



FUNDERS' COMMITTEE FOR CIVIC PARTICIPATION

Is There a New Normal?

Democracy | Culture | Technology | Economy

AGENDA

Funders' Committee for Civic Participation's 2010 Winter Convening
December 6 – 8 | The Pew Charitable Trusts | Washington, DC

Monday, December 6th

The Liaison Hotel | 415 New Jersey Avenue NW | Washington, DC 20001 | 202.638.1616

6:30 – 7:00pm **Reception**

7:00 – 8:30pm **Opening Dinner**

- Welcoming remarks by Allison Barlow, FCCP Co-chair
- Introduction by Geri Mannion, Carnegie Corporation of New York
- Keynote address by Justice Sandra Day O'Connor

Tuesday, December 7th

The Pew Charitable Trusts | 901 E Street NW | Washington, DC 20004 | 202.552.2000

All sessions are located in the Carolinas Room on the 10th floor unless otherwise noted.

8:00 – 9:00am **Breakfast**

9:00 – 9:30am **Welcome, Overview & Introductions**

- Michael Caudell-Feagan, The Pew Charitable Trusts and FCCP Co-chair
- Deb Ross, FCCP Executive Director

9:30 – 10:15am **Is There a New Normal? Reflections on 2010 and Insights on the Road Ahead**
Plenary *Moderated by Frank Sanchez, Needmor Fund*

Did the 2010 mid-term elections reflect a “new normal” in U.S. democracy? Provocative political forces, extraordinary campaign spending, new voting trends among diverse constituencies – were these historic game-changers or was this a traditional mid-term, shake ‘em up election? What can funders learn from the

performance of the non-partisan civic engagement community this cycle? What dynamics are healthy, and what should we be concerned about for 2012 and beyond? Please bring your observations, experiences and questions to our opening plenary conversation as we set the stage for a dynamic FCCP 2010 Winter Convening.

Speakers

- Farai Chideya, PopandPolitics.com
- Mark Schmitt, *The American Prospect*

10:15 – 10:30am Break

10:30 – 11:15am **Quick Wits**

Introductions by Adrienne Shropshire, New World Foundation

Speakers

- Change Beyond November 3rd: Michael Waldman, Brennan Center for Justice
- Bush v. Gore Ten Years Later: Eliza Newlin Carney, *National Journal*
- How the Politics of Culture Influences the Culture of Politics: Jeff Chang, *Can't Stop, Won't Stop*

11:15 – 12:30pm **Digging Deeper – Concurrent Breakout Sessions**

**Concurrent
Session I**

Change Beyond November 3rd

Moderated by Patricia Bauman, The Bauman Family Foundation

*New York Room
9th Floor*

What are the new challenges facing policy makers and advocates in the period ahead? What will galvanize the rising American electorate in the years to come? People feel empowered if they participate in achieving change and remain engaged when they see positive outcomes. By showcasing opportunities for change at the federal, state and local level, this panel will explore how to deepen and expand civic participation in this fractured political moment and beyond the electoral cycle.

Speakers

- Marcia Avner, Consultant, Avner Consulting
- Sarah Rosen Wartell, Center for American Progress
- Tracy Sturdivant, State Voices
- Joe Szakos, Virginia Organizing Project

**Concurrent
Session II**

After Bush v. Gore: Can We Help Fix a Broken Democracy? A Funder Strategy

Facilitated by Michael Caudell-Feagan, The Pew Charitable Trusts/FCCP Co-Chair

*Pennsylvania
Room,
10th Floor*

Ten years ago, the close and controversial 2000 presidential election highlighted the need for reform of the nation's antiquated system of administering elections. Since then, the federal government has asserted an interest in shaping the details of elections in this country and a wide variety of public- and private-sector players have sought to change the laws, practices, and technology under which Americans cast their ballots. Over the last decade, debates have raged over the security of new voting technology and internet voting, the completeness and accuracy of voter rolls, and concerns about fraud which have

led to calls for safeguards like voter ID, citizenship verification and restrictions on groups conducting registration drives. As the nation enters a second decade of election administration reform post-2000, what role can philanthropy play in ensuring that voting reform remains focused on the needs of voters? Specifically, we will discuss if and how an FCCP working group would help us to chart our course over the next two years.

**Concurrent
Session III**

*Carolinas
Room,
10th Floor*

How Can the Politics of Culture Influence the Culture of Politics?

Moderated by Helen Brunner, Media Democracy Fund

While policy tends to speak to peoples' heads, culture can speak to their hearts. The mid-term elections remind us that advocates need to engage both in pursuit of change. You wouldn't launch a campaign and hope to win without mobilizing a strong grassroots organizing, communications or online strategy. But how can incorporating the power of arts and culture help re-shape political discourse in America? Three activists - a poet, an author and a filmmaker - will present stirring examples of how cultural strategies have the potential to activate important values and re-engage Americans in civic life.

Speakers

- Jeff Chang, *Can't Stop, Won't Stop*
- Rha Goddess, Move The Crowd, LLC
- Ian Inaba, Citizen Engagement Lab

12:30 – 2:00pm

Lunch / Networking / Free Time

Introduction by Jim Dickson, Needmor Fund

Book signing and give-away by Alicia Korten, author of *Change Philanthropy: Candid Stories of Foundations Maximizing Results Through Social Justice*

**2:00 – 2:45pm
Plenary**

Race and the New Normal

Introduction by Ludovic Blain, Color of Democracy Fund

When President Obama took office as the nation's first African American president, some declared it as evidence of a major advancement (and even mending) of race relations in America. Yet the malice displayed in this year's campaign ads points to something different. We will take a frank look at the deep racial anxieties still alive in America. How are they used to polarize voters and influence civic participation? This plenary will explore recent race-baiting behavior, the implications of post-racialism, and what the racial "new normal" could be.

Speaker

- Camille Zubrinsky Charles, Americans Values Institute and Center for Africana Studies at the University of Pennsylvania

2:45 – 3:00 pm

Break

3:00 – 3:30pm **Point-and-Click Politics: Is the Internet Fueling Polarization and Gridlock or Offering New Tools for Self-Governance?**
Plenary *Introduction by Michael Caudell-Feagan, FCCP Co-chair*

Speaker

- Micah Sifry, techPresident.com and the Personal Democracy Forum

3:30 – 5:30pm **Democracy Lab: Technology Transforming Civic Engagement**
Introduction by John Kowal, Ford Foundation

Technology has fueled dramatic changes in the way that organizations build power and communicate. Experience this revolution in action! Leading technology providers will be stationed in breakout rooms where they will showcase the exciting potential of their powerful civic engagement tools and answer your questions. Demonstrations will repeat every half hour so plan to visit four stations.

Please refer to the separate Democracy Lab handout in your packet for descriptions, speakers and station locations.

Featuring

- DistrictBuilder
- National Field
- Presente.org
- Sunlight Foundation tools
- Voter Activation Network
- Voting Information Project

6:00 – 8:00pm **Dinner at Zola Restaurant**
Ultra Room | Second Floor | 800 F Street NW | Washington, DC

This dinner will be a time to remember and toast our dear friend and colleague Larry Hansen, and a time to catch up with civic engagement colleagues from across the country.

Wednesday, December 8th

The Pew Charitable Trusts | 901 E Street NW | Washington, DC 20004 | 202.552.2000

8:00 – 8:30am Breakfast

8:30 – 9:00am **FCCP Annual Meeting**

9:00 – 9:45am **Quick Wits**
Introductions by Guillermo Quinteros, Solidago Foundation

Speakers

- Shortcuts to Reform: Heather Gerken, Yale Law School
- Money in Politics: Laleh Ispahani, Open Society Foundations
- Lessons from the Youth Movement: Erica Williams, Center for American Progress

9:45 – 11:00am

Digging Deeper – Concurrent Breakout Sessions

Concurrent Session I

Virginia Room,
10th Floor

Numbers Don't Lie: Using Evidence-Based Indexes to Make Government Work *Moderated by Doug Chapin, The Pew Center on the States*

Two projects have begun detailed explorations into using indexes - statistical aggregations of data - to determine how well states provide their citizens with an accurate and cost-effective election system as well as access to the judicial system. What will distinguish the places that fare well from those that do not? How can this information help identify policies that could increase efficiency and responsiveness in state and local governments? Learn how indexes can create a powerful incentive for reform by allowing citizens, policymakers and administrators to make informed decisions about how our government functions.

Speakers

- Heather Gerken, Yale Law School
- Charles Stewart III, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- David Udell, National Center for Access to Justice at Cardozo Law School

Concurrent Session II

Pennsylvania Room,
10th Floor

Money in Politics after *Citizens United*: A Funder Strategy Session *Facilitated by John Kowal, Ford Foundation*

When the Supreme Court ruled in *Citizens United* that corporations have a First Amendment right to spend unlimited amounts of money supporting candidates for elective office, it unleashed a torrent of special interest money in this year's election and set off a new wave of litigation that threatens the hard-won gains of the campaign finance reform movement. In this funder strategy session, we will hear about a recent mapping of the field and learn which organizations are leading the response to these new threats to our democracy. It will also be an opportunity to share information about current funding strategies to help us identify needs, gaps and possibilities for collaboration among funders and our grantees in the field.

Concurrent Session III

Carolinas Room
10th Floor

21st Century Engagement: Lessons from the Youth Movement *Moderated by Jessy Tolkan, New Organizing Institute*

Dreamers. Facebook Friends. Climate Warriors. Text Messengers. Equality Champions. YouTube-makers. Health Care Heroes. Youth! While pundits tend to put young voters in a one-size fits all box, we know that this critical sector of the Rising American Electorate is driven by compelling and very diverse agendas. What can funders learn from this amazing landscape about the best ways to engage the citizens of the future? This session will explore winning strategies that help issue and constituency-based youth movements connect and draw upon each other's strengths to create new models for political organizing and build long-term alliances for change.

Speakers

- Mohammad Abdollahi, DreamActivist.org
- Christina Hollenback, Generational Alliance
- Victor Sanchez, United States Student Association
- Matt Singer, The Bus Federation

11:00 – 12:15pm Plenary **Main Street vs. Wall Street: Strengthening Our Economy and Taking Back Our Democracy**

Moderated by Anna Lefer Kuhn, Arca Foundation

At a time when millions of Americans are struggling to keep their heads above water, some large corporations are raking in big profits yet citing the “economic slowdown” in their refusal to put people back to work. With new campaign finance rules threatening to further entrench the dominance of corporations over the political process, it’s no wonder that citizens are fuming! Across the country, grassroots organizers have begun to implement bold new efforts that seek to shift the political debate away from Wall Street and move us toward an economy that serves all Americans. This closing plenary will examine the new national strategies that seek to build a populist narrative promoting the values of Main Street, and re-energize the electorate in the lead-up to the 2012 elections.

Speakers

- Tracy Van Slyke, Media Consortium
- George Goehl, National People’s Action
- Heather McGhee, Demos

12:15 – 12:30pm Closing remarks

FCCP Post-Convening Meetings

1:00 – 2:30pm FCCP Steering Committee meeting
Virginia Room, 10th Floor

2:30 – 4:30pm Funders Census Initiative Evaluation & Wrap-up Meeting
Carolinas Room, 10th Floor

FCCP is grateful to everyone who contributed suggestions for session topics and speakers – your ideas and inspirations helped bring this convening to life! Special thanks to our talented planning committee for their thoughtful leadership and hard work: Allison Barlow, Patricia Bauman, Ludovic Blain, Ilona Carroll, Michael Caudell-Feagan, Jim Dickson, John Kowal, Geri Mannion and Adrienne Shropshire.