Making America
Building Democracy in 2017

re.act: Community Conversation Series
Sponsored by the Office of Multicultural Affairs (OMA) and Center for Peace and Global Citizenship (CPGC)

Friday, Jan. 27, 2017 CPGC Cafe, Stokes 104

SESSION OVERVIEW

What types of structures and institutions are necessary for a healthy democracy? What kind of people do we need (to be) in 21st century democratic states? How might we get there from here? Join Shannon Wheatley Hartman from the Interactivity Foundation (IF) & CPGC to explore these questions.

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COLLABORATIVE PARTNERS

- Shannon Hartman, IF Fellow and CPGC Fellow  FACILITATOR

GUIDING QUESTION(S)

- What types of structures and institutions are necessary for a democracy to thrive?
- What should citizens look like? What sort of traits, skills, habits, mindsets, practices, or characteristics make up the ideal democratic citizen?
- What are the challenges of democracy? What are the obstacles to overcome and the pitfalls to avoid when building a democratic society?
- What role does technology, art, science, religion play in the construction of a 21st century democracy?
- Aside from voting, how, where, and why do we exercise democratic expression?
SESSION NOTES

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE CHALLENGES WE FACE OR WILL FACE AS A DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY?

- Immigration
- The State of the Environment
- Autonomous Vehicles
- Freedom of Religion
- Capitalism
- Non-Intrusive Government
- Compliance is Not a Burden
- What and Who Gets to Define Freedom
- Access to a Robust Education
- Technology Disrupting Human Interaction and Connection
- Challenges Involved with Being an Inclusive Democracy
- Access to Voting
- Freedom of the Press
- Ethical/Political Literacy
- Pathways to Citizenship
- Overall Safety
- The Urban-Rural Divide
- A Responsive Government
- Concern for the Future
- Access to Healthcare and What Healthcare Will Look Like
- Nuclear Activity
- Reproductive Rights
- The Perceived Need for Cheap Labor and the Exploitation of Workers
- The Fear of Moving Backwards (inclusive policies, peace agreements, trade agreements that have led to the prosperity of this country)
- Discrimination
- Privacy (lack of)
- Living wages
- Climate change
- Flow of Information (Reliable Information)
WHAT SORT OF INSTITUTIONS, STRUCTURES, OR SYSTEMS COULD ADDRESS THESE CONCERNS?

*Perhaps they already exist or maybe you need to create them. Perhaps they are part of government or civil society.*

*Using the lego sets available at each table, build the structures, institutions, and systems we will need.*

- **PHYSICAL REPRESENTATIONS OF STRUCTURES**
  - Path to citizenship, civic education, and pro-migrant discourse
  - Foundry for Making More Legos (Structures)
  - New Voter Ceremony
    - For more inclusive sense of citizenship rights
  - Public Parks
    - Sustainable energy
  - Reform and Reintegration Center (instead of penal system)
  - Intercultural center
  - Community Center for Collaborative & Critical Arts and Media
  - Community Center and Library
  - A National Voting Holiday
  - Post Two-Party System
  - Free Press
  - Electronic Voting (expansion of voting rights)
  - Places of worship
  - Judicial system
  - Proportional representation
  - Universal Healthcare
  - Communal Housing
  - Prioritize clean, sustainable energy consumption
  - Equal opportunity centers
  - Rotational Neighborhood Watch
  - Comprehensive sexual education
  - Ethical literacy
  - National Base Income
  - Fair Voting Districts
    - To address gerrymandering
  - Comprehensive Education System
    - Creating a network for accessible education
    - Arts focused
WHAT KIND OF CHARACTERISTICS, TRAITS, SKILLS, HABITS OF MIND WOULD WE NURTURE IN CITIZENS?

- Deep, Active Listening
- Participation
- Respect
- Adaptable Expectations
- Curiosity
- Empathy
- Openness
- Civility
- Cultural and Ethical Literacy
- Collective Responsibility
- Grit
- Experience Encountering Difference
- Organizational and Social Skills
- Self-Reflective and Aware
- Tradition
- Collective responsibility
- Informed Consent
- Participation
- Self-determination
- Perspective taking
- Divergent Thinking
- Collaboration by Difference
- Life-long learners
- Confidence
- Humility
- Honest
- Perseverance
- Stamina
- Scientific
- Reliance and trust in data
- Searchers for evidence (critical examination)
- Multicultural (cultural literacy)
- Ethical literacy
- Informed and engaged (praxis)