

Accelerating Civic Engagement for Citizen-led Solutions

We are entering a pivotal moment. Public trust in government, political parties, and traditional leadership is at historic lows, while more Americans than ever identify as unaffiliated, independent, or non-partisan. The upcoming 2026 election cycle, paired with the United States' 250th anniversary, will surface this frustration and create a rare openness among millions to engage in something new - something grounded in connection, collaboration, and citizen-driven solutions.

In this context, new funders, networks, and leaders are stepping forward - especially among those with a greater sense of urgency around addressing the polycrisis and comfort with rapidly scaling initiatives. In parallel with the five-to-ten-year plans favored by legacy foundations, [emerging backers](#) could invest in accelerated approaches that leverage technology, proven practices, and large-scale organizing.

Our shared opportunity is clear: if it's widely agreed that our inability to meet today's intersecting crises stems from a *sense-making challenge* - our inability to work together across divides - then the solution is building capacity for *better collective sense-making*. Fortunately, the practices for doing this already exist: dialogue, deliberation, civic assemblies (check out thousands of them [listed and linked here](#)), and bridging programs that have been tested and refined for decades. [Thousands of organizations](#) - national, regional, and local—already operate in this space, and [Better Together America's Civic Hubs](#) program has begun weaving them into a scalable network (35 hubs trained to date) with a focus on [local civic engagement](#).

The vision now is to **accelerate this work to establish 250 Civic Hubs across the country** - enough to serve every part of the US - each serving as a trusted, non-partisan anchor for local collaboration and citizen-led common ground solutions. Each hub would be resourced with:

- A core team (organizer/project manager, facilitator/program designer, communications and CRM lead, outreach and partnerships coordinator).
- Local programming with proven partners like Braver Angels, Civic Genius, More Perfect Union, Harwood, and others.
- Outreach, technology, media and local fundraising infrastructure.
- Awareness via a national media and storytelling strategy to elevate civic engagement and public participation.

This initiative and pace of scaling is no more ambitious than what we've seen in other sectors:

- Brazil's [Participativo](#) platform engaged 1.5 million citizens and 4 million visits in just 60 days this year! ([More on Participativo](#) and Brazil's journey to realize this).
- Sunrise Movement grew to 400+ hubs and 20,000 volunteers in two years (2017–2019).

- Franchises like Crumbl Cookies and F45 Training have scaled hundreds of new locations per year worldwide.

If fast-food chains and fitness brands (or PostMates) can scale at that pace, surely we can scale *democracy itself* - building the civic infrastructure that enables Americans to reconnect, deliberate, and realize common-ground solutions.

We are now **setting out a provisional framework, process, and proposal for accelerating this movement** and seeking input from leaders like you - on its viability, how it could be improved, who else we should connect with, and how to best weave this effort with existing initiatives, funders, and coalitions already active in the field.

Check out:

The [Tech Solutions & Coalitions](#) and the vision for **Locamor**: a [Platform that Enables Civic Hubs to Thrive](#)

[Accelerating Civic Engagement Exec Summary](#) *with links to dive into many of the key references listed above.*

[Haynes Foundation Grant](#) for Community Engagement in LA at scale

Other & More:

[List of Civic Assemblies in the US](#) - including top civic engagement platforms, coalitions and related organizations.

[Comedians Fix America Treatment & Context](#) - articulating the core media strategy.

[VisionReal.Studio + VisionHaus](#) - 'hackathon' with AI-video creators to show how all the above two strategies are realized and their impacts.