

CADA | Citizen Assembly and Deliberation Allies

Advancing Citizen Deliberation in the U.S.

Meetings Document

Questions about this document? Contact:

- [Michael Gallagher](#), Leadership Now Project (maintains calendar invites)
 - [Matt Byrne](#), Unify America
 - [Willow Paul](#), Unify America (maintains contact list)
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Deliberation-Related Resources and Links (good places to start!)

- The [CADA website](#) contains information for joining CADA, accessing membership resources, and updating contact information.
- [CADA Member Directory](#)
 - Submit updated contact information [here](#).
 - This list is “Opt Out” (Let us know if you don’t want to be on it)
 - Feel free to make a copy for your own use
- CADA Slack Forum - [link to join](#) (generated 9/27/24; needs to be updated every 30 days)
 - Contact joshua.chittum@unifyamerica.org if link refresh needed
- CADA Research Repository on Deliberative Democracy - [Drive Folder](#)
 - Send additional uploads to joshua.chittum@unifyamerica.org
 - Feel free to download and save any assets from this folder
- Citizens Assemblies - [global case studies database](#) (Airtable)
 - [2023 Trends in Deliberative Democracy: OECD Database Update](#)
- OECD’s [Resource Page](#) for innovative citizen participation (including assemblies)
- Assemble America’s [Resource Page](#) for citizens assemblies
- Assemble the Field’s [website](#) to advance the U.S. field
- Democracy Policy Network’s [kit for deliberative democracy processes](#)
- Democracy Technologies’ [database of civic tech platforms](#) for voting, deliberation, etc.
- [Cost modeling template](#) for Citizens Assemblies (presented in Dec 15 Zoom session)
- Participatory Budgeting Project [Resource Page](#)
- Democracy Beyond Elections [Resource Page](#)
- People Powered’s [Guide to Digital Participation Platforms](#)
- Participedia’s [crowdsourcing platform](#) for public participation and democratic innovations

Short list for new member outreach:

- [CADA Member Directory](#)
- [CADA Meetings Doc](#)
- [CADA Slack](#) (generated 6/22/26; link needs to be re-created every 30 days)
- [CADA Research Repository](#)

June 19, 2026

[Recording Link](#)

Pw: 0y\$#C*ax

[Meeting Summary and Transcript](#) (AI Generated)

AGENDA

- Stanford's Industry-Wide Forum to engage everyday people (in US and India) on AI agents
 - Alice Siu, Stanford University Deliberative Democracy Lab
- Oregon's citizen assemblies to review ballot initiatives
 - What happened with the "CIR"? (Citizens' Initiative Review)
 - Linn Davis, Healthy Democracy, will share
- A Mayor's experience with the Fort Collins citizen assembly
 - Jeni Arndt, former mayor and former member of the Colorado State Assembly
- Training needs and resources to learn about citizen assemblies, deliberation
 - Leonora Camner, Sortician USA
 - Phil Lindsay, Bard College
 - FIDE North America shared at last CADA meeting, April
- Co-create future CADA sessions about social and political movements -
 - Which movements can we learn from to advance citizen assemblies?
- And quick updates on other developments in the citizen assembly and deliberation space
 - Learnings from Akron, OH, citizen assembly
 - Maine's statewide citizen assembly on educational priorities
 - Connecticut statewide citizen assembly on property taxes

April 24, 2026

[Recording Link](#)

No pw needed

AGENDA

- CADA Welcome
- Peter Macleod of MASS LBP will discuss his important new book:
 - "Democracy's Second Act - Why Politics Needs the Public"
- Los Angeles Citizen Assembly — How did they do it? Now what happens?
 - Leonora Camner (Sortician USA), Wayne Liebman , and Justin Reedy (Healthy Democracy)
- Recent citizen assemblies organized by National Civic Leagues/ Civic Genius
 - Decatur, Georgia
 - Raleigh, NC
 - Snohomish County, Washington
 - Nick Vlahos
 - Ibrahim

- “Frankly” — Update on their deliberative tech platform
 - Samantha Shireman
- Training Up the Field - Who’s Offering “Citizen Assembly 101” and other resources?
 - Bard College - Phil Lindsay
 - FIDE North American - Marjan Ehsassi & Cole Speidel
 - Sortition USA & Healthy Democracy - Leonora Camner
- Announcements
 - Updates on documentaries
- Next CADA meeting: Friday, June 19th — Noon ET/ 9am PT
 - Looking for “movement building” expertise to enrich our agenda

February 20, 2026

[Recording Link](#)

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AGENDA

- Welcome
- CADA members meet in small groups to have fun talking.
- Kristen Hansen, Civic Health Project, will update us on: **“The Forum - A Citizen-Led Path to Renewal”**
 - **3 state effort** to create citizen assemblies in “early-primary states”, with multiple partners including: The People, Common Good AI, GoVocal...
 - New Hampshire
 - South Carolina
 - Nevada
- Joshua Chittum, Unify America — **“What’s Cookin in Ohio?”** Citizen assemblies in Akron, and Dayton
- Gryffin Wilkens-Plumley, Yale University - **“What’s Brewing in Connecticut?”** — Statewide assembly on property taxes
- **Faster, Cheaper, and Maybe Better — Lowering the Costs of Deliberation**
 - Rahmin Sarabi, The American Public Trust, will update us on the multi-state efforts of Bloom:
 - Turning Polarization into Breakthrough Common Ground
 - ***Democratic Infrastructure and Capacities for the AI Era***
Launching with a Multistate 2026 Deliberation on AI & the Future of Our Communities

SHORT UPDATES:

- **Lexington, KY — Charter Review Citizen Assembly**
 - Kit Anderson and Lilly Bramley, CivicLex

- **Leadership Training for Democracy** - Leonora Camner
 - Sortition USA and Healthy Democracy joint project to train outreach and advocacy for deliberative democracy

REMAINING TIME:

- Announcements
 - New documentary: “9-11: Reclaiming Ground Zero” — Bonus CADA meeting Friday, March 6

November 7th, 2025

[Recording Link](#)

Pw: .hEuQW0N

[Meeting Summary](#) (AI Generated)

AGENDA

1. Welcome new CADA members
 2. Introduction of Liz Barry, who curated and will facilitate today’s CADA meeting: **Updates and Trends in the Deliberative Tech Ecosystem**
- Elizabeth “Liz” Barry (US/Ireland) is a world-leading expert in real-time systems for gathering, analyzing, and understanding what large groups of people think in their own words. She is the Executive Director of [Metagov.org](https://metagov.org), a nonprofit laboratory for self-governance in a digital age, where she directs a research area on interoperable deliberative tooling. She is also the co-founder and CEO of CrownShy, an engineering and process design team dedicated to meeting the needs of those implementing large or complex self-governance projects, notably the Government of Scotland.

CASE STUDIES

- **2024 Taiwan Alignment Assembly**
 - Talk To The City, Polis, Stanford Deliberative Polling, Borda voting
 - Zarinah Agnew, The Collective Intelligence Project (<https://www.cip.org/>)
 - Alice Siu, Stanford Deliberative Democracy Lab (<https://deliberation.stanford.edu/>)
- **2024 Israel Palestine Remesh**
 - Andrew Konya, Co-founder and Chief Scientist, Remesh

- Lisa Schirch, Professor of the Practice of Peacebuilding and Technology, University of Notre Dame
 - **Framework and Discussion**
 - Liz Barry
3. **Bonus CADA Meeting:** Next CADA Meeting will be Friday, December 5th, usual time of 9am PT/ Noon ET.
- 90 minute meeting
 - Additional 30 minute optional discussion with the filmmaker, Adam Cronkright
 - **"Goodbye Elections. Hello Democracy."** is an upcoming feature-length documentary that explores a bold alternative to our broken political system. The film follows 30 everyday Americans—selected by lottery—to see if they can succeed where politicians fail. Their raw and unscripted journey hints at what may be possible when we replace elections and politicians with democratic lotteries and everyday people. Teaser: <https://joinofbyfor.org/#film>
 - Adam Cronkright is directing the documentary and co-led the organization of the state-wide Citizens' Panel (Michigan) that is featured in the film. His previous work centered on replacing elections with democratic lotteries in schools.
 - PRE-REGISTER for our next CADA meeting: Friday, Dec 5th, 9am PT/ Noon ET (90 minutes + 30 mins):
<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/lbkvNnNgQdiNRUey1gHEQA>
 - After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

September 19, 2025

Meeting Recording [Link](#)

Password: &ms5h86k

- [AI Generated Summary and Transcript of meeting](#)
 -  19 Sept 2025 - Claudia Chwalisz - CADA.pdf Slide Presentation
- **CADA Feedback Survey** - Let us know how we're doing [here](#)!
- **New Website:** Join CADA, update contact information, and access member resources [here](#).

May 30, 2025 Zoom Session

Meeting Recording Link

- [Zoom Link](#)
- pw: v@6z36T?

AI Generated Transcript

-  **CADA Transcript May 30, 2025 (1).pdf**

Agenda

- Welcome to first time CADA attendees
- Interactive session with other CADA members: If there were laws that create citizen assemblies, what should be in those laws?
- Joe Matthews, LA-based democracy journalist, presenting on this model law he's drafted: [A Model Law for Calling and Funding Citizens' Assemblies](#)
- Yves Dejaeghere, Executive Director, FIDE - Europe, presenting on key lessons from European cities that have citizen assembly laws
- Fort Collins, Colorado, Citizen Assembly — completed on May 4. Updates from Sylvia Tatman-Burrus, City of Fort Collins, and Justin Reedy, Healthy Democracy
- Scheduled Announcements
 - Cole Speidel, Program Manager, FIDE - North America
 - David Schechter, Democracy R&D
- Next CADA Meeting:
 - Friday, September 19th, 9am PT/ Noon ET

BIOS of Today's Presenters:

- Joe Matthews: an LA-based journalist, writes about California and local government and democratic practice worldwide. He's the founder-columnist at the planetary publication Democracy Local, a Renovating Democracy fellow at the Berggruen Institute; syndicated California columnist at Zocalo Public Square, and co-president of the Global Forum on Modern Direct Democracy. He's serving as a Project Design Partner for the new digital deliberative tool Engaged California. The author of three books about California governance, Joe was a newspaper reporter for 15 years, and has coached youth baseball for 38 years.
- Yves Dejaeghere: Yves Dejaeghere worked as a senior researcher in political science at KULeuven and the University of Antwerp and as a guest professor at several other universities in Belgium and France. He was also a visiting researcher at the University of Oxford (UK). He is currently a guest professor at the University of Leuven. Yves was the rapporteur of the expert group that designed the so-called 'Ostbelgien Model', installing the first permanent Citizen assembly in the world. He had the same role for the design of the permanent "Assemblée Citoyenne" of the City of Paris, which was designed by FIDE.

April 11, 2025 Zoom Session

Links

Agenda

- **Fort Collins, CO, citizen assembly begins April 12th (0:04 minutes)**
 - Rahmin Sarabi, American Public Trust
- **Documentary project on the Irish Citizen Assembly (0:09 minutes)**
 - Rahmin Sarabi, Short Trailer, and Cassidy Friedman of [Burn a Light](#) productions
 - Raising funds to travel to Ireland for more filming
- **Lessons from Canada: Twenty years of public deliberation (0:19 minutes)**
 - Peter MacLeod, Principal, MASS LBP. (<https://www.masslbp.com/>)
 - Recently concluded process on municipal amalgamation in Victoria, BC
 - Three assembly types: National Constitutional Assemblies; Parliamentary Assemblies; Regulatory/Public Sector Assemblies
 - Three M's for success: Mandate, moment, money
 - Caution that these processes could be used for illiberal means (e.g., Hungary)
- **Government of Finland - Journey and decisions to engage the public in the redesign of digital services when a loved one dies...(0:35 minutes)**
 - Anton Sigfrids ([M.Soc.Sc.](#)) VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland Ltd.
 - Kirsi Hantula (MA) Sitra's Democracy Innovations program (<https://www.sitra.fi/en/>)
 - Tested three platforms (polis, consider.it and Voxiberate)
 - Focus on digitizing public services around death of a loved one

Magic Wands Presentations (0:55 minutes)

Two Minute Pitches: "If I had a magic wand, this is what I would do to increase citizen assemblies and deliberations in the United States the next 3 years....."

- **Alice Siu, Stanford University Deliberative Democracy Lab**
 - 501c4 and Political Action Committee to support candidates that champion the work of this field
- **Matt Abrams, Entrepreneur and early supporter of Deschutes, OR, Citizen Assembly**
 - Six broad ideas: Capital and infrastructure; arts and entertainment, Civic Festivals; 50 state assembly initiative; tech development; a civic board; degree granting programs
- **Dan Seltz, Director of Innovation, Leadership Now Project**
 - Nomenclature and standards - Are we Model T (standard) or tons of options like crackers? Need consistency and agreement.
 - More quantitative research - \$2 can save a life from malaria vs. \$2k (rough napkin math) for individual participants in an assembly. What is the case for spending the \$2k?

- Impact road map - Be clear about how to get from today to 50 years from now. [South Park underwear gnomes theory of change is not sufficient](#). Need details for how to get from Step 1, to identifying what Step 2 is, and how it gets us to Step 3. So....investment is not simply in 100 participants of an assembly but investing in a process that improves the lives of 350 million people over the course of decades.

Future Meetings

- What topic do you most want to learn more about?
- Is there a problem you'd like to discuss with CADA colleagues (in break out session with 6 or 8 others)?

February 7, 2025 Zoom Session

Links

[Zoom Recording + Meeting Chat Thread](#) pw: f5P@jKl4
[Meeting Summary](#)

Outcomes

Ft. Collins Relevant Links

- <https://ourcity.fcgov.com/civicassembly>
- <https://ourcity.fcgov.com/future-of-hughes>

Deschutes County, OR

-  Deschutes County, Oregon Civic Assembly on Youth Homelessness
- <https://www.philanthropy.com/commons/citizen-assemblies-philanthropy>
- <https://healthydemocracy.org/home/projects/hugescivicassembly/>
- [USA Today Podcast](#) (for Subscribers)
- [USA Today Podcast](#) (nonsubscribers)

Saving the Planet from Asteroids

-  [Innovating our Planetary Futures with Citizens \(1\).pdf](#)
- [httpSupporting Federal Decision Making Through Participatory Technology Assessment](#)

2 Minute Pitch Links

- [Chartering Change: Transforming City Charter Processes Through Democratic Innovation](#)
- [Peter MacLeod](#) pw: HD#AMA1=

Announcement Links

- [Aaron Gell Article](#) and email for responses: Aaron.gell@protonmail.com

- [Paul Zeitz Constitutional Amendment](#)

Chat Links

- [OECD U.S. Planned Citizens' Assemblies and Deliberations](#)
 - Contact Rahmin at American Public Trust for a different tracking database

Agenda

- **Michael Gallagher - 0:00**
 - Introductions and housekeeping
- **Update on future Fort Collins, CO, citizen assembly at 04:30**
 - Rahmin Sarabi, American Public Trust, and
 - Sabrina Slagowski-Tipton, Managing Director- Center for Public Deliberation at Colorado State.
- **Debrief on completed Deschutes County, OR, citizen assembly on teenage homelessness 11:30**
 - Josh Burgess, Central Oregon Civic Action Project, & Justin Reedy, Healthy Democracy
- **“How Would You Save the Planet from Asteroids?” — a remarkable case of citizen deliberation to advise scientists 31:30**
 - Mahmud Farooque, Consortium for Science, Policy & Outcomes, Arizona State University
 - Darlene Cavalier Darlene, Professor of Practice, Arizona State University, and Founder, SciStarter
- **New Feature at CADA — 2 minute pitches 55:00**
 - Answer this question, please.....
 - If you had a magic wand, how would you use it to accelerate citizen assemblies and deliberation methods in the US in the next three years? (And maybe your wand has \$10 million, if you want...)
 - Matt Leighninger, National Civic League
 - Peter McLeod, MASS LBP (Canadian leader in citizen assemblies)

Nov 15, 2024 Zoom Session

Links

[Fathom recording link](#)

[Meeting summary](#) (Fathom Summary, not edited)

[Meeting chat thread](#) (lots of great exchanges)

Outcomes

Presentation slides:

- [The Jury and Democracy Project](#) (John Gastil)
- [Activated Citizenship](#) (Marjan Ehsassi)
- [Renewing Democracy With Assemblies and Beyond](#) (Rahmin Sarabi)
- [Looking Ahead: Opportunities for Deliberation](#) (breakout rooms)

Books reviewed in today's meeting:

- [Hope for Democracy](#) (Gastil)
- [Activated Citizenship](#) (Ehsassi)

Links shared in the chat, by meeting participants:

- <https://assemblethefield.org/>
- <https://connectingtocongress.org/>
- <https://drpaulzeitz.substack.com/p/unifyusa-betting-on-real-democracy>
- https://objectively.ai/#Discourse_vid
- <https://www.epsilontheory.com/i-think-representative-democracy-is-a-good-idea-and-we-should-give-it-a-try/>
- <https://sites.psu.edu/citizensinitiativereview/> (John Gastil's site)

Agenda

- **Michael Gallagher** - 9:00 (5 min)
 - Introductions and housekeeping
- **John Gastil** – 9:05 (15 min) (10 presentation, 5 Q&A)
 - Drawing from his book, “The Jury and Democracy: How Jury Deliberation Promotes Civic Engagement and Political Participation,” John will comment on the lessons jury duty holds for advancing citizen deliberation.
- **Marjan Ehsassi** - 9:20 (15 min) (10 presentation, 5 Q&A)
 - Drawing from her recent new book, “Activated Citizenship: The Transformative Power of Citizens’ Assemblies,” Marjan will comment on ways to optimize the participant experience in citizens’ assemblies.
- **Rahmin Sarabi** - 9:35 (10 min)
 - Update on field-building work in citizen assemblies
- **[Breakout Slides](#)** - 9:45 (15 min) Election outcomes and implications for our work - 15 min
 - Prompt 1: What factors will support or inhibit deliberative work in the next two years?
 - Prompt 2: What are your top ideas for advancing deliberative work in the next two years?
 - Prompt 3: What should we cover in the next CADA meeting?
- **All / Roundtable** - 10:00 (10 min)
 - Readouts from breakout groups
 - Closing announcements, questions
 - Tentative date for next meeting: Friday, Feb 7, 2025 - 9:00 am PT / noon ET

* We deferred the citizen assembly participant panel to a later CADA meeting; panel questions we prepared in advance, and will use in the future, are:

- Why did you opt in?
- What did you like or dislike about the experience?
- What surprised you the most?
- Would you do it again?
- What would you have done differently? What could be improved?
- What do you think would attract other people to participate in the future?
- What will change for you from here? What will you do differently?

Sep 27, 2024 Zoom Session

Links

[Zoom recording link](#) - if prompted for passcode, enter **Passcode: yt?*u571**

[Breakout session slides](#) - we answered these questions in 6 breakouts:

- Your top goal for the next 12 months?
- Topic or speaker you'd like to hear about?
- Aspects of the participant experience you want to know about?

Outcomes

Citizen Solutions - relevant links:

- Citizen Solutions Tennessee - [website](#)
- Citizen Solutions Wisconsin - [website](#)
- Video on Citizen Solutions program (Starts With Us | Builders Movement)
- [Teaser clip](#) for film *The Tennessee 11*
- Speaker: Ashley Phillips, ashley@buildersmovement.org

New Hampshire Together - relevant links:

- New Hampshire Together - [website](#)
- New Hampshire Together - [slide presentation](#)
- New Hampshire Together - [video clip](#)
- Speaker: Zabrae Valentine, zabrae@gmail.com

America in One Room: The Youth Vote - relevant links:

- America in One Room: The Youth Vote - [website](#)
- America in One Room: The Youth Vote - [results summaries](#)

Agenda

- **Opening announcements / reminders** (feel free to add yours to chat!)
- **Ashley Phillips, "Starts With Us" | Builders Movement** (10 min + Q&A)
 - Overview of the [Citizen Solutions](#) program that convened citizens in Tennessee to discuss gun policy, and in Wisconsin to discuss abortion policy.
 - Outcomes from Tennessee are captured in a new feature-length documentary called [The Tennessee 11](#).
- **Zabrae Valentine, New Hampshire Together** (10 min + Q&A)
 - Overview of outcomes and lessons learned from statewide Citizens Assembly in June 2024.
- **Alice Siu, Stanford Deliberative Democracy Lab** (5 min)
 - Brief overview of **"America in One Room: The Youth Vote"**, held in Washington, DC, July 19-22
- **Josh Burgess — Central Oregon Civic Action Project / Democracy Next** (5 min)
 - Brief update from first session of the Deschutes County/ Bend, OR, assembly on youth homelessness.
- **Breakout sessions and readouts** (30 min)
- **NEXT CADA Meeting:** Friday, November 15th, Noon ET/ 9 am PT (75 minutes)

Jun 14, 2024 Zoom Session

Links

[Zoom recording link](#) - if prompted for password, enter: **!0=8g=d1**

[Building Civic Bridges Act](#) | [Resolutionaries](#) | [Slides](#)

[Trust for Civic Life](#) | Slides (pending)

Outcomes

AI Summary from Zoom - not fully edited for accuracy

Quick Summary

The participants discussed efforts related to the Freedom to Vote Act and its potential impact on federal innovation and democracy, with a focus on the role of citizen assemblies in promoting democracy. They also reviewed the work of the Trust for Civic Life, a collaborative funder aimed at investing in civic infrastructure, and shared experiences and lessons learned from the Bend Citizen Assembly fundraising journey. Lastly, they introduced the Building Civic Bridges Act, a federal legislation aimed at empowering communities to address issues of bridge divides, and discussed the prospects of the Act, the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act, and the Freedom to Vote Act.

Leadership Now Project (Dan Selz)

Dan Selz and Chris Medina to finalize the deck on citizen assemblies for conversations with local leaders, and to share the Airtable of planned or in-progress citizen assemblies.

Democracy R&D Annual Meeting and Citizen Assemblies (David Schechter)

David, the co-lead of Democracy R&D, announced the annual meeting of their international network, taking place in Vancouver to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the first citizen assembly in British Columbia. The meeting will include a citizen assembly launching in Victoria and feature speakers from various countries. Dan, the director of Innovation leadership, discussed the work of their group in promoting citizen assemblies and shared the development of a deck to aid members in conversations about the topic.

Trust for Civic Life Pilot (Hollie Russon Gilman)

Hollie introduced the Trust for Civic Life, a collaborative funder aimed at investing in civic infrastructure. The trust focuses on two types of investments: civic hubs, which are ecosystemic grants for communities, and individual grants for civic entrepreneurs. The goal is to strengthen civic muscles in communities, particularly in underfunded areas such as rural communities, tribal communities, and border communities. The trust is piloting a 3-year program, providing \$10 million annually for civic programming, and will partner with the Agora Institute for survey research to understand the impact and create learnings for the community.

Bend Citizen Assembly Fundraising Journey (Josh Burgess)

Hollie handed the discussion to Michael and Kristin for questions to her. Michael then invited Josh Burgess to share his experience and lessons learned from the Bend Citizen Assembly fundraising journey. Josh emphasized the importance of starting with inspiration, aligning with the community, and securing funding from multiple sources, including national catalysts, public funding, and private donors. He also highlighted the challenges faced, such as scaling back their initial ambitious budget and the difficulty in securing funding from local community foundations.

State Plan, Just Futures, and Bridges Act (Lindsay Morgan Tracy)

The next speaker was introduced as Lindsey Morgan Tracy from the Washington State Department of Social Health Services. Lindsay discussed the State's 10-year plan to reduce disparities and increase economic well-being, emphasizing the importance of community-centered solutions and root cause analysis. She shared the progress of the Just Futures technical advisory group and their recent \$2 million grant to host community assemblies focused on climate-resilient agriculture. Faduma clarified the participatory process for their community project, targeting underrepresented individuals to co-create actionable policy solutions.

Building Civic Bridges Act and Voting Rights (Kara Jarzynski)

Kara then introduced the Building Civic Bridges Act, a federal legislation aimed at empowering communities to address issues of bridge divides, with Americorps serving as a nonpartisan partner for local initiatives. Kara described the Building Civic Bridges Act as a bipartisan bill aimed at promoting social cohesion and addressing public concerns through activities that bring individuals and institutions together. The bill, supported by almost 60 national organizations, allocates \$25 million for this purpose,

with funds going to nonprofits, community faith-based organizations, institutes of higher education, and public institutions.

State Election Fund and Voting Rights Legislation (U.S. Rep. John Sarbanes)

Michael then introduced Congressman John Sarbanes as the primary architect and driver of the Act, who emphasized the importance of initiatives that encourage relationship-building and service. John also discussed the Freedom to Vote Act and the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act, highlighting their broad support across the political spectrum and the need for measures to make voting easier and more convenient, protect election workers and voters, and eliminate partisan gerrymandering.

John proposed the creation of the State Election Assistance and Innovation Trust Fund, set to be financed by a surcharge on government settlements with tax evaders and law-breakers. He advocated for the fund to empower small donors and enable states to allocate resources to their specific needs, including supporting citizen assemblies. The pair also discussed the prospects of the Building Civic Bridges Act, with John suggesting its introduction as a 'suspension bill' to expedite its progress. They also discussed the recent efforts to pass the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act and the Freedom to Vote Act, despite their current blockage in the Senate.

Agenda

SHOW ME THE MONEY!!....Funding Journeys, with updates from:

- **A Philanthropic Journey** — “Trust for Civic Life” — Hollie Russon-Gilman, New America
- **A Local Journey** — Raising \$250k for Bend, OR, citizen assembly — Josh Burgess working with Democracy Next and local partners
- **A State Government Legislative Journey** — Washington State — Lindsay Morgan Tracy, Department of Social & Health Services — \$2 million for "community assemblies"
- **Federal Money On the Horizon — How Real?** — "The Building Civic Bridges Act" has bipartisan support — Kara Jarzynski, Resolutionaries

Apr 12, 2024 Zoom Session

Links

[Zoom recording link](#)

[Healthy Democracy slides](#) (presented by Linn Davis)

[Whiteboard slides](#) (CADA brainstorm on factors constraining or contributing to citizen assemblies)

Outcomes

AI Summary from Zoom - not fully edited for accuracy

Quick Summary

The team reviewed research on citizen deliberation and assemblies, with a focus on the importance of sustained investment in local civic infrastructure and the potential of engaging with capital markets and

businesses. Lastly, they discussed strategies for more productive future discussions, the potential impact of large-scale initiatives, and the importance of citizen assemblies in American civic practice.

Citizen Deliberation and Assemblies Research (Thomas Quinnild)

Michael set the agenda for the meeting and the UC Berkeley consulting team, represented by Thomas, presented their research on citizen deliberation and assemblies in the US, along with a crowdsourcing exercise to support their work. Thomas introduced a new tool, an AirTable, developed by the team to track and increase awareness about future citizen assemblies in the United States. The team also discussed the definition and scope of deliberative processes, with a focus on citizen assemblies, and agreed on the importance of capturing the broader scope of deliberations while highlighting their unique features. The possibility of adding a section for past assemblies in the AirTable was also considered in response to Forrest's question.

Sustaining Citizen Engagement in Governance (Carolyn Lukensmeyer)

Carolyn shared her two-decade experience leading the America Speaks project, focusing on the success of citizen assemblies in shaping budgets in Northeast Ohio and Washington D.C. She highlighted the importance of sustained investment in local civic infrastructure, physical spaces in communities where all subpopulations feel safe, and process facilitators representative of every population. She also emphasized the necessity of establishing trusted civic media resources and cross-sector leadership groups that value citizen voice in decision-making. Carolyn pointed out that engaging large numbers of citizens helps exert pressure on elected officials and rebuild trust in governance, but noted that the DC program was discontinued despite pushback from citizens and organizations. She discussed the need for local funding to sustain these efforts and the potential of engaging with capital markets and businesses.

Carolyn shared examples of cities where efforts to embed legislation failed to result in implementation, highlighting the need for external advocacy.

Democratic Lotteries and Deliberation Discussion (Linn Davis)

Linn then introduced the concept of democratic lotteries and deliberation, discussing the diverse forms they take and their potential for transformation. He questioned whether the movement's perceived failures are true failures or part of a non-linear, iterative process. Linn emphasized the importance of proactive inclusion, guaranteed political representation, and re-distributing decision-making power to the public.

Project Successes and Failures Discussed

Linn discussed the success and failures of a project that was recently institutionalized in Oregon's law. She highlighted that although the project faced challenges due to reliance on private funding and a conflict of interest, it was a groundbreaking initiative that inspired similar movements globally. Linn also mentioned another project, the Santa Monica Airport Project, which fell short due to a lack of grassroots support and internal government backing. She emphasized the need for a parallel system to push for these projects and highlighted the potential for future success with the right support and strategic planning.

Replicating Successful Movements in Other Locations

Linn discussed the key ingredients that contributed to the success of the movement in the UK and identified potential strategies for replicating this in other locations. She emphasized the importance of small practitioner organizations, a healthy academic community, independent evaluation and research, and the involvement of various stakeholders, including Old Guard civil society institutions and professional networks. Linn also highlighted the need to look for the right openings, understand the wide system, connect with government staff, and design systems with permanence in mind. Michael acknowledged Linn's points and noted that similar views were shared by others.

Strategies for Productive Discussions and Upcoming Annual Meeting

Michael and Kristin led a discussion with the Democracy, R. and D. Network on strategies for more productive future discussions. David and Peter from the Democracy and Deliberation Network announced the organization's upcoming annual meeting, which will be a four-day program including training sessions, panel discussions, and the launch of Canada's latest Citizens' Assembly on Municipal Amalgamation. Kacey announced the hiring of a new program director at Healthy Democracy, and Graham posed a question about the trade-offs of scaling their efforts. Linn and Carolyn discussed the potential impact of large-scale initiatives, specifically in the context of the current turbulent times. The discussion concluded with Forrest acknowledging Carolyn's points.

Agenda

THEMES:

- Why have there been so few “repeat” citizen deliberations?
- What are the lessons and mistakes to learn from previous “citizen deliberations”?
- What should we learn (and not learn) from the US examples when there were repeating citizen deliberations?

GUEST SPEAKERS:

Carolyn Lukensmeyer, founder of America Speaks
(Operated from 1995 - 2014)

Linn Davis, Co-Director of Healthy Democracy
(10 year veteran of US citizen assembly and Citizen Initiative Review efforts)

Feb 9, 2024 Zoom Session

Links

[Zoom recording link](#)

[Zoom chat thread link](#)

[NEW! CADA Slack Forum](#)

[Montrose Citizens Assembly - detailed report](#)

Outcomes

AI Summary from Zoom - not edited for accuracy

Quick recap

The curation team was introduced and the next meeting's details were shared. Ramon Perez explained the setup of a Slack workspace for team communication, project collaboration, and sharing updates. The team then discussed the deliberative ecosystem, examining variables such as duration, commission status, and engagement method. The meeting concluded with presentations from Montrose, Colorado, Matt Byrne of Unify America, and Josh Burgess from Democracy Next in Oregon, focusing on citizen assembly efforts in the US.

Zoom and Slack Workspace Setup and Introduction

Michael stressed the importance of everyone adding their organization to their Zoom ID for identification purposes and referred to a Google Doc containing a directory of the members. The curation team was introduced and the next meeting's date, time, and details were shared. Michael also introduced a new slack link for sharing announcements and information between meetings. Ramon Perez then explained the setup of a slack workspace for team communication, project collaboration, and sharing updates. He encouraged everyone to join and explore the slack workspace, emphasizing its intuitive use and flexibility in setting up channels for specific topic areas.

Managing Slack, Deliberative Ecosystem, Experimenting Tips, Feedback Importance

Ramon Perez gave advice on managing Slack notifications, suggesting that team members adjust their settings to only receive alerts for direct messages, mentions, and specific keywords. The team then discussed the deliberative ecosystem, examining variables such as duration, commission status, and engagement method. The conversation concluded with Michael Gallagher encouraging the team to experiment with the new tips. Kristin Hansen shared a link to the discussion document and emphasized the importance of feedback. The meeting agenda included presentations from Montrose, Colorado, Matt Byrne of Unify America, and Josh Burgess from Democracy Next in Oregon, focusing on citizen assembly efforts in the US.

Montrose Pilot Program for Cooperative Problem-Solving

Matt Byrne discussed the selection of Montrose, Colorado for a pilot program aimed at creating scalable tools and systems to help communities solve problems cooperatively. The program focused on the issue of childcare, and involved extensive research, focus group meetings, and deliberations by a randomly selected 64-person assembly. The assembly considered 8 initial actions and eventually narrowed them down to 36 with a majority vote. Additionally, two ideas submitted by delegates also received over 2/3 approval. The assembly's demographics were found to be representative of the county's demographics. The program was designed to be a model for deliberation that could be used across vast geographic areas, using technology and other methods.

Survey Results on Deliberation Process and Future Plans

Matt Byrne presented the results of a survey on a deliberation process, revealing that the majority of participants found it meaningful and helpful in understanding new perspectives and solutions to community issues. He highlighted the potential of using video lowdowns for a layered learning approach and the idea of launching a camp at Mantra for children. Logistical challenges and feedback on the effectiveness of using videos were also discussed. Finally, Matt Byrne explained the concept of the Catalyst Club, which aimed to foster more collaborative problem-solving, and shared that over 50% of respondents had attended at least one event.

Empowering Community Through COCAP Initiative

Josh Burgess introduced the Central Oregon Civic Action Project (COCAP), a project aimed at empowering the local community. The project involves key partners such as Democracy Next, Healthy Democracy, and the Mit Center for Constructive Communications, among others, and has received verbal commitments from the Bend City Council and other jurisdictions. Josh highlighted the region's socio-political issues, such as affordable housing, resource problems, and water shortages, and the marginalization of certain segments. He also discussed the Greater Idaho movement, a proposed redrawing of state boundaries in the western United States. Josh shared plans for a citizens' assembly in the fall, with the support of local government officials and several foundations, to address these issues and bridge divides. He stressed the importance of inclusive and equitable design and the need for seed financing.

Electeds Montrose Project Discussion

There was a discussion between Michael Gallagher and Matt Byrne about their project involving electeds in Montrose. Matt Byrne admitted that they had made some mistakes, including not having a formal written endorsement from the elected representatives, despite having grassroots support. They had received verbal endorsements and had the Mayor and the County Commissioner kick off their orientation. The project involved a total of 24 hours of deliberation time, with one in-person event and the rest conducted online. The participants were paid for their time, with an average rate of \$20 an hour. The project began with 64 participants, but this number dropped to 46 by the second week. There were also disagreements among the participants, but most were from the same orientation rather than diametrically opposed. The aim of the project was to learn from the process and improve it in the future.

Sustainable Funding and Student Assembly Plans

Michael Gallagher raised the issue of sustainable funding for a project, to which Matt Byrne responded that the project is primarily funded by their founder and his family, with some support from major donors and foundations. Josh Burgess added that they have discussed the cost with local city managers and county administrators, who were in agreement about implementing it. Josh estimated the cost of the first pilot to be around \$300,000 to \$350,000, but future iterations would be lower, below \$200,000. He emphasized the importance of showing measurable success to secure local funding. Josh also mentioned that a city council champion, who is running for State Senate, has expressed interest in presenting legislation to fund this project in communities around the state. Furthermore, plans for a student assembly were discussed, with the aim of engaging young people from both university and community college levels. The assembly will address similar issues to the main assembly, such as AI and education, and is planned for late spring before the main assembly in the fall.

Election Impact and Deliberative Democracy

Michael Gallagher thanked Josh and Matt for their contributions and indicated that they were nearing the end of their meeting. They were scheduled to have announcements, with Philip Lindsay of Bard College being invited to discuss a future meeting. Phil shared his intent to organize a conversation about the field's role in the current election year and its impact on American society. He also mentioned that he would be sending out an email soliciting ideas for the discussion's structure and content. Michael then invited David Schechter from the Democracy R&D Network to share some information. David introduced the network, which is an international platform of people engaged in deliberative democracy, and invited everyone to a learning call about the Convention on the Future of Armenia.

Team Discusses Upcoming Meetings and Events

The team discussed upcoming meetings, work assignments, and shared information about an event in Washington, DC. Laura Wood from the local policy lab mentioned an upcoming citizen assembly school event in April, and Kristin Hansen from the Civic Health Project suggested sharing all meeting materials in a central location for easy access. The team also agreed to reconvene on Friday, April 12th at the same time.

Agenda

- Good housekeeping:
 - Welcome new members - Michael Gallagher
 - Schedule of future meetings - Michael Gallagher
 - SLACK group - Ramon Perez
 - Assembly & Deliberation Ecosystem “draft” slide - Rahmin Sarabi
 - Previous meetings, CADA list, Resources and studies
- Montrose, Colorado citizen assembly update / results (Matt Byrne, Unify America) - [See Report](#)
- Bend, Oregon citizen assembly planning update (Josh Burgess, Democracy Next)
- Group Q & A/ discussion with Matt and Josh about the Montrose and Bend efforts
- Scheduled announcements:
 - **Phil Lindsay, Bard College**, re: Invitation to meet on topic of 2024 elections and intersection with citizen assembly/ deliberation
 - **David Schecter, Democracy R&D**, re: invitation to CADA members to participate in their next meeting
 - **Marjan Ehsassi, FIDE**, re: North America launch of FIDE; April school

Dec 15, 2023 Zoom Session

Links

[Zoom recording link](#)

[Zoom chat thread](#)

[Zoom Meeting Summary](#) (generated by Zoom, not edited)

Outcomes

Pol.is

- Slides
- [Demo](#)
- [Website](#)

Kazm | Harvard Berkman Klein Center

- Slides
- Demo

- Website

Fora | Cortico.ai | MIT Center for Constructive Communication

- [Slides](#)
- [Demo](#)
- [Cortico's website](#) and [MIT CCC's website](#)

Stanford Deliberative Democracy Lab

- [Slides](#)
- [Demo](#)
- [Website](#)

Chord | Meeting of America

- Slides
- Demo
- [Website](#)

[Cost modeling template](#) for Citizens Assemblies (view only; make a copy to use)

[OECD Deliberative Democracy Database](#)

Agenda

12:00 pm-12:10 pm ET

- Introductions - Hello to “first timers”
- Updates to the Resources section
- What should we call ourselves?
 - CADA (citizen assembly and deliberation allies)
 - Watering Hole On Assemblies and Deliberation) WHOA-D
 - Etc...Your naming ideas? Please put in “Chat” now
- Coming Attractions.....
 - Next meeting: Friday Feb 2 or Feb 9, Noon ET/ 9 am PT
 - Unify Montrose/ Unify America - Matt Byrne
 - Bend Oregon Citizen Assembly - Josh Burgess
 - Create a SLACK group — Ramon Perez
 - What topic do you want discussed at a future meeting?
- Adding “One-Minute Advertisements” at the end of future meetings

12:10 pm-12:40 pm ET:

Citizen Deliberation Tech Showcase - 5-minute overviews

- Pol.is - Liz Barry

- Kazm | Harvard - Larry Lessig
- Cortico.ai | Fora | MIT CCC - Alex Berman and Dimitra Dimitrakopoulou
- Stanford Deliberative Democracy Lab - Alice Siu
- Chord | Meeting of America - Sam Shireman

* Please put questions in the “Chat” for the Q&A period

12:40 pm - 12:50 pm ET

Q&A session - all participants

12:50 pm - 1:14 pm ET

Can the costs of in-person citizen assemblies be lowered from \$250k - \$350k?

- Kacey Bull, Healthy Democracy
- Rahmin Sarabi, The American Public Trust
- [Cost modeling template](#) for Citizens Assemblies (presented in Dec 15 Zoom session)

1:14 pm - 1:15 pm ET

Final comments & Adjourn

Oct 27, 2023 Zoom Session

Outcomes

[Zoom recording link](#)

[Zoom chat thread](#)

Polling Results

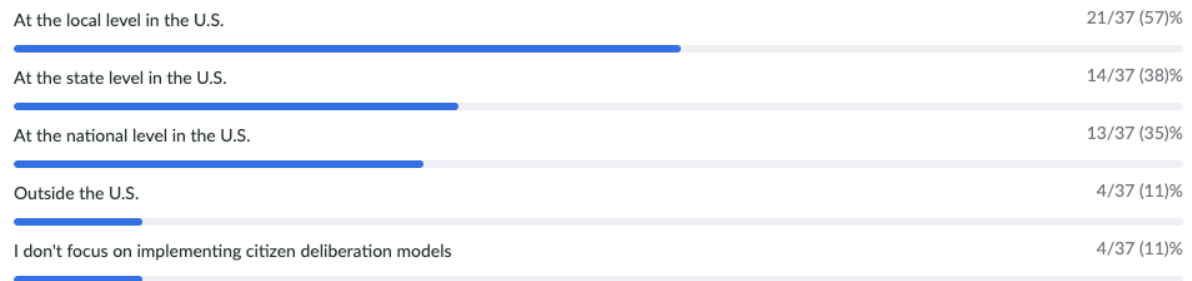
1. On a scale of 0-10, how ready is the U.S. to embrace citizen deliberation models? (Rating Scale)

37/37 (100)% answered



2. Where do you focus on implementing citizen deliberation models? Check all that apply. (Multiple Choice)

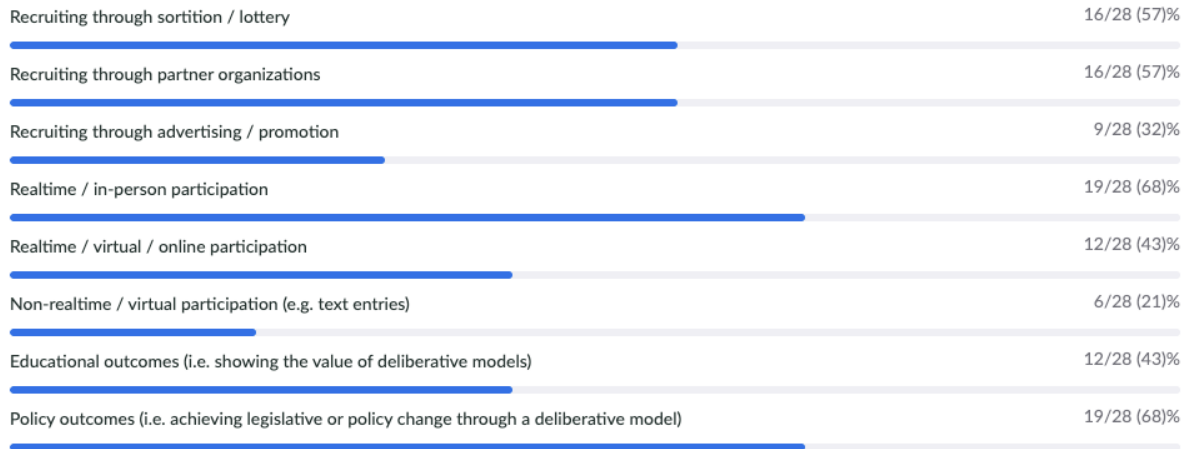
37/37 (100)% answered



3. If you focus on implementing citizen deliberation models, which of these attributes characterizes your approach, or plans? Check all that apply.

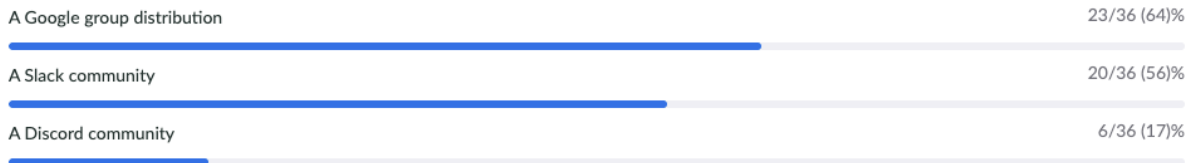
(Multiple Choice)

28/37 (76)% answered



1. Which of these, if any, would you be likely to join and use to keep this group connected between meetings? (Check all that apply). (Multiple Choice)

36/38 (95)% answered



2. Which THREE of these topics are you most interested in exploring through this group? (Please also add any other ideas in the Zoom chat) (Multiple Choice)

38/38 (100)% answered



George Z – Switzerland – 2005 participated in a pan european assembly on the regulatory framework for technology. Developing an online platform/tool for CAs; happy to share more including open source code. Inspiration from 6th century BC athens.. Inventor of athenian democracy... conceptualized the idea of equal rights

Adam Davis – Oregon Values and Beliefs center – goal to give voice to populations that aren't being heard with the way that public opinion research is done today focused on likely voters, which we know isn't representative of the general population; representative sampling; Ned Crosby as initial inspiration; see our work as complementing the assembly process

Josh Burgess – Bend, OR – former military officer and have seen the decline in democratic values; social entrepreneur; working with democracy next; meeting with Healthy Democracy soon; looking to bring a pilot assembly to life in Bend; Claudia an inspiration point

Valessa Nantona – Forward Party NV – working to connect grassroots leaders with grassroots – want to ensure all membership has a say in the platforms and policies FWD party advances

Cheryl Hines? – NCDD, previously League of Women Voters – working on “common sense americans” initiative where as semi representative sample of americans read about issues in front of congress members; Byor Ruston inspiration; activist in civil rights and democracy building

Steven Kull – interview studies with policy makers; amazing levels of misunderstanding about their publics; came into survey research world, bu expanded scope to deal with a much larger set of issues, policy simulation where they're briefed on an issue, evaluate pros and cons, sometimes interactive aspect like with a budget; run program for public consultation out of UM, though based in the bay area; Voice of the People to give americans greater voice in politics at national level working with members of congress; always work with representative samples; bring participants to in person meetings with congressional members; inspired by founders, vision of what they had in mind, reason of the people, sense of the people; other source of inspiration is the people themselves... way more reasonable and wise than the outcomes we see in gov't

Laura Wood – 13 years in NY gov't; 10 at state; 3 in voter engagement in mayor's office; transitioned out of gov't 19 months ago and working with local policy lab that works with local governments to strengthen civic engagement; of interest to LPL and cities; inspiration from mother who brought her to vote at a young age

Peter Weber – Fresno, co-led a deliberative poll with Fishkin on climate change and energy; inspiration is Zabrael Valentine, who was project manager; the whole notion of this is hard work, and Zabrael is always focused on the pathway to impact

Jeff Brooks – Austin TX, director of American in One Room for Helena Foundation – Fishkin and Diamond are inspiration points, with work going back decades; inspired by family members; descendant of John Brooks who was part of the American revolution

Forrest Sparks – NYC, Assembly Project – new organization advancing assemblies, and engaging the larger public for larger scale transitions; Japan model for future design deliberation, with two publics, one that's a current public, and another that is acting as a 50 year future public

Carolyn L – First exposure at the BC assembly as an observer; founded AmericaSpeaks in '95 which has held the largest scale public processes that led to impact in policy; NYC after 9/11, New Orleans on (?); Inspiration from founders and founding documents; working with members of the public in all 30 states and it is true that when americans are brought together across their differences with real information they make extraordinary decisions

Sam Shireman – Allsides, near SF; dialogue work but not much deliberation; involved with meeting of america with others on this call; need to learn more about this topic; attended the NCDD conference; inspiration Kristin Hansen who is always effective in whatever room she's in and finds her way into those rooms

Nick Vlahos – NCL Center for Democracy Innovation; work with Matt L; academic and write about this; do practitioner work with pilot communities to iterate on public meetings to make them more deliberative; recent paper on how to make recursive representation with sortition

Matt Byrne – Unify; Ned Crosby inspiration; doing deliberation and spreading it; week 10 of a deliberation in Montrose CO

Joshua Tolub – Easton MA; veteran of many political campaigns, fundraiser for 25 years, including represent.us, here in learning mode and excited for things

Ansel Herz – DemocracyNext comms director; working with Josh in Bend; used to work with Bernie and before that a journalist; saw the many reasons we need CAs; inspiration from Nelson Mandela – talks about how his tribe made decisions as a kid and a model for how he expressed leadership in the world; sounds similar to CAs

Zabrae Valentine – Oakland, CA – currently working with Mtg of America; scalable means of engaging public in deep dialogue that can inform policy; designed in a way where it can have policy impact; late 90s working for dem senator in farm state; beginners mind since didn't know anything about the topic; led to her listening deeply and engaging serious conversations to understand the issues and desires of the public; working on that since then; Pete Weber and Audrey Tang inspiration

Owen Shaffer – Asheville, DWE, exist to connect people in favor of lotteries, 300 members, volunteers have started several organizations; a resource; do research on AI and elections; inspiration Brett Henning

Alice Siu – Stanford DDL, Palo Alto; 20 years working with Fishkin;

Vinay – Coalitions director at Rank the Vote; RCV movement is supportive of citizens' assemblies... interested in running them around election reform; inspired by win in NV on RCV

Joe Matthews – from the media and here to help; interest in democracy as 17 year co-president of global forum on modern direct democracy; people who do participatory, direct, deliberative democracy work; ASU affiliation; starting Democracy Local a global media publication; inspired by ??

Liz Barry with CompDem; nonprofit with Colin and the pol.is founders; head of partnerships and would love to talk to anyone working on pol.is projects

What is this group?

Avoid defining what this group is, meet monthly for awhile with structured meetings based on what people want to talk about, a place for people who are interested in citizens' assemblies, deliberative democracy, and related things

Local Issues Session

- Joe (Socal)
 - Youth suicide; beloved 13 year old who recently took their own life; how the kids are doing, and they're not doing well
- Rahmin (SF)
 - Homelessness, policing and public safety, long-term climate adaptation, resilience
- Jessica: (Boston)
 - Policing
 - City charter process hyper locally; ended up very divisive; a good tool for complex issues
- Adam (OR)
 - Homelessness in every corner of OR is an issue; might want to narrow it down to affordable housing
 - Economic development; core values of family, wage, jobs for livability and quality of life
 - Environment, protection of urban growth boundaries, what to do with high tech?
- Duncan (Oakland)
 - Homelessness, safety and justice
 - Local crime prevention council with plan to bring in deliberative processes
- Laura (NYC)
 - Climate comes up a lot
 - Transportation issues mentioned in several of the cities
 - Deliberative forum on racial justice issues post
- Michael (CA)
 - Clean energy projects facing local opposition?

Large Group Harvest from Breakouts

- **Local Issues:** Not enough time... groups sees a lot of opportunities to working on issues that are impactful... homelessness, youth suicide, climate change
- **Storytelling:** strategy, learning and observing successful story based efforts that are out there; films about participants, members of assemblies; audiences, centrality of making sure this movement is made up of and reaches the full spectrum of political audiences; find stories that will reach right wing, center, and left; TV show? Like the Jury Duty Show. Show that everyday people rise to the occasion
- **Tech:** values we want to hold behind our tech; (1) open source, fully transparent (2) fully accessibly, engage large groups of people, (3) easy, user friendly, (4) secure. [Unfinished database of deliberation technologies](#), includes additional notes from conversation.
- **Partnerships:** alliteration; partnerships for progress, power, and prosperity; formal partnerships or more broadly about collaboration like this meeting? Is there a meta partnership between a RCV movement and a CA movement? Partnerships for media exposure, driving synergy, symbiosis, scale

Sep 27, 2023 ADS Session

(see below)

ADS Sep 27 Session

Outcomes

Click [this link](#) to see the recorded video of everyone's introductions

Names with asterisks have indicated interest in continuing with this affinity group. Please add an asterisk if we missed you.

If you attended the meeting and your name is missing below, please insert a row - thank you!

Name (LinkedIn) Location	Org Name(s) / Link(s)	Introductory Notes (Attendees - please feel free to edit / add to these rough notes!)
FACILITATOR: Michael Gallagher (*) San Francisco / Hong Kong	Independent Reformer Leadership Now Project https://leadershipnowproject.org	•
FACILITATOR: Kristin Hansen (*) Menlo Park, CA	Civic Health Project https://civichealthproject.org Leadership Now Project https://leadershipnowproject.org	•
Tom Atlee Eugene, OR	Co-Intelligence Institute https://www.co-intelligence.institute/	• Empowering Public Wisdom • This is a wiser way – upgrade our democracy, better angels
Duncan Autrey (*)	Omniwin Project https://omniwin.substack.com/ People Power TV	• Elevate awareness of tools out here • What does deliberation look like in neighborhoods?

	https://peoplepower.tv	
Liz Barry Los Angeles, CA	Polis https://pol.is/home Computational Democracy Project https://compdemocracy.org/	• Three nation states running this open source tech today • Taiwan, Finland, and UK • Uruguay, Philippines, Pakistan • Based in LA
Ibrahim Bazyan (*)	Civic Genius https://ourcivicgenius.org	
J Beeman (*)		jbeeman@haller-beeman.com
Cindy Black (*) Seattle, WA	Fix Democracy First https://www.fixdemocracyfirst.org/	• Citizens assemblies = democracy • Working with Nic, Linn
Chris Bui (*) Redwood City, CA	American Focus	• Since 1991 – interactive voting, direct democracy • Municipalities, school groups, “sacred space” when people come together • Honored to be with everyone else • The American Focus – deep, neighborhood funded projects to build deep relationships • Servant leader training • 1-2 big issues facing elected leaders and civic leaders – citizen advisory bodies
Kacey Bull (*) Portland, OR	Healthy Democracy https://healthydemocracy.org/	• Cities and states across US
Leonora Camner (*) Santa Monica, CA	Public Democracy LA https://publicaccessdemocracy.org	• Keep an eye on them for assembly next year • local coalition – calling for lottery based assembly for LA
Nicholas Coccoma (*) Boston, MA	Assemble America www.assembleamerica.org	• Align the democracy network around citizens’ assemblies. • Grassroots advocacy movement for citizens’ assemblies

		• Narrative and story-based campaign to build public enthusiasm for “democracy by assembly.”
Joe Cook (*) Lehi, UT	Common Sense 250 https://commonsense250.org/ https://commonsensepapers.substack.com/	• Substack - The Common Sense Papers • Driving a united movement – national
Linn Davis Portland, OR	Healthy Democracy https://healthydemocracy.org/ Citizens Initiative Review https://healthydemocracy.org/programs/citizens-initiative-review/	• Geo focus cross-US
Francis DellaVecchia (*) Santa Monica, CA	People Power TV https://peoplepower.tv Assemble America https://www.linkedin.com/company/assembleamerica/about/	• Megaphone for direct democracy • Geo focus whole US
Miguel Trindade Deramo (*)	?	MTDERAMO@gmail.com
Andrew Dinwiddie (*) Brooklyn, NY	New Georgia Project https://newgeorgiaproject.org/	• Work on the system, not just within the system
Michael Draskovic (*) Los Angeles, CA	Democracy Policy Network https://democracypolicy.network/ L.A. Democracy Vouchers	• Inspired by French climate assembly • Elevated sense of agency, call a meeting w/the president

	https://www.lademocracyvouchers.org/	
Pearce Godwin (*) Durham, NC	Meeting of America https://meetingofamerica.us Listen First Project https://listenfirstproject.org	• Meeting of America – identify real solutions, catalyze change – open to all
Melissa Grace (*)	San Diego Rise Up / Elevate:SD	
John Griffin Boston, MA	Partners in Democracy https://partnersindemocracy.us/	• Delib to MA – reconnect people to power • Advance participation, right to vote, run for office, shape communities • Digital Civic Infrastructure
Skye Jacobs Washington, DC	World Justice Project https://worldjusticeproject.org/	• Address political disempowerment
Malka Kopell San Francisco, CA	Civity https://civity.org	• Delib for many years, interested in relationships that form through assembly process
Larry Lessig (*) Boston, CA	Harvard Law School Deliberations.us https://deliberations.us	• online deliberation as first step to citizens assemblies • Will announce acquisition of Kazm within next 2 weeks • Obsessed with dangers of AI – citizen deliberation as a response, AI has hacked democracy • Move beyond the reach of AI • “Against Elections” – read this
Alex Levy (*) Redondo Beach	World Learning https://www.worldlearning.org/	•
Jessica Lieberman (*) Boston, MA	American Academy of Arts and Sciences Our Common Purpose https://www.amacad.org/ourcommonpurpose/report	• Implement the recommendations • Increase citizen participation / assemblies • Geo focus is nationwide

Wayne Liebman (*) Los Angeles	Public Access Democracy https://publicaccessdemocracy.org/	• Advocating for and convening citizens assemblies • Public Democracy LA coalition – will soon run an assembly
Juli Lucky (*) Anchorage, AK	Alaskans for Better Elections https://www.alaskansforbetterelections.com/	• Alaska State Legislature • Likes idea of policy informed by the governed (need to check with the people subject to the laws) • Electorate has to be educated and able to read, to participate
Christopher Medina Baltimore, MD	Leadership Now Project https://leadershipnowproject.org	• Organizing to defend against threats • Innovation learning networks – scoring strategies to support assemblies x-country
Marc Metzner (*) Stamford, CT	Connecticut Voters First https://www.ctvotersfirst.org/	• State orgs working for RCV, nonpartisan primaries • Political tactics, leverage points, campaigns • USAID, change management, privatization background • Emotion, trust, bargaining, collaboration – need all of this to get RCV • He wants to cross-pollinate between deliberation and reform • How get those in power to adopt systems that reduces their power? (Mandela)
Dave O'Brien Washington, DC	RepresentUs https://represent.us/	• Citizen assembly idea – fundamental to early democracy • Under stress, go back to fundamentals
Ismael Perez (*) Glendale, CA	Digital Democracy Project https://digitaldemocracyproject.org Voting Rights Brigade https://votingrightsbrigade.org	• User experience designer • Loss of democracy is his animating concept
Ramon Perez (*) Orlando, FL	Digital Democracy Project https://digitaldemocracyproject.org Voting Rights Brigade https://votingrightsbrigade.org	• Voatz software – fully verified voters can vote on same votes as legislators • End of session, compare and score every legislator – how close did they meet will of voters? • Assemblies to create legislation, voters vote on it, hold legislators accountable

		• We have to fight for democracy in our own country
George Skarpelos Los Angeles, CA	Hollywood United Neighborhood Council https://hollywoodunitednc.org/	• Development and homelessness • Geo focus – Los Angeles
Rahmin Sarabi (*) San Francisco, CA	American Public Trust https://www.americanpublictrust.org/	• CA broken – this moved him towards assemblies • How does democracy need to evolve?
Nimit Sawhney (*) Boston, CA	Voatz https://voatz.com	• Online voting platform • Used in certified elections in the U.S, Canada, elsewhere • Grew up in war zone • global focus
Dan Selz (*) Los Angeles, CA	Leadership Now Project https://leadershipnowproject.org Braver Angels https://braverangels.org	• See detailed comments in next section
Anna Scanlon Los Angeles, CA	RepresentUs https://represent.us	• Works with local and national campaigns to pass RCV, anti-gerr, redist, campaign finance • Learning about the movement
Sterling Speirn Washington, DC	American Academy of Arts and Sciences Our Common Purpose https://www.amacad.org/ourcommonpurpose/report	• AAAS OCP has a focus on the practice of citizens assemblies
Daniel Stid Chevy Chase, MD	Lyceum Labs https://lyceumlabs.org/	• We need different political leaders • We need leaders who make room to solicit input from citizens (servant leaders)
Geo Stokes (*) Bellevue, MA	Assemble America https://www.linkedin.com/company/assembleamerica/about/	• Walked backwards into assemblies “think tank” how to fix politics • Started to design what a process would look like to solve problems

		• We just need to bring these ideas to the public in a framework that explains why it's good, how it works, • Focus on tech side
Scott Vineberg (*) Montreal, Quebec	People Power TV https://peoplepower.tv	• Experienced propaganda based secession movement • Created instability in his childhood • Topanga, CA – look for the key force multipliers • Mother of all solutions • Use TV show / media – peoplepowered.tv • Portray in gamified way? • Now understands the nuance of it, what could happen • \$400B in AI invested in last 4 years • Probably under \$25M in collective intelligence • What if we make this the moonshot? • Every ally, resource, to amplify in THIS election cycle
JP Thomas (*) Washington, DC	Voice of the People https://vop.org/ UMD's Program for Public Consultation: publicconsultation.org	• Advocacy, voice in policymaking process • Utilizing representative samples to provide feedback on policy decision making • Online public consultation surveys used as policymaking simulations for citizens • What are incentive structures, how work within them, for elected leaders • Bring into 2024 election process
Melanie Winter (*) Los Angeles, CA	The River Project https://www.theriverproject.org/	• Founder, Dir of Water / Land / Climate change • Watershed practitioners • Aligned with assembly processes • Has worked w/City of Los Angeles (no avail) • Extinction Rebellion LA – one of four demands is assemblies
Peter Zahn (*) San Diego, CA	Local Policy Lab https://www.localpolicylab.org/	• Democracy / climate • Bringing citizens assemblies into cities

ADS Sep 27 Session

Notes from Deeper Dive Discussion

Click [this link](#) to see the recorded video of the deeper dive discussion

Larry Lessig:

- Don't get stuck in one version of solution
- Inspired by Polis' methodology
- Many ways to facilitate collective understanding
- Some look like assemblies, others look different
- Common Good AI / Crowdsmart – collective, async deliberation
- Radically lowers the cost
- Constantly force ourselves to ask – is there a better evolution

Nick Coccoma:

- 100% of Americans knowing about citizens assemblies, their promise for the country (vs just 1% who know about them today)
- Media saturation – move the needle from periphery to center
- 3.5% of Americans being engaged in grass roots movement for citizens assemblies
- 12M everyday Americans
- Nonviolent movements succeed at this level

JP Thomas:

- Grassroots movement behind this is necessary to work
- Also need education of elected officials and candidates – these are TOOLS, not threats
- Find local / state / national champions to talk about this
- People feeling not empowered, government not listening
- Why France, etc – champions in govt for these ideas
- Able to demo to funders that these things will have power and impact

Rahmin Sarabi:

- Prototyping assemblies in the context of local government
- Citizens assemblies as good sensemaking, good decision making, catalyzes action

- Partnerships: (1) cities / counties (deep prototyping) – broad public engagement (2)
- Co-designing with other partners, institutions
- The deepest change will require broader coalitions than just government

Liz Barry:

- Polis looking to bring international successes home to US
- Excited to partner with people in the room
- Augmenting citizens assemblies for scale
- Strengthen ballot initiative process
- Move agenda setting to the people
- Need to discuss ethical principles for tech choice
- For public sector – what is safe to put between citizens and government
- Rights based approach, auditing capability, etc

Peter Zahn:

- Looking for at least three cities to deeply engage
- Find willing cities, need funding
- Need red / pink cities, can't be all super progressive
- Concrete goal, not fancy, gotta get it going
- Not get bogged down in heavy duty hard goals

Wayne Liebman:

- Throw a lot of spaghetti at the wall
- We have a lot of work to do together
- Needs to be “Yes, and”
- It's bigger than any of us in the room – it's mushrooming
- We need to listen as we are today
- Say “yes, and” to each other

Chris Bui:

- Test different models
- But also what do we know works and is successful
- Doing Bay area and 5 red, 5 blue regions
- What does national level look like
- Core values, rules of engagement, vision of future

- Funded projects in neighborhoods
- Need to professionalize this
- Has done 2500 projects – the people you need can't afford it
- So you have to pay participants to join
- How create third-place gathering spot
- Better time with elected officials, meet business leaders
- Same people, over time, together
- Schools are a hub
- Measurable, compare to others
- Options for what is possible
- Private funding for 3-5 years

Francis DellaVecchia:

- How do we map and shine a spotlight on efforts already underway?
- When we get to 3-5% this movement wins
- Does everyone in the room understand “this is a movement”
- This isn't just individual efforts in silos, imperfect starts
- It's now a movement, we are at the forefront of the 3.5%
- The goal no longer is “can I make my thing work in my town”
- The goal is how do WE help make sure that all of these efforts get spotlighted
- Leaving room highly amazed, didn't know this was all happening

Dan Selz:

- Xprise in climate space for six years, Climate Week
- “How long do we have” is the question – 2040, 2050, 2030?
- 2024 might be the doomsday clock (even before climate)
- What the hell are we all doing here then?
- We have to get the right timeline in place
- We need a timeline beyond 2024, without trivializing the election
- It will take ~10 years to shift the needle
- (The collective “no” and the collective “yes”)
- We're lying if we think citizens assemblies will save us in 2024

ADS Sep 27 Session

Sticky Note Outputs

“Future Topics” for the group as written on sticky notes

- What are best practices for participant selection in citizen assemblies (to be trusted by public)
- What are other best practices? Does this group effort want to highlight best practices as one of its on-going purposes to exist?
- What can citizen assemblies learn from the spread of participatory budgeting?
- How to map the array of assembly and deliberation efforts underway for
 - Shared learning
 - Shine a spotlight on them
 - Focus on local and regional citizen assembly efforts
- Does the citizen assembly/deliberation movement have a shared goal (s)?
- What would success look like in this movement?
 - 12 months from now
 - 24 months from now, etc.
- Should generating buy-in of elected officials be a goal?
- Should generating buy-in of media be a goal?
- Should generating buy-in of the general public be a goal?
- Should growing the field of talent / practitioners be a goal?
- Discuss why proponents of citizen assemblies should not advocate for the elimination of elections
 - Discuss why some proponents may want to advocate for the elimination of elections
 - “Designing permanent government by citizen assembly..”
- Standardization of terms in the citizen assembly space – is it worth our time?
 - Would it be useful to define terms ?
- Educating the general public about citizen assemblies
 - What does the movement need to be ready for the national spotlight?
 - Imagine tomorrow there is an invitation to be a guest on a major podcast...
- Alternatives to full citizen assemblies which can still be legitimate and strategic
 - “Variations in forms and structures”
- Use of lottery assemblies in many areas of society: education, companies, media
- “Action assemblies - extra governmental assemblies taking direct action”

- Establish ethical principles for technology choice for the public and public sector
- Creating “networks of networks” for grassroots support and “cascade of change”
- How have citizen assemblies been funded?
 - The “one offs”
 - The repeat and on-going assemblies
- Is there a public problem common to multiple localities that 10 or 15 local citizen assemblies could simultaneously convene on....with story telling and media about the commonalities and differences across the 10-15 places?

Distilled to 8-10 topics:

- Funding
- Best practices to be trusted by public & skeptics
- Technology and deliberative platforms
- Learning from set-backs (ie: CIR, etc.)
- Learning from participatory budgeting
- Local issues which are common to almost everywhere? (for simultaneous assemblies)
- Who will opponents be? How to win them over, or bypass?
- Storytelling for local, as well as thought leader impact
 - US examples to show case?
- Shooting ourselves in the foot. Must we?

“Ideas / Takeaways” as written on post-its

- The movement needs:
 - Focus
 - Consistency
 - Repeatability
- Citizen assemblies are expensive. Explore
 - Pooling investment
 - Open source technologies
 - Strategies to generate public funding at local, state, and federal levels
- A digital home, resource center, would be “fantastic”
- Publish list of tech vendors and software that can support citizen assemblies

“Tailwinds” as written on post-its

- People want to be seen and heard

- Public demand for empowerment
- Governments across the globe are losing the perception of legitimacy
- “ThePeopleAreReady”
- Distrust, animosity, toxic polarization, hopelessness
- Autocrats on the rise
- Funding for practitioner orgs to run full projects earmarked for “systems change”
- There are strong US examples of citizen assembly / deliberation which can be harnessed to educate people.

“Headwinds” as written on post-its

- Foreign examples of citizen assemblies likely to be largely unhelpful in the US.
- Need more US examples, preferably local ones.
- People don’t know what citizen assemblies/ deliberation are
- Trust in most institutions is low
- People are losing trust and faith in US democracy
- People do not know they can make a difference and believe they cannot
- Misinformation
- Pushback from politicians who will be threatened by this
- Challenge of messaging – how do we inspire the story of what democracy really can be?
- Paralysis by analysis
- Funding
- Dysfunction and gridlock
- Limited organizational capacity of current citizen assembly and deliberation efforts
- Citizen assemblies that are run well will be seen as costly

“Who Else Should Join Us?” as written on post-its

- Bill Shireman, In This Together
- Andrew Crutchfield, In This Together
- Josh Lerner and others, People Powered
- United Independents
- Bret Weinstein (suggested by Geo Stokes)
- Zabrael Valentine (suggested by Pearce)
- Jim Fishkin, Stanford University
- Alice Siu, Stanford University
- Michael Neblo, Ohio State IDEA
- University deliberation centers across the country
- Center for New Democratic Processes

- Local Policy Labs (add Laura Woods and Scott Warren)
- Bridge building groups
- Pro-democracy networks
- Local government staff who are highly passionate about citizen deliberation/ assembly
- Former participants in citizen assemblies
- Marginalized populations
- Leaders on democracy reform from marginalized populations
- Right of center people, organizations, allies (mentioned 3x)