



Inspiring Civic Engagement and Political Participation - Community Conversation Appendix

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Silicon Valley Community Foundation
2440 West El Camino Real, Suite 300
Mountain View, California

The detailed notes below are actual comments and feedback from the participants from this community conversation and may not reflect the opinions or future plans of the community foundation.

QUESTION ONE

What significant and actionable opportunities have the most recent election cycle opened up for SVCF and our partners to increase civic engagement in Silicon Valley?

(Six breakout circles; total of 66 participants)

DETAILED NOTES FROM CRITICAL QUESTION ONE

Leverage energy and current momentum for further civic engagement; Opportunities and guiding principles

- People seem motivated, empowered and ready to tap in/help out.
- Overcome "turn off" reaction to national despair and cynicism by focusing on local, winnable, relevant issues.
- This is an opportunity and also a major challenge. There are many living in fear of what is to come.
- Civic engagement does not start and end with Election Day.
- Local elected officials are interested in how to push back.
- People are more ready to engage now than ever because of election.
- Opportunity to keep a sharp focus on the energy and impact behind women and girls.
- All of a sudden, lots of people care to take action.
- Support appetite for direct action and connect to policy advocacy.
- The rhetoric about the potential fate of the undocumented is creating an opportunity to teach people the need to know their rights.
- Many people are ready to get involved and need a guide.
- Saturday, January 21 Women's marches, rallies demonstrated passion of our citizens; ability to come together peacefully and have our voices be heard.

- Opportunity to expand our process for understanding different views and ability to be inclusive = more people are part of the plan.
- Opportunities for larger communities to convene and advocate policies -- cities, counties, Bay Area region, state.
- Concentrate on positive outcomes.
- Realize the missed opportunity for impacting the outcome.
- Promote the bottom up and holistic approach.
- Honor those who have been in the movement and set the foundation.
- Lift voices of the most marginalized communities.
- Every movement should have an attainable goal "real policy" should be identified.
- Bring radical ideas and solutions to traditional political arenas (state/local/regional).
- Unity and collaboration.
- High energy/willingness to get engaged.
- Opportunity to deepen analysis and challenge traditional notion of civic engagement (expansive vision).
- Opportunity: people have woken up on a mass scale.
- Allow this work to measure its success not only in its success of winning policy campaigns. Very often the work of developing leaders/citizens is cut short by the needs of campaigns.
- People are asking more questions about what will happen next: healthcare (seniors), immigration (Central America), housing programs (middle and lower income families). We can harness their questions into engagement.
- Turnout for community events has skyrocketed. We have to find ways to keep them showing up.
- A democratic election turnout -- engage new voters with education on issues (local, regional, state).
- Our new reality -- How does the California bubble impact national stage? Will we be overlooked? How will we be relevant?
- Threats from Trump = opportunity to organize around education funding, sanctuary state, break silos to collaborate among issue areas.
- Sustain and even increase the new wave of activism that has emerged since election.
- Channel the post-election energy from Women's March. A lot of people are looking for ways to be engaged.
- We can no longer pretend that the worst American tendencies (racism, homophobia, misogyny, xenophobia, etc.) don't exist or have been solved.

Constructive communication and dialogue

- Structured dialogues for sharing and listening: diverse community members, public officials listening to community members who generally have limited experience with elected officials.
- In congregations/neighborhoods community conversations, house meetings, structured intentional dialogue to invite/create safe space for people to share concern and needs. Learn about, develop, co-create ways for individuals and groups to move from feeling to action.
- Get ready for new policies. Change in policies will create gaps, changes, losses, gains. How will we discuss these?
- Super coalition sharing impact of changes in our communities.

- Master narrative: "resist and protect". Broad-based power building to press local government to protect all communities and residents.
- Host open forums for people to say what is on their minds, break out to discuss those things with others, build bridges.

Focus and issue areas

- The consideration on the ballot in multiple counties on major housing and transportation issues of the highest public concern.
- Have a community conversation around key areas of focus for action.
- Building community trust in law enforcement.
- Promote citizenship and voter registration (even during non-election years).
- Clear demographics/exit polls of who voted are useful to target groups for education/turnout.
- End homelessness for youth and young adults from foster care.
- Specific focus on girls and the ways local governments are engaging them (civic education, internships at local level).
- Educating the community on major changes and impact the changes will have -- partner with CBOs, government.
- Interest in the topic on the part of local elected officials especially as it pertains to undocumented folks.
- The plight of immigrant residents is now front and center; increased awareness.
- Increase community education about the importance of immigrants and refugees.
- Greater opportunities for policy programming.
- Increased focus on challenges of working individuals and families.
- Need to address impact of voting restrictions.
- Look at alternate ways to approach issues.
- Local issues of housing and transportation that had broad community support. Build on this success.
- Identify strengths and needs for growth/ideas for growth.
- Community support.
- Mental health support.

Youth organizing and training

- Harness the enthusiasm and passion of high school students around the recent election and redirect efforts towards getting out to vote.
- Focus on youth engagement, media literacy, encourage activism, to run for office. There is a misnomer that you have to be part of the "machine" to be a part of the governing body.
- Training for youth organizing, how to engage youth before voting age; how to keep them safe in direct action.
- Increase youth understanding of civic engagement impact.
- Youth advocacy training.
- Develop ways to partner with schools to educate youth in civic responsibility.

- Find ways for youth and undocumented community members to weigh in/have vote in local initiatives.
- Increase leadership opportunities for youth to build power and learn from each other.
- Young people can be an engine for sharing information in communities (culture and language).
- Civic literacy programs for youth in high school.
- Train the next generation to be advocates for their communities.
- Actively recruit young candidates who reflect the communities we serve.

Diversify the platform

- Create broad inclusive coalitions.
- Achieve greater diversity in the high tech sector.
- Mobilization of diverse communities, esp. Latino/Asian American.
- Strengthened presence of electoral coalitions led by and rooted in communities of color, with technology and funding.
- Diversify Silicon Valley's philanthropic community to better reflect the demographics of our communities of need.
- Data-based reflection on demographics to lead to coalition building.
- As an area with a large diverse immigrant population, we have a great chance to lend a powerful voice to national discourse on immigrant issues and issues of civil rights for diverse immigrant communities.
- This is an opportunity to get youth and diverse communities engaged in political arena in leadership role.

Partner and identify allies. Build relationships

- Relationship-based rapid response network for: community protection and intervention, political mobilization, government meetings, public mobilization rallies, etc.
- We need to support regional civic engagement infrastructure (i.e. Bay Rising) -- need growth into suburbs.
- Promote opportunities for organizations across sectors/movements to work together.
- Make NIMBYs feel welcome to share their positions, concerns and fears with the people who are proposing affordable housing.
- Cross-issue/region civic engagement table; a regional group of nonprofit organizations that agree to partner and create a common civic engagement agenda and voter engagement plan.
- Engage local government in supporting our efforts, i.e. immigration, environment, women's health etc.
- Bring natural allies together for relationship building and look at policies, i.e. nonprofits and funders, Puente and agriculture growers, counties and health care providers. Small business owners will be allies for ACA.
- Opportunity to take narrow interests, build alliances and go wide.
- Cultivate relationships with faith communities (often which have a high value on service).
- Cross-sector partnerships to leverage skills and resources.
- Nonprofits get together with a few other groups and offer joint volunteer opportunities to the community.
- Partnering with organizations that are educational, non-educational, serving different ethnic communities to address issues such as teen pregnancy, early learning, immigration, access to technology, preparing for college.
- Build solidarity across struggles; perhaps two faces of Silicon Valley.

- Connect local civic education to state level legislation.
- Be proactive in building multi-ethnic, multicultural connections.

Collaboration

- Build new relationships by crossing religions and ethnic boundaries.
- Leverage existing venues to educate people (specifically immigrants) about civic engagement. Ex. Adult education system nonprofits.
- Education with social interaction to move "from fear to friendship."
- Invest in AMESA (African, Middle Eastern, South Asian) organizations and building new AMESA leaders to counteract islamophobia.
- Work with local governments on governance /civility -- effective governance.
- Connect people across distances and ideological lines with online communities.
- Encourage more allies to build critical mass in support of multiple social justice causes.
- Communities gather to identify resources and inform each other of rights.
- There are many signs -- public agencies, nonprofits, CBOs have come together to articulate and communicate their values statements.
- Well defined groups have become visible, join a team.
- Unite a variety of social justice causes.
- Get organizations without diverse goals/objectives invested in finding common ground/goals.
- Encourage local governments (schools, special districts, cities and counties) to gather, to study, to discuss and to act as one as they work to engage their residents (maximize efforts to educate and engage public on issues of shared concern).

Organizational capacity building

- Politics is never through, need to mobilize for 2018 and 2020.
- Provide help for organizations to handle volunteer influx and handle volunteer onboarding.
- Continue the Promotor model especially when targeting marginalized communities.
- California public leaders have become more determined to advocate for improved social policies.
- Empower smaller and grassroots CBOs who work with specific ethnicities.
- Help build the rapid response networks that are being discussed broadly within both counties.
- Civic participation, capacity building, leadership training for community organizations and community leaders.
- Create opportunity to assist a group or alliance that share a common goal by convening and sharing best practices.

Community capacity building and training

- Democracy in Color makes a compelling argument that emphasis on mobilizing people of color is far more effective for future elections, including this past one.
- Train the community on how local government works and how they can engage their local civic leaders.

- Develop toolkit (Civics 101) of structure and process for political action - local, state, federal.
- Provide tools to engage allies supporting communities of color.
- Teach strategies on how to engage in civic discourse in the correct context of expanded definition of facts/truth.
- Train parents how to be supportive of the child's education.
- Increase civic education on how federal/state/local governments work and decision-making processes.
- Make stronger voices at local level.

Action strategies, ideas for organizing

- Civic engagement boot camps.
- Develop a list of websites that offer opportunities for civic engagement.
- Searchable databases of issues and ways to get involved from one-off activities through policy; also funding.
- Many people have recently taken action: either made a donation, marched, signed an online petition. They are ripe for next steps.
- Focus on high school, college student -- to encourage, model, incentivize their civic engagement.
- Build on the energy of the Women's Marches across the country.
- Support more women and people of color running for elected office.
- A networked, community organizing approach to community protection and liberation.
- Channel energy around rapid response into civic participation.
- Community forums for collaborating with schools, churches.
- Connect the dots, connect people, create culture of participation.
- Political activation of nonprofit and service org communities - donors, volunteers, recipients, etc.
- Build the bench; identify community leaders in racially and ethnically diverse communities to run leadership.
- The issues are not just global/national. Educate on the local impacts of local decisions too. We get lost thinking all the issues are further away but they are right here.
- Support training and development of programs that are grassroots led. To inform communities on their rights and engage in advocacy at local and state level.
- Study guaranteed basic income to address job displacement from automation and trade.
- Political capacities -- organizing, coalition building, facilitation, etc. -- are in great demand.
- Use technology, have a way to connect people with similar concerns, issues LinkedIn type connector.

Election and voting process reform

- Local elections will soon be timed with federal elections, create mobilization strategies from that.
- VoteCal and various reforms it enables.
- Pay attention to the election of state legislators who will be in place longer under the new term limits, who can be more effective individually together.
- Remedy persistent participation gaps (V/2 voter turnout) in California.
- Address midterm vs presidential election differences.

Funding / grantmaking for impact

- If Feds cut federal funding to the State of California, how can California prepare for the cuts?
- What organizations/issues need our help? i.e. environment, women's health, education of undocumented youth.
- Rapid response funding.
- Provide "emergency grants" to support the mental health of people doing front-line work.
- Funnel funding to where it is needed to buttress the state against the Fed.
- Democracy in Color, fund communities of color for voter engagement.
- It is the time for grant makers to take more risks.
- Every grant states that grantees devote a percentage of resources toward advocacy / policy areas. I.e. -- letter writing, visits with legislators, public comments at city/public forums.
- Funders share info and resources around civic education and public participation.
- Fund/incentivize nonprofit initiatives to promote civic engagement. Pay for consultants' child care, transportation, refreshments.
- Support or fund development of rapid response networks to engage community in local advocacy efforts, help community members learn about resources in their community: legal, know your rights.
- Support immigrant communities by offering scholarships that help with path to citizenship.
- Get the wealth of this area towards the right causes.
- Emergency fund to help manage new volunteers.
- Money for short term breaks or self-care. Social, emotional, personal frontline support.
- Continue to bring multisector, cross-sections together for brainstorming, cross-pollination and collective action. Budget for this.
- SVCF could share network list of these community conversations to continue the dialogue or create action.
- While so many are encouraged to get involved and give, we need to move with grants and fund organizations that will stimulate additional action/giving.

Information gathering, communication and messaging

- People are hungry for information (to know their rights).
- Joint congress presentations on what can and can't be done in Congress. What do they need from us?
- State and federal meeting to introduce who is working on which issues/funding so we can all follow them.
- Better or more interesting education related to civic engagement.
- Good storytelling of young leaders/influencers who can be role models.
- Engage communities around concrete policy pain points before they happen, i.e. ACA repeal, immigrant rights.
- "Washington 101": how many votes to block, how many to change legislation, what can we do as California in a "safe" district.
- Develop a dynamic marketing campaign to educate communities in civic engagement.
- Class or course materials to explain role of government at all levels.

Educate and inform

- Civic literacy, mobile learning, resources.
- Organizations serving children or youth promote teaching of soft skills within organizing and civic engagement.
- Exposure to success stories about civic engagement (another way to frame the narrative).
- Offer additional community organizing training.
- Communication training on power of voting, who votes, who doesn't and the impact and how community members can take leadership to create positive change in 2018 and 2020.
- Educate! Educate! Educate!
- Inform! Inform! Inform!
- Create and teach a civics education curriculum for high schools and communities.
- Programs to educate and encourage civic engagement in rust belt states.
- Education on how to address income inequality in wealth, social mobility.

Safe spaces

- Provide places for citizens to share their concerns in a safe, civil environment.
- Design and support community conversations that are safe and welcoming of diverse views. Political, strategic, issue-based, etc.
- Create and sustain sources of trusted, accurate information.
- Create a safe space for intersectionality to happen along with promoting women's rights.
- Can we create common values and common actions to advocate?
- Bring the foundation of love and compassion into difficult conversations.
- Need for 'safe' places for targeted communities (more marginalized communities).
- How do we encourage kind and civil protest so that both sides are hearing each other?

Invest in development of informed and engaged "citizens"

- Integrate the regions popular movements to be more inclusive - racial, economic, social - and to live by the words of Lilla Watson. If you have come here to help me, you are wasting your time. But if you have come because your liberation is bound up with mine, then let's work together.
- Women, especially diverse women in leadership, need serious investment.

QUESTION TWO

How can we most effectively create incentives for, and remove barriers (systemic or individual) to, participation in civic and political processes?

(Eight breakout circles; total of 62 participants)

DETAILED NOTES FROM CRITICAL QUESTION ONE

Barriers

Background Structural Barriers

- Address income inequality (ex: Fight for 15).
- Increase education and literacy levels.
- Stabilize people in their communities so that they can engage more (e.g. preventing displacement).
- Address the root causes of the barriers; we need to understand the barriers and why we have them before we can overcome them.
- Increase all types of education so local populations can succeed.
- Promote good jobs – being able to afford here and stay active – and not engage in lengthy commute promotes civic engagements. If you live and work in the same location – you have an opportunity to care more.

STRATEGIES

Set the Tone for Dialogue in the Political Sphere; Take charge of communication and messaging

- Work to keep dialogue based on information and not on "emotional" or "personal" attacks that serve to suppress.
- "Offensive" thinking... how are groups and organizations trying to limit civic engagement? Work backwards.
- Create a sense of urgency to incentivize involvement.
- Large scale data collection findings to set advocacy agenda: action steps (solutions).
- Reframe the narrative.
- Nothing gets moved unless there is a campaign. Develop a dynamic marketing campaign – to get people to engage in a movement you have to sell it. You have to look at human nature, how do people respond to the campaign?
- Our messages must resonate with the public - be relevant.
- Develop a dynamic marketing campaign understood proposition value.
- Incentives: short term "quick win" and long term "systemic change."

Leverage community strengths

- Instagram/Twitter/Radio/TV soundbites to tell the stories issues - a community platform.
- Support local especially POC led grassroots organizing groups.
- Identify/Celebrate small wins or wins of any size: There has to be small success to engage people. If you have a small success – make it sound like there were lots of people engaged and it was really fun. Celebrate the wins loudly. Celebrate wins of any size. Remaining positive.

- There is a lot of strength in California – a lot of sanctuary communities. State officials are interested in opposing rollback to human rights. How can we use the strength of our vulnerable populations here potentially be helping similar communities across the country? Standing up visibly to fight for other communities. Being visible leaders.

Education around civic engagement

General

- Education: do people know how to get involved?! Media is totally underutilized as a tool for educating community members on how to get involved.
- Trusted sources of information about civic issues that reach wide, diverse audiences and populations, emphasis on potential solutions.
- Knowledge is power.
- Provide tools for engagement.
- Trainings and education on how civic/political processes work for immigrant communities.
- Education on civic process and impact of policy impact - community based organizations, local governments.
- Stipend community education workshops/programs.
- Understand that most people don't understand how public policies are decided.
- Provide education (different levels) that details out the political process, i.e. curriculum for beginners, with more experience, etc.
- Education at all levels.
- Leverage trusted venues for civic engagement education - nonprofits/faith community/adult education.
- Engage faith-based communities (as they are areas of trust) to provide education in civic engagement.
- Barrier: lack of access to civics training. Solution: Mirror tech/private sector by bringing trainings to where people are.
- Make voting an easier process: Teach the process, easy terminology, show impact.
- Better civic education.

Connect the dots! Communicate how action leads to impact

- Connect the dots! Teach the relevance of policy/actions at the personal level.
- Intentionally build a sense of self-sufficiency among both youth and adults that each of them can make difference.
- Identify what tools have been created and how we can connect them together to maximize impact and address pressing issues.
- Follow-up incentives that show people they have impact.
- Educate the public about what impact they can have.
- Impact as Incentive - educate the public about how they can go about having an impact.
- Identify next steps: How do you engage people in the political process? It is harder to the next step. Civic feels more accessible than political. Civic is local – political – people have a harder time making a connection to policy and impact unless people care passionately about an issue. Example: How do you leverage the engagement of the Women's March?

- SIREN is mostly issued-based; sometimes neighborhood-based may not take a lead, but will be a part of a coalition. Momentum is constantly something to think about - developing local campaigns for people can plug in to. Having a campaign ready before plugging people in to activism.
- Civics 101 – it takes a lot to understand how it all works and the impact of the vote and impact. Ongoing education. All levels – community-based, local government.
- We need lots of incentives for people to participate, and they need to know immediately that their voice has an impact to encourage more participation in the future. i.e. neighborhood budgeting and strong neighborhood organizations – immediate satisfaction of knowing you participated (example of showing up at your local city council meeting to have a neighborhood problem quickly addressed).
- Communicate that participation is quite simple - remove jargon.

For young people

- For youth/young adults offer "for credit" civics education in high schools.
- Start with youth, get them involved through internship/summer work experience (forget hard to reach low income, marginalized income communities).
- Mobilize college campuses to push for election-day to be a holiday with free VTA (public transit) to get voters to polls.
- Show/train students 4th - 8th coding, messaging, what success looks like - Show and train students with a coding experience; effective messaging; getting "likes" to teach what success and deliverables look like; teach them young.
- Engage young people, "next gen" activists, build new leadership.
- Help youth learn how to participate, e.g. election, registration, sample ballot, ballot initiative discussions.
- Advocate for adult schools and community colleges to be funded to promote and measure civic engagement of their students.
- Add civic and community engagement to graduation requirements for adult students in California (adult schools/California community college/also high school). Civic Engagement should be a graduation requirement for adult schools and community colleges; Fund it and measure the impact of this requirement (receive credit for going to city council meetings etc.).
- Need to equally focus on incentives for participation: Scholarships/grants for youth who participate.
- Civic engagement at a young age - bring children into the community fold.
- Incentive: Organize annual elections at high schools - see how vote compares to real vote. Organize campaigns - take elected "leaders" to real organizations. Engaging youth – this is where civic engagement starts. Targeting high school age students, organizing annual high school elections to see how their votes compare to actual local/state/federal vote. See the creation of a proposition from beginning to end.
- Increase civic engagement in schools.
- Support youth engagement maybe through - citizen schools, mock elections, media literacy.
- Not sure what the strategy is but would like to see "non-traditional" youth leaders pulled into political process.
- Provide funding for young people to experience civic engagement, i.e., Inauguration stipends for participation and witnessing civic engagement first hand. Provide opportunity for young children to really understand the touch and feel of democracy. Youth do not necessarily get that exposure – need to create opportunities for them to get those experiences.
- Define civic engagement for under-18 year olds (centered in their experience).

- Remove barrier: provide civic engagement programming in high schools (part of curriculum); encourage leadership development - participate in rallies, marches, demonstrations.
- Connect with students. Young people are often overlooked but schools could do so much to partner with CBOs who do this work, to educate schools.

For seniors

- Civic education and engagement for seniors.

For parents

- Engage organizations dealing with parents and families* to provide civic engagement education. (*PTA, Parents Advocacy groups, PIQE).

Increase Literacy Access at the Ballot

Ensure access to ballot; streamline and simplify language

- Readable, non-partisan explanations of platform and ballot proposition (lots out there...how to get it to more people).
- Require simplified language from anyone placing something on the ballot.
- Make sure reading levels are accessible for ballot language etc.
- Build/invest in dismantling jargon/lack of access to elected officials/political processes. Building and dismantling the political jargon to help residents understand the issue.
- Make information accessible: is information available in different languages? Is it 8th grade level?
- Effectively communicate the ballot proposition value to community.

Safe places

Provide safe spaces for discourse

- Provide safe spaces for civil discourse on local issues.
- Use existing gatherings - congregations, community centers.
- People need to feel safe to participate.
- Need to develop trust-filled relationships. Sometimes there is a policy coming out – and how effective it is takes a realistic look at how it all goes down. Some people are intimidated to talk in front of others when they are on their own and not a part of the crowd. Good to provide space where people feel safe enough and comfortable enough to share their thoughts.
- Create safe space to share diverse perspectives.
- Create a safe environment.
- Map of safe spaces and move all hearings to those spaces? Expand safe spaces.
- Leverage trusted venues for civic engagement education - nonprofits/faith community/adult education.
- Engage faith-based communities (as they are areas of trust) to provide education in civic engagement.

Mobilize broadly and strategically

Mobilize broadly

- Work toward a model where everyone is mobilized.
- How do we sustain engagement (not only mobilize).
- Organize people to show up and participate in local actions.
- Service organizations engage members/clients/donors in discussion and education re: which is this service needed? Charity leads to solidarity. Need our service organizations to start engaging their donors, members in politics of the charity; organizing people to show up and participate.
- Empower volunteers to do the work of the nonprofit. Take on the issue and take the lead under the flag of authority.
- Emphasize community organizing - "Lace up our shoes."
- Training more people in community organizing principles. Interest focused, not person or organizations focused.
- Resources for CBOs working to organize civic engagement support for tenant organizations.
- Need to do basic community outreach - face to face - so that people know engagement opportunities/tools are there.
- Peer-to-peer outreach about education programs about/on civic engagement.
- Training and resourcing residents as facilitators of community engagement activities; culturally relevant language.

Facilitate connection to next steps vis-à-vis issues and representatives – help people plug in

- Give the people encouragement to get involved - make connection for people actions to impact.
- Provide specific action items for people to take on.
- "Simplify" the process: provide straightforward actionable steps that someone can take now.
- Create a sense of urgency and really concrete actions.
- "Scarcity" book says people regardless of culture when overwhelmed are only looking at very next step versus long term solution; finding some way to simplify the process for engagement; engage despite scarcity of time; scarcity of time; in same way that companies are making it easier to do eight things in one place; do that in the civic education space; theory of action.
- Identify next steps: How do you engage people in the political process? It is harder to the next step. Civic feels more accessible than political. Civic is local – political – people have a harder time making a connection to policy and impact. Unless people care passionately about an issue. Example: How do you leverage the engagement of the Women's March?
- Create a guidebook for connecting people with their representatives that are passionate about their issue. Example – connecting people with an elected who is passionate about housing; aligning interests.
- Connect people to issues that matter to them.

Differentiate the base and tailor strategies to different groups; "meet the people where they are"

- Meet the people where they are: church, school, neighborhood, online.
- Different engagement strategies needed for different populations.
- Different engagement strategies for: 1. the civic minded, 2. the NIMBYs who are engaged but not open, 3. the apathetic, 4. the excluded.
- Find forms of passive engagement – some folks love talking, others love helping but out of the spotlight.

Mobilize workers

- Support efforts to organize immigrant and vulnerable workers in asserting their rights on the job.

Mobilize parents/families

- Engage organizations dealing with parents and families* to provide civic engagement education (*PTA, Parents Advocacy groups, PIQE).
- Can we set a floor for LCAP funding for parent engagement? To CBOs for parent organizations.

Broaden opportunities for corporations to participate in the process

- Corporate voice louder.
- For profits, how for profits can take some of this work as a community investment.

Use creative strategies to engage

- Use Arts integration (as opposed to arts in a silo) so that community engagement and political participation efforts happen via arts and cultural based methods that are life affirming, intergenerational and contagious.
- Social media and all media to create a culture of engagement.
- Get prominent figures to help lead the charge.
- Mobile apps and games have a way to get more engagement and education. Example: Sunnyvale did a virtual civic engagement scavenger hunt.
- Make sure there are multiple access points that are fun!
- Is there a way to get participation to be a part of culture? Or a fad? Or an 'in' thing to do? Example – a few years ago – ice bucket challenge - -and it transcends all media. Is there a way to create civic engagement as a 'cool' thing to do – whether you're young or you're old - you are playing. Incentivize people to be cool.
- Gamify: Photo contests - Smartphones and DSLR camera photo-contests. Where votes are gathered via social media. Photos on a theme (environment; immigration; commuting, etc.). Or smartphone videos on themes like eco-tips and vote for the best.

Use technology for civic engagement and political participation

- Need a way (an app?) that enables a citizen to get updates on all bills on a particular theme(s). If they are state bills it would enable citizen to proactively promote it to their representatives and friends.
- Mobile apps and games – have a way to get more engagement and education. Example: Sunnyvale did a virtual civic engagement scavenger hunt.
- Any online forum for civic participation. Must be moderated, safe, inclusive, troll free, if possible (opposite of twitter or youtube comment section).
- Mix real world and online engagement tools - it's not either/or.
- Create real online rating process - culturally sensitive /multi-lingual.
- Social media and all media to create a culture of engagement.

- Mobile apps and games – have a way to get more engagement and education. Example: Sunnyvale did a virtual civic engagement scavenger hunt.
- Gamify: Photo contests - Smartphones and DSLR camera photo-contests. Where votes are gathered via social media. Photos on a theme (environment; immigration; commuting, etc.). Or smartphone videos on themes like eco-tips and vote for the best.
- Oakland, "See it, click it, fix it."

Increase participation in the sphere of local civic engagement

Remove barriers to increase civic engagement in public processes

- Develop (or support development of) linguistically specific and culturally relevant tools for outreach.
- Go to the people that you want to engage and design the experiences for the community: language, childcare.
- Go to the people you want to engage.
- Acknowledge power dynamics that prevent marginalized communities (acknowledge privilege of those in power that drown or render silent marginalized communities.); address systemic barriers to getting marginalized communities more involved and heard; who is government aware of and understating that privilege and the way it advantages some and not others; have government focus on privilege and address it because it's embedded in current government process.
- Mobilize college campuses to push for election-day to be a holiday with free VTA (public transit) to get voters to polls.
- Virtual meetings as opposed to only in person meetings for civic meetings.
- Revisiting time of meetings
- Promote good jobs – being able to afford here and stay active – and not engage in lengthy commute promotes civic engagements. If you live and work in the same location – you have an opportunity to care more.
- Community meetings – on an operational level - how can we provide child-care at meetings – because you can't really meet families' needs. Can providers who do childcare partner with the City for meetings and allow greater engagement? Opportunity for partnership.
- What is the solution to remove barrier – language barrier, accessibility and limited communication tools. I would think of using multi-lingual approach. Barriers – regarding the channels – for non-tech-savvy – seniors, for example: using multiple tools – in-person survey or phone, in addition to online.
- Recognize the idea of scarcity in both times and resources which limits peoples "voice." People might be working two jobs, don't have time or resources to call representatives, participate in protest. Lack of access can impact civic engagement.
- Schedule more public meetings outside of daytime working hours.
- Can childcare at night meetings increase civic participation?
- Affordable childcare (including free).
- Weekend and evening meetings and forums and hearings.
- Civic process is showing up, and voicing opinion and civic participation doesn't necessary have to be a registered voter. Make it easy and user friendly for individuals to voice opinions (reforms, engagement) or people won't come back.
- Make it user friendly - a must!

Examine outreach for public engagement mandated for jurisdictions

- Each jurisdiction commits to trying out one-two new ways to do outreach.
- Conveners need to take responsibility to do outreach to those missing at the table, (i.e. get commuters to a jobs-housing discussion).
- Acknowledge power dynamics that prevent marginalized communities (acknowledge privilege of those in power that drown or render silent marginalized communities.); address systemic barriers to getting marginalized communities more involved and heard; who is government aware of and understating that privilege and the way it advantages some and not others; have government focus on privilege and address it because it's embedded in current government process.
- Jurisdictions of government need to try out new and creative outreach; use existing gatherings for this.
- A pain point for everyone is figuring out a role to play in creating engagement but no one is specifically accountable for making sure it happens; can you hold legislators accountable for certain levels of engagement; people need to be pushing back when process is not simplified and accessible such as rejection unless simplified for broad audience.
- Hold politicians accountable for holding meetings at inaccessible times/locations.
- Public processes have to be more than community meetings. Need to have online venues, meet people where they are.
- Create classes/programs (short-term) for how to better participate in your local city's/county's policy making, etc. Classes provided by these cities/counties, specifically.
- Language access policies throughout city/county government agencies and departments: 1. Translations, 2. Interpreters, and 3. Way-finding.
- Translation barriers: making a bigger effort to ensure materials/education info are available to everyone.
- Inclusive lens from government: welcoming, understanding cultures, embrace diversity, multilingual engagement.
- Language support for effective participation.
- Online comment/testing submission for Brown Act compliant meetings through city based portals - not just by complicated process of emailing city clerks. We need easier access.
- (Barrier) Cities/counties should have to assess the accessibility of their public participation process.
- Government outreach link to schools.

Build electoral power

Invest in capacity building and sustainability

- Focus on civic literacy and engagement in non-election years.
- Support/fund year-round engagement of low-frequency voters and underrepresented residents.
- Invest in building the capacity of civic engagement organizations to access data (voter files are expensive!!).

Remove barriers to voting

- Push for polices that allow non-citizens to vote in state and local elections.
- Have voting on multiple days.
- Push for polices that allow non-citizens to vote in state and local elections.
- Promote efforts for district based (rather than at large) city councils.
- Use mobile model to connect resources for civic engagement especially hotspots, Wi-Fi.
- Make election days paid work holidays.

- Leverage large number of recent statewide voting liberalization reform. State wide reforms are needed to increase voter access - automatic voter registration – opening up voter processes to make it easier for people to access.
- Support efforts to make voting easier and remove barriers to voting.

Voter registration

- Make voter registration easier and accessible at multiple, natural touchpoints (school enrollment, DMV registration, etc.).
- Make it easier to register, become informed, know how and where to vote.
- Can we expand automatic voter registration to school enrollment? Where else can we expand it?
- Remake voter registration processes. Tie into social security or other existing systems.

Policy Change

- Move local elections to districts not at large elections.
- Promote efforts of district-based rather than city-wide city councils. Communities are engaged locally and want their voices heard through district-based elections that might not otherwise happen with an at-large elections.
- Electoral reform – push policies for non-citizens to vote in local and state elections.
- Leverage large number of recent statewide voting liberalization reform? State wide reforms are needed to increase voter access - automatic voter registration – opening up voter processes to make it easier for people to access.

Transparency of Electoral Process

- More transparency in process and timing of bills.
- Tool for tracking the money and tracking the votes.

Voter Rights

- Preserve and restore Voting Rights Act.

Mobilize non-voters – both those who can those who cannot vote

- So many people don't have access to vote – young people, immigrants, formerly incarcerated – are most in need of a vote – and can't have a vote.
- Mobilize non-voters: those who don't vote and those who can't vote, e.g. participatory budgeting.
- Restoring people's rights to vote if they lost it (example; incarcerated populations) - much agreement.
- Target groups who don't typically participate in voting (college age youth, marginalized groups...) with education, training or civic education "certification." Target groups that don't typically vote. Create a certificate that public leaders and private organizations can use to demonstrate their advocacy work, and incentivize groups/leaders to measure advocacy work. Could be a useful metric – does this organization/leader have this certificate on their CV to demonstrate they are actively and civically engaged?
- Civic process is showing up and voicing opinion, and civic participation doesn't necessarily have to be a registered voter. Make it easy and user friendly for individuals to voice opinions (reforms, engagement) or people won't come back.
- Tax break for voting.

Strengthen civic engagement of immigrant communities

- Provide free ESL classes.
- Reduce fees and/or offer scholarship for low-income families to pay for citizenship fees.
- Provide free citizenship classes.
- Effort that brings people to and translates public meetings.
- Support people to obtain citizenship.
- Support new citizens to become politicians.
- Empower mentorship programs for newcomers.
- Ensuring that the community understands that they can make an impact regardless of immigration status and how they can make impact.
- Participation in civil and political process and process along the immigration process gradually! Immigrant perspective – immigration is a pathway. An immigrant has to become a citizen before they can engage in the political process (which can take up to 20 years). Different approaches and engagement strategies are needed to help immigrants participate as they go through this process. Immigrants should be able to increase civic participation as they follow the immigrant pathway to citizenship (example: permanent resident should be able to participate at certain levels in local community decisions). Civic engagement tied to the immigration process.
- Perceive participation from the perspective of immigrants; what is a definition of civic engagement for the undocumented population? What would this look like if you don't have citizenship? Immigrants have fewer concepts of "citizen rights." We will be more effective to perceive this process from the immigrant's perspective.
- Define civic engagement with/for the undocumented.
- Support efforts to organize immigrant and vulnerable workers in asserting their rights on the job.

Increase equity in democratic participation

Ground up participation in the political sphere

- Debate seems underutilized - Bay Area Urban Debate league is a youth focused effort. What about adults?? Candidates? Improve quality of discourse, being opposite sides together (polarization is encouraging).
- Resource basic community based organizing – neighbor-to-neighbor connection around the issues that affect them: culturally rooted, youth leadership, popular education community based problem solving.
- Resource community visioning processes so that people are engaging around what they want to see in the world as opposed to having to defend against attack after attack and so that community institutions can organize themselves around and be guided by the vision and leadership of the communities they serve.
- Inclusive facilitated process to create community solutions, bringing in (marginalized communities).
- Build policy and program initiatives with communities so that they see the results of their participation. Examples: Constitution project in Chile, participatory or outcomes based budgeting.
- Explore engagement tools such as participatory budgeting.

Facilitate political leadership from underrepresented communities

- Be open to all styles of leadership and train leaders in diverse in diverse communities.
- Help communities who identify as low income and of color to apply/run for office. City, County and State levels - educate + sponsorship/support.
- Best practice: policy education for potential candidates that is run by non-political and non-endorsing, non-partisan organizations (important for lower income, lower access individuals).

- Focus on running candidates via resident leadership ladders with the goal of ensuring that our communities are actually represented in all levels of government.
- Delegates: what they do? how do they become delegates?
- Candidate preparation: ethics, values, public speaking.
- Support new citizens to become politicians.
- Important for people to see people like themselves running. It is really expensive. Just to pay for statement in voter's guide. Succession planning – and people might move up. Write mini-grants and training to first-time candidates to identify and encourage them to run. You might not win the first time.
- Create pathways for underrepresented residents to get into office.
- Provide mini-grants and training to first time candidates to pay for initial costs of running. Use grassroots organizations to find ethical people.

Foster closer connections between constituents and their elected officials

- Encourage one-on-one conversations between citizens and elected/staff or planning commission etc.
- Provide opportunities, i.e. facilitate conversation between elected officials and community.

Address disparities in privilege and power

- Acknowledge power dynamics that prevent marginalized communities (acknowledge privilege of those in power that drown or render silent marginalized communities); address systemic barriers to getting marginalized communities more involved and heard; who is government aware of and understating that privilege and the way it advantages some and not others; have government focus on privilege and address it because it's embedded in current government process.
- Understanding who is under-represented and more outreach; getting creative by understanding trends of how and why others are not participating and then responding.
- Support efforts to organize immigrant and vulnerable workers in asserting their rights on the job.
- Amplify regular voters and small donors.
- Create limits to campaign contributions.
- Allow non-citizens to engage in local elections.
- November 2014 turnout: Latino: 17%, Asian Americans: 18%, Others: 40%. 1. Improve Language Accessibility of elections; 2. Identify appropriate, community -specific messengers; 3. Start local.
- Remedy midterm versus presidential participation disparities.
- Help more people become homeowners who have a higher level of civic engagement.
- Neighborhood budgeting + neighborhood decision-making facilitated by cities.
- Can we decentralize voting to direct democracy or community boards to increase participation?
- Link YIMBY and equity advocates.
- Include justice/jail/court representatives in process (and demand inclusive and just practices).
- Develop (or support development of) linguistically specific and culturally relevant tools for outreach.

Identify informal divides that operate to preferentially limit information and access

- Notify people on county housing wait lists when housing is being discussed in their city. There is a gap in knowledge. People in neighborhoods find out - not the potential new neighbors.
- Media must improve access to information - use of technology, new/social media...

For CBOs - build capacity, create alignments

Build capacity of existing organizations/networks

- Provide "professional development" on effective advocacy and policy work.
- Should departments of elections exclusively conduct outreach? Floor of CBO outreach funding.
- CBOs, groups that already exist to build on relationships to deliver civic engagement.

Create alignment across differences

- Eliminate "credentialing," i.e. giving/requiring credit to specific entity for an event and/or only allowing certain kinds of organizations/entities to lead. Eliminating credentialing by giving special organizations credit. For instance, "Women's March" was not clearly organized by a specific group, which provided an easy entry point for more people. This removed the "politicizing" of the event. People could get around the issue, not the organization.
- Promote intersectionality (do not ignore voices of people of color).
- Support forum/places for people from diverse organizations/viewpoints/tactical approaches to meet, develop relationships, learn about each other.
- Remove barriers to cooperate with like-minded/missioned organizations to increase diversity of political endorsement teams.

Non-profit advocacy

- Change foundation structure/governance, e.g. 501c3 and c4 to facilitate advocacy.
- Increase the employee opportunity in nonprofit work, incentivize first-hand knowledge (both an incentive and barrier removal).

For philanthropy

- Give/grant to impacted organizations now!
- Provide mini-grants and training to first time candidates to pay for initial costs of running. Use grassroots organizations to find ethical people.
- General support grants to key organizing groups to harness raise interest: ACLU Northern California, Bay Area Rising, Planned Parenthood.
- Provide funding to support grassroots (racial / ethnic) organizing and leadership development.
- Funders promote civic engagement - communicate about the importance of civic engagement.
- Granting to impacted organizations now – and not waiting. Develop (or support development of) linguistically specific and culturally relevant tools for outreach.
- Resource movement strategically to be more effective. Thinking about resources and resourcing leaders, how can you help provide incentive through stipends, training, the right introduction to help facilitate entry points. Women's March was a multimillion-dollar project that took a lot of resources to organize.

- Support/fund year-round engagement of low-frequency voters and underrepresented residents.
- Invest in building the capacity of civic engagement organizations to access data (voter files are expensive!!).
- Invest in community organizing and community engagement in vulnerable communities (people of color, low income workers and families)
- Don't create new organizations. Pick your priorities and leverage existing nonprofits who have the subject area expertise and experience to help with needed solutions.
- Provide more multi-year grants.
- Fund corporate campaigns!
- More unrestricted and capacity building grants to civic groups of working families/communities of color; less single-issue campaign funding.
- All nonprofit grants stipulate that some percentage (~10%) must be used for advocacy and policy work.
- Open conversation in philanthropic sector about establishing political arm.

QUESTION THREE

What creative, innovative, or non-traditional approaches, including the use of technology, might we consider to encourage greater civic engagement and participation in local and regional political processes?

(Six breakout circles; total of 59 participants)

DETAILED NOTES FROM CRITICAL QUESTION THREE

Old school community engagement

- The most innovative act we can generate is old school face-to-face relationship building.
- Use local public television.
- Know your neighbors to build community.
- "Old School" has become innovative. First step is getting to know your neighbors personally. Relationship building leads to community building and that moves to civic engagement.
- Creating an agenda-free environment for two or more neighbors to have coffee and talk about issues that matter most to them is what we need to do.
- Neighborhood activation also known as Strong Neighborhoods Initiative 2.0. People can use small pots of funding to fix local problems.
- "Old School" work with partners and schools, food, childcare, decision-making, raffles or earn backpacks.
- If people do not know each other, how can they work effectively to change their community?
- No technology is needed. One person can work to meet her neighbors. That will take time. Then she can invite them to talk about the wellbeing of her community.
- Welcome packages from cities for residents.
- Have apartment management include a sheet about local government officials that represent them in welcome packet.
- Create an active realtor network to inform the community about engagement opportunities.

- Create a buddy system for voting -- maybe between an older and younger person, with someone who is a consistent voter and someone who may be more new to it.
- Portland has neighborhood budgets, character and personalities.
- Participatory budgeting.
- Use libraries as community gathering (space for community) building. They are already doing it -- just support this more.
- Leverage "nextdoor.com" platform networks for communication on civic engagement. San Jose City Council does this well.
- Provide low-entry "on ramps" to civic engagement at an early age, middle school and up and reward volunteerism early.
- Government posting in nextdoor.com agendas and policy issues.
- Strategic partnerships with nextdoor.com to promote info. New potential partnership with nextdoor.com to get access to neighborhoods.
- Post-march getting many emails about national action building on this. What about a list of local civic engagement opportunities? Sorted by zip code, area of interest, etc.

Guiding principles and values

- One day events no longer generate policy change in America. Social change from one march, no matter the number of demonstrators, is a myth in our current political reality.
- All the marching in the world and all the social media generated will not make a difference unless people are working on those day to day relationships to make change in their local communities.
- Build a beloved and harmonious community at the very grassroots level.
- Each one teaches one to learn about each other's culture.
- Education with social interaction to move "from fear to friendship." Share a meal with your guests, block parties.
- Utilize current neighborhood websites (i.e. nextdoor.com) to inform residents about engagement opportunities.
- The more we pair the younger generation with older generation, the more wisdom and knowledge to be had.
- Intergenerational connection benefit from their wisdom.
- Invest in building trust in vulnerable communities.
- Opportunity to build civic education training.
- Real life and tactical.
- Make civic engagement and political participation fun and less intimidating.
- Shared wisdom.
- Tangible outcomes, sustainable long-term.
- More tactical place-making such as Pogo Park in Richmond - to help people participate in and see change. Important thing is real world and tactile.
- With real connection so there is not disconnect like the Ice Bucket Challenge, can't be only online.
- Relationship building leads to engagement. Engagement leads to strong communities.
- Stop talking, show me. Make some fun.

- Some national efforts lose focus locally.
- Cross-cultural understanding

Messaging strategies, Storytelling

- Storytelling by specific subgroups ranging from Dreamers to commuters at public event and videos posted and promoted afterward.
- A website for collecting written and video stories on a theme. Social media ads through a Google grant to draw eyeballs and comments.
- Videotape human stories to gain public empathy and share knowledge.
- Develop a storytelling app or platform to capture real-life stories and concerns of people.
- Need to market it wide, connect it to tangible results.
- Goal and roadmap similar to exacting a marketing campaign. What happens next? What's your business or marketing approach? Roadmap to get goals.
- Cannot be in a vacuum.
- Need for local efforts; mobilization campaigns for city and community levels.
- More communication and outreach using text messaging -- particularly low-income communities.
- Coalitions, different audiences for messaging/communication strategies.
- Better connect our messaging to real change, new storytelling #byeanita #noonjoe.

Mobile platforms

- Texting platform to push messages and engagement. Ease of use to reach out to elected officials and vote.
- Mobile technology to engage students and immigrants.
- Phone access.
- Mobile learning, naturalization prep, local government info/course, resources.
- Use text or call in technologies to gather feedback from places where it makes sense. Parks, libraries, Twilio, Textizen, Cityvoice.
- City/civic engagement through texting platforms are not being utilized. Immigrant communities and younger communities can be more effectively reached through text. Some city emergency management already use text communications.
- Use emergency management text alerts to remind people to vote. Perhaps separate alerts for those who sign-up for city council or civic events.
- Training on how to use smart phones.
- Use unusual spaces to provide info and engage folks. Digital ads at gas stations, taxis and bathroom stall doors.
- Thematic photo contests with text descriptions. Social media to get votes. Use a plug-in online to show photos.
- In education, videos that explain the process of becoming a citizen for green card holders. What's the process? App with practice tests in multiple languages.
- App development to support the creation and implementation of rapid response networks -- inform community about advocacy efforts, match community at need with resources.

- Gamify. Fun and interesting events that get people creating the change they want to see. Such as write-a-thon, city camp, urban prototyping festival.

Developing and leveraging social media

- Develop social media training for grassroots organizing and youth engagement.
- Our president is reducing the power of the media.
- The president used the media to mobilize the country to win the elections.
- The media's fascination with Trump brought him to power.
- Train youth to produce videos that can be shared on social media.
- Use hip hop culture to inform and engage communities of color with technology.
- Under-utilized social media tools to engage for youth (demystify civic participation to talk at issues).
- Demystify civic engagement through social media, i.e. hashtags, videos, internet challenges (Mannequin challenge, etc.).
- E-zines. Subscription style e-list where interested persons sign up based on a topic and are notified about upcoming meetings/announcements. Public or community sources of information.
- Social media. Join the conversation. Nextdoor.com. Connect neighborhoods.
- Use social media to connect vulnerable populations (immigrants, females seeking abortion and medical services) with advocate surrogates in California.
- Social media 211, using 211 better.
- Media: resist the message that one person on Twitter did the work of millions of constituents online, i.e. Bill to kill, OCE.
- Media narrative, promote media literacy for young and older folks. Perhaps invest in reporting locally, nationally that helps to expose truths.
- Find ways to use social media to engage and empower community members.

Leveraging technology, data and web resources

- Use visual/audio technology to engage.
- Focus on ways to develop empathy -- particularly using virtual reality.
- Provide learning opportunity on best tech apps for civic engagement for action (beyond Facebook and Twitter).
- "We have an app for that." Encourage use of web-based polling, survey engagement tools by local governments. [Providing] alternatives to attending public meetings.
- Technology for community organizers, i.e., tablets to collect data, sign people up for events.
- www.e-immigrate.us, e-immigrate suite.
- Government is not so good about engaging.
- Website portal for immigration legal information with event listings and registration.
- Real-time info and data visualization for info about your community (dashboard).
- Phone line registration that is automated, multilingual, customizable, text confirmation.
- MERS, measurement evaluation referral system and used to collect pertinent workshop data.

- Lakewood Tech EQ and social skills -- teaching tech skills for 21st century living.
- Use Twitter.
- Could include app to do education and connection to local issues.
- Tools providing clearing house and local opportunities to take action.
- Use data to identify areas or groups of increased civic engagement. How are they different from groups with less engagement? Any lessons to learn?
- Understand who you are reaching and who isn't being represented and go to those communities, schools, senior centers. Use technology to map the demographics you are reaching.
- Better use of salesforce/database tech in general and online marketing techniques.
- Technology as vehicle to reach out to all.
- Technology cannot be only personal, needs to be incorporated.
- YouTube, Vimeo, Snapchat, Instagram, Facebook -- all of these sites can be better utilized to catalyze movement within younger generations.
- Establish civic engagement resource center online that lists the various organizations and curriculum.
- Create or establish technology hubs for immigrants to meet to discuss issues and opportunities. Libraries? Church?
- Use of technology to: provide access, eliminate fear and provide truth. Communicate truth and fact.
- Tech tools for rapid response networks that are being discussed in both counties.
- Using technology to protect ourselves against surveillance.

Voting process

- Training for community members about who votes in their area (district, city, county) and who doesn't and how that impacts public policy that affects their lives/their families/neighborhoods. What is at stake? What can they do to make democracy work for them -- meet their needs and priorities?
- Pilot mobile voting.
- Pilot allowing non-citizens to vote in local elections.
- Lower the voting age for local elections.
- Data mining through apps and cross-reference with registered voters to increase civic participation.
- Use technology to really analyze demographics, issues, voting, engagement.
- Voter registration project.

Targeted funding and philanthropic opportunities

- Creative and innovative grant making to reduce the demands of traditional grantmaking strategies.
- Provide funding for immigrant students in rural areas of SMC to get tech skills to participate in online and hybrid courses/training.
- Giving circles. Support volunteer giving circles to create a bigger base of community philanthropy. Focus on youth?
- Mini grants.

- Unabashedly fund advocacy, at local and state level.
- Provide funding for tech tools.
- Give seed grants to neighborhoods for planning or executing their priority projects. Then celebrate and spotlight success stories.
- Fund polling.
- Corporations are funding polls. They influence what goes on in the polls. Funding outside that sector we can ask many questions beyond what the corporations might be interested in.
- Foundations, government or donors allot more timing for planning and strategic thinking and ally development versus one-year project outcomes.
- Creative, innovative, non-traditional funding that is not line item restricted.
- Grantmakers investing in grassroots organizations to build and increase their capacities to serve more people long term.
- Youth scholarships/incentives for civic engagement.
- Using technology coupled with community to address community needs in time of tragic situations.
- GoFundMe.
- Financial end -- connects to unifying cause and how does it connect civic engagement/public processes.
- Design challenges. Philanthropists and foundations give big money for design competitions aimed at solving problems. A design competition to locally address civic engagement.
- Understand cultural characteristics then encourage civic and public participation and philanthropy.

Partnership building and cross-sector collaboration

- Make introductions between unlikely partners and get them engaged on projects together.
- Partnerships with law schools or bar associations on civic engagement and political participation for commissions, policy advocacy.
- Create commissions that are sectional by community and do similar work as the official government sanctioned commissions. Far too often government commissions aren't allowed true autonomy.
- Work collaboratively with organizations instead (of being in) competition.
- Local cohort.
- Cohort to share info best practices.
- Bring two Silicon Valley's together to work on specific issues of concern, i.e., tech - non-tech intergeneration.
- Galvanize different coalitions to create a collective movement that is more impactful.
- Activate current tech spaces. Integrate older assets and geographic spaces with newer tech companies. Youth to engage CYC, Bayview YMCA.
- Consider national versus local reach?
- Need local teams focused on local issues: how to inspire? How to educate? How to lead?
- School - community partnership with tech companies for learning about policies.
- Include faith-based and non-faith based organizations, as we collaborate to address such issues as the digital divide, increasing high school graduation rate, especially for under-represented students.

- Community based organizations, community college, schools.
- Partnering with faith-based groups, cultural groups.
- Connecting community based organizations to marketing so work can be shared and highlighted, encouraging ongoing civic engagement.
- Social opportunities to develop relationships; learn and engage on issues.
- Leverage libraries as the most trusted organization according to Pew Research.
- Partnerships with corporations like Google, Facebook and YouTube.
- Cross-sector collaboration for nonprofits; creating a regional or city agenda, i.e., housing, immigrant rights, civic engagement, environment.
- Santa Clara County and City of San Jose need to come together more often on different topics.

Access and inclusion

- Local government meetings accessibly by public transportation, i.e., train, bus, etc.
- Enhance access to public decision-makers through online portals, texting views (opinions) to them.
- Access television studios can now include people far away using Skype to join studio audience live.
- Legal change to facilitate remote discussion.
- Bringing decision-makers to the community to listen to diverse, under heard community members. Structured dialogues for diverse community members to be in communication with public officials to share common input and have public officials listen.
- Use assistive technology to encourage bilingual communities to participate in meetings.
- Use outreach teams for low-income communities.
- Targeted outreach, i.e., seniors, students, stay at home and working populations.

Community-based, local leadership development

- Leadership development programs created with local or regional governments...in hard to reach communities.
- Invest in leadership among diverse women.
- Train more people on leadership with a free model of access for all.
- Recognize and develop leadership and civic engagement in all areas of communities, i.e., moms at home with young children.
- Support pipelines for underrepresented residents to take greater leadership positions in local and state government, i.e., get on commissions, elected to council.

Youth engagement and capacity building

- Cohesive engagement of youth at schools, part of curriculum. Fun, project-based activities like conferences, rallies, marches. Give youth leadership opportunities.
- Find ways to actively engage students in the civic process. Embed civics topics into relevant school subjects in multiple grades; not just in high school history. This isn't necessarily a new or innovative idea but it can be done in fun, innovative ways using technology devices. This will automatically and naturally bring in family interest.

- Create civic engagement curricula for all afterschool provides similar to our STEM initiative. Have a civic engagement initiative in Silicon Valley. "SVCEI". To include virtual visits legislative offices.
- Afterschool: plugging through opportunities in... Comprehensive and complex issues for youth - they're in there!
- Graduation requirement focused on civic engagement so that all students participate; curriculum is created, all of it is funded.
- Real life: City council, media, etc. need to see youth -- needs to connect to them.
- Touching all youth.
- Younger use of technology/social media.
- Invest in youth leadership and community member development. Historical context, build alliances, place on decision-making boards and commissions.
- Work and build with existing structures like youth commissions to mobilize, network and form solutions to increase youth, transition age, civic engagement.
- Khan Academy type videos and curricula for civic literacy for kids (systems and engagement) mental framework embedded in variety of subjects.
- Khan Academy type videos explaining propositions and initiatives in plain, simple language.
- Shift our public education system to provide strong civic engagement courses. Junior college credits.
- Advocate for restructuring high school curriculums to include civic education and continued political participation

Community engagement

- Provide adult immigrant learners with opportunities to learn beyond semester - type classes -- workshops, jams, short trainings.
- Teach critical thinking skills to decipher fake news.
- Identify effective mechanisms for engaging and contributing.
- Free/traveling civics education courses.
- Simplify the processes or the instructions to participate; make it less overwhelming.
- Free trainings for parents -- in school, city, county, federal [government] for engagement, certification for participants.
- Providing the tools and training for the skills for people to create the movement and the messages on their own.
- Online tools to help youth and residents understand how local government works and current issues facing local governments.
- Short term classes/programs online or in person that teach residents how to participate in their city's/county's political processes -- specific and local, not overarching and general -- maybe implemented via community peers.
- Bring "know your rights" education into 21st century via technology so people feel comfortable/secure in their rights to engage.
- Focus on local elected officials education/awareness campaign -- why and benefits.
- Engaging disenfranchised community to understand how to navigate it. Understanding and motivated to engage -- solution: simplify, developing tools, nonpartisan way.
- One-on-one coaching/mentorship can be done through online platform?
- Real life 101, financial literacy, voting, auto repair, sewing.

- "Bottom up" student-led civic education/know your rights workshops.
- Group discussions. Multilingual. ESL learning and civic engagement.
- Encourage intergenerational dialogue.

Ideas for civic engagement activity

- Counties/cities think about regional hearing on regional issues housing transportation.
- Transportation polling with interest of sustainability and equity is a current gap.
- Engage people with tech skills on addressing issues of transport integration and equity.
- Connect to issues that affect real people.
- Flip the model. Have volunteers rise to leadership positions to lead on political issues.
- Naturalization support efforts where the goal is not solely to help people naturalize but rather to naturalize AND become active and engaged citizens.
- We all know the US Census has limited effectiveness in HTC communities. Invest in parallel efforts that overcome US Census limitations to get more accurate counts in a handful of HTC communities. Maintain census process integrity.
- Try adapting "Promotoras" model for civic engagement -- recruiting, training and empowering leaders from within certain communities (i.e., immigrant communities).
- Using community Promotoras to engage, recruit and inspire immigrant communities to take action.
- Break up two-party system with data/fact based Silicon Valley contingent.
- Use respected organizations already in place to inform the community. League of Women Voters (LMV), Parent Teachers Association (PTA), Offices of local elected officials at local, state and federal levels.
- Decentralized leadership with coordinated structure/methods for participation.
- Branch library, out of school activities, parent education, summer slide, community services, digital, natives vs immigrants.
- Prescribe "civic engagement" as medicine. Palo Alto Medical Foundation.
- Seek ways for government to take comments virtually during government meetings, more interactive access beyond budget survey.
- Going out to where the people/residents are.
- Leverage the tech access to info program being done at City of San Jose.
- Civic engagement night at school for entire family.
- Annual day of democracy or Democracy festival, collaboration with schools and election officials and registered to vote, etc. Core them for everyone to get a chance to celebrate and learn about democracy. Engaging families and not segmenting people. Could be promoted on 4th of July day or weekend; meet elected officials, register to vote, learn about issues.
- Provide voter registration information at restaurants and clubs.
- Bring big data skills of community organizations to help improve our ability to tell stories to policymakers about the size of problems and efficacy of solutions.
- Art as a tool of resilience such as theater.

- Artists. Commissioning culturally diverse artists to create works speaking to cultural, economic and often other issues that aren't well understood across the broader community. Artists = bridge builders = speakers of truth to power.