie, Hope The Mission	Eric Liebman	Director of the film, Board Member of Hope The Mission
Bridge Entertainment Labs	Jeffery Abramson	Deputy Director
Call for a New American Revolution	Bob Loeb	Founder
Carleton College	Sinda Nichols	Director, Center for Community and Civic Engagement
Catholic Charities USA	Denise Ogilvie	Regional Coordinator
Center for Economic Opportunity and Belonging	Ze Min Xiao	President and CEO
Civic Bridgers	Libby Stegger	Executive Director
Civic Bridgers	Jill Carey	VP of Programs
Civic Health Project	Ann Reidy	Managing Director
Civic Nation	Elena Saltzman	Director of Campaigns
Civil Disco	Neil Sogard	Founder
Cohesion Strategy	Allison Ralph	Founder and Principal
Come Together Music Project	Shaka Mitchell	Founder
Common Ground USA	Tristiaña Hinton	Senior Manager, Public Engagement
Common Ground USA	Louis L. Reed	National Advisor
Common Ground USA	Saadia Qureshi	Senior Officer Community Engagement
Consensus Council	Ann Crews Melton	Executive Director
Council on Foundations	Wendy Torrance	Director, Strategic Initiatives and Partnerships
Creede U.S.A. (film)	Kahane Corn Cooperman	Director/Producer CREEDE U.S.A.
Democracy 2076	Ade Salami	Program Director, Pro-Democracy Political Coalitions

DemocracyReady NY Coalition	Nan Mead	co-executive director
<u>Dignity.Us</u>	Madeleine Jones	Associate for Higher Education
Disagree Better	Helen Rocker	Program and Operations Manager
Engage Right	Bo Harmon	Founder
Footprint Entertainment/ Hope The Mission	Eric Liebman	Executive Producer / Director Hope Board Member
Foundation for Social Connection	Frances Kraft	Director of Research & Practice
Genesee Valley BOCES Civi Coalition	Nick D'Amuro	Coordinator of School Improvement & Civi Coalition Co-Chair
Georgia State University	Andrew Cohen	Professor
Inheritance Theater Project	Jon Adam Ross	Executive Director and Co-Founding Artist
Inheritance Theater Project	Roisin Goebelbecker	Program Manager
Institute for Islamic, Christian, and Jewish Studies (ICJS)	Molly Silverstein	Program Director for Nonprofit & Civic Professionals
Institute for Islamic, Christian, and Jewish Studies (ICJS)	Melissa Zieve	Senior Director for Program, Scholarship, and Operations
Interfaith America	Abbie Haug	Assistant Director of National Bridgebuilding Programs
Interfaith America	Homayra Ziad	Program Director, Special Assignments
Interfaith America	Nao Nakao	Manager for Student Experience
International Center for Religion & Diplomacy	Rebecca Cataldi	Senior Director of Programs
Johnson County Library	Amanda Wahlmeier	Regional Librarian
Kansas Leadership Center	Chris Green	Civic Information Officer
Kansas Leadership Center	Dani Gains	Journal Manager
Listen First Project	Cambria Findly-Grubb	Listen First Project

Matters Media (9/11: Reclaiming Ground Zero) (film)	Josh Sabey	Director
MGR Professional Services Inc; Our Ripple Effect Now initiative	Neil Ghosh	President
Middle Ground School Solutions	Kent Lenci	Founder
Minnesota: Land of Neighbors	Randolph Kent	Campaign Manager
More in Common	Daniel Yudkin	Director of the Beacon Project
More in Common	Tara Chandra	Senior Research Manager
More in Common	Fred Duong	Senior Research Manager
More Like US	James Coan	Co-Founder and Executive Director
Mormon Women for Ethical Government	Becca Kearn	Director of Empowerment
Mormon Women for Ethical Government	Lisa Tingey	Principled Citizenship Program Director
My Omaha (film)	Nick Beaulieu	Filmmaker
National Coalition for Dialogue & Deliberation (NCDD)	Keiva Hummel	Executive Director
National Institute for Civil Discourse	Cheryl Graeve	Program Director and National Organizer
National Museum and Center for Service	Julie Budkowski	Managing Director
New Pluralists	Lauren Higgins	Director of Learning and Impact
Oklahoma State University - Center for Health Sciences	MacKenzie Lance Jones	Curriculum and Evaluation Manager
Oklahoma State University - Center for Health Sciences	Amanda Sellers	Facilitation Manager
Outrage Overload Podcast	David Beckemeyer	Host and Creator
Over Zero	Satia Marotta	Director of Knowledge and Learning
PACE Funders	Amy McIsaac	Managing Director

Parents Forum	Eve Sullivan	Founder
Parents Forum	Christy Moreno	Advisor
Parent Leadership Training Institute-KC (PLTI-KC)	Julie Holland	Founder & Director
PEACE PAVILION INC	Orlando	Ghazala Salam
Plurality	Adam Hong	CTO
Plurality	Gabriel Plata	CEO
Precious Blood Spirituality Institute	Vicky Otto	Executive Director
Project Civility	Jeff Worrell	CEO
RJE Empowerment Foundation	Nicole Cline	Program Officer
Resurrection, A United Methodist Church	Cathy Bien	Lead Director, PR, Media and Community Relations
Rumi Forum	Ibrahim Anli	Executive Director
Service Year Alliance	Maureen Eccleston	Chief Impact Officer
Shoulder to Shoulder Campaign	Becca Tyvoll	Local Partners and Program Coordinator
Smithsonian Institution	Andy Mink	Director, Rural Initiative
Smithsonian Institution	Megan Beck	Education Outreach and Engagement Lead
Stand Together	Branden Polk	Director, Activations
State Business Executives	Jeff Wasden	President & CEO
StoryCorps' One Small Step	Jonathan Webster	Managing Director
The Andrew Carnegie Foundation	Ashley Arana	Program Analyst
The Andrew Carnegie Foundation	Maya Ward	Program Analyst, Education

The Brickyard	Garrett Cathcart	Executive Director
The Brickyard	Jake Harriman	Founder and President
The Brickyard	Brady Harman	Senior Program Manager
The Brickyard	Marla Godette	Team Leader- Kansas City, Missouri
The Compassionate Listening Project	Kirsten Szykitka	Executive Director
The Compassionate Listening Project	Nancy Jo Chabot	Board President
The Enemies Project	Larry Rosen	Host / Founder
The Hopeful Neighborhood Project/National Good Neighbor Day	Jennifer Prophete	Director
The Lead Listening Society	John G. Igwebuike	Executive Director
The Question (film)	Peter Tamaribuchi	Filmmaker
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign	Emily Van Duyn	Associate Professor
University of Kansas; Center for Democratic Governance	Dr. Ashley Muddiman	Associate Professor and Co-Director of The Center for Democratic Governance, University of Kansas
University of Mississippi	Graham Bodie	Professor (and Chief Listening Officer)
Urban Rural Action	Kira Hamman	Senior Director of Programs
Urban Rural Action	Pearce Godwin	Senior Director, Communications
U.S. Baha'i Office of Public Affairs	Mat Cotton	Race Discourse Officer
U.S. Baha'i Office of Public Affairs	Negar Abay	National Discourse Officer
US United	Adam Mizel	CEO
USC Center for the Political Future	Kamy Akhavan	Managing Director

Notes Pages

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