



Saturday, November 9, 2013

The University of Texas at Austin
Belo Center for New Media
Tentative Agenda – Updated 10.8.13

**Why Bother?
Engaging Texans in
Democracy Today**

Civic Pop-Up Space

*An interactive civic
engagement
experience*

Activities available
from
8:00 am – 5:00 pm

Listening Booth

Issue Prioritization
Board

Neighborhood
Identity Project

To learn more visit:
whybothertexas.org

8:00 am – 9:00 am CONFERENCE CHECK-IN AND BREAKFAST

Why Bother? Civic Pop-Up Space Info Session
The University of Texas at Austin
Belo Center for New Media

9:00 am – 9:30 am CIVIC HEALTH OF TEXAS: A CALL TO ACTION

Dr. Regina Lawrence, director of the Annette Strauss
Institute for Civic Life

**9:30 am – 10:30 am CHANGING CITIZENSHIP AND
PARTICIPATION IN THE DIGITAL AGE**

Dr. Lance Bennett, founder and director of the
Center for Communication and Civic Engagement at the
University of Washington

**10:45 am – 11:30 am YOUTH ENGAGEMENT AND THE
PROMISE OF CIVIC RENEWAL**

Peter Levine, director for the Center for
Information & Research on Civic Learning and Engagement

**11:30 am – 12:15 pm FOSTERING CIVIC INNOVATION:
UNLEASHING THE POTENTIAL OF THE STATES**

Illir Zherka, executive director of the National Conference on
Citizenship



Tentative Agenda – cont'd.

<p>Why Bother? Engaging Texans in Democracy Today</p> <p>Civic Pop-Up Space</p> <p><i>An interactive civic engagement experience</i></p> <p>Activities available from 8:00 am – 5:00 pm</p> <p>Listening Booth</p> <p>Issue Prioritization Board</p> <p>Neighborhood Identity Project</p> <p>To learn more visit: whybothertexas.org</p>	<p>12:15 pm – 12:30 pm KICK-OFF OF CITIZEN CONVERSATIONS ON TEXAS' CIVIC HEALTH</p> <p>Each participant will be able to propose a civic solution / idea / concept and have a conversation with fellow participants interested in same issues.</p> <p>12:30 pm – 1:45 pm LUNCH AND CITIZEN CONVERSATIONS</p> <p>Participants grab box lunches and take them into small classrooms where open space citizen conversations will be occurring.</p> <p>2:00 pm – 2:45 pm EXPERIMENTING WITH CIVIC INFORMATION</p> <p>Evan Smith, Editor in Chief and CEO of the Texas Tribune</p> <p>2:45 pm – 3:15 pm Keya Dannenbaum, CEO at ElectNext, an award-winning civic startup that translates open political data into embeddable tools for digital news media.</p> <p>3:30 pm – 5:00 pm ENGAGING WITH TEXAS PUBLIC POLICY</p> <p>Hear from different ideological viewpoints on the hot public policy issues of the day. Panelists forthcoming!</p> <p>5:00 pm – 5:30 pm CITIZEN CONVERSATIONS AND CIVIC POP-UP SPACE DEBRIEFING</p> <p>An opportunity for groups to report back what they discussed and what they believe are next steps for improving civic life in Texas.</p> <p>5:30 pm – 8:00 pm POLITICAL PUB QUIZ AFTER-PARTY</p> <p>Make a team of 3- 5 participants and sign-up to win the ultimate prize... political knowledge bragging rights! Extra points awards for bi-partisan teams. Raffles, networking, and fun.</p>
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INTERACTIVE ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

WHY BOTHER? CIVIC POP-UP SPACE *(activities throughout the day)*

The Annette Strauss Institute for Civic Life at the University of Texas-Austin, KLRU Public Television, and KUT Public Radio, will be sponsoring the inaugural **civic pop-up space of Why Bother? Engaging Texans in Democracy Today** this fall at the Texas Conference on Civic Life.

The civic pop-up space will be an interactive, multi-station experience designed to draw in conference participants as well as potential passersby. Each station will encourage citizens to engage around civic issues, neighborhood placemaking, and personal experiences. There will be three primary stations, organized around the following themes:

Listening Booth:

- Manifests as a video and sound recording booth operated by KLRU and KUT staff.
- Allows participants to share their stories about civic life beyond the confines of the booth.
- Shares content online via social media, allowing participants to distribute to their networks.
- Provides an outlet for citizens to share their personal experiences with civic life and ideas for how to improve it.

Neighborhood Identity:

- Offers creative workshops led by a local artist around the concept of neighborhood identity.
- Invites participants to sit for a short session and craft a visual manifestation of their neighborhood's identity.
- Facilitates discussion after the activity around the pieces and what they mean to the citizens that crafted them.
- Allows a "critical mass" of representations of neighborhood identities to be put on display now and in the future.

Issue Prioritization:

- Gives citizens the ability to visually prioritize issues that are important to their area (either Austin or more broadly, Texas).
- Informs the community, over the course of the day, which issues are rising to the top
- Fosters a dialogue around important issues in Texas and Austin that resonate with a wide range of citizens
- Presents an avenue for citizens who are not attending the conference to participate in the rest of the Why Bother? Civic Pop-up Space stations.



LIVE CONFERENCE POLLING (9:00 am – 12:30 pm and 2:30 – 5:00 pm).

Participants will be able to engage via text messaging in live polling during the traditional Texas Conference on Civic Life program. Keep updated through our social media correspondents and our hashtag **#TCCL**.

CITIZEN CONVERSATIONS ON TEXAS' CIVIC HEALTH (12:30 – 1:45 pm)

Prior to the conference, participants will be invited to crowdsource topics for discussion during the conference. Topics that align with the theme of improving Texas' civic health will be chosen and incorporated in this interactive experience. Participants will choose to join conversations and will work toward identifying questions for future research and offer solutions to the current crisis of civic health.

This time will adhere to the principles of an “open space process” which include:

- **Whoever comes are the right people.** You don't need the CEO or hundreds of people; just those that care.
- **Whatever happens is the only thing that could have.** Let go of expectations; coulds, should, whatever it is, is; work with it.
- **When it starts, it starts. When it's over, it's over.** Done in 10 minutes? Great, move on to something else.
- **“Law of two feet.”** If at any time, you find yourself in any situation where you are neither learning nor contributing, use your two feet and go someplace else. All participants are given both the right and the responsibility to maximize their own learning and contribution.

POLITICAL PUB QUIZ (5:30 pm sign-up; 6:00 – 7:30 pm quiz game!)

The New Politics Forum is a youth-focused, nonpartisan program at the Annette Strauss Institute. To offer a fun place for folks to convene and mingle after the conference, the program is excited to host its first-ever Political Pub Quiz! You won't want to miss it.

Emceed by recent “Jeopardy!” six time winner and recent LBJ School of Public Affairs graduate, Jared Hall!

Hint: Bipartisan teams will already start with an advantage, so start forming your teams now!