

Fw: latest updates from the Democracy Innovation project



From Nancy Carter <n3157w@yahoo.com>

To Jennifer Roberts <jenniferdwroberts@gmail.com>, Tom Bowers <tomebowers75@gmail.com>, Margaret Howe-Soper <mhowesoper2014@gmail.com>, Nakisa Glover <nakisa.glover@gmail.com>, Mary Johnson <mf.johnson3@yahoo.com>, Sarah Stevenson Tuesday Forum <sjohnston@tuesdayforumcharlotte.org>, Malcolm Graham <malcolm.graham@ci.charlotte.nc.us>

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Don't know if you all received this email from a former NLC staff member, Matt. It looks very interesting...

Best to all,

Nancy C

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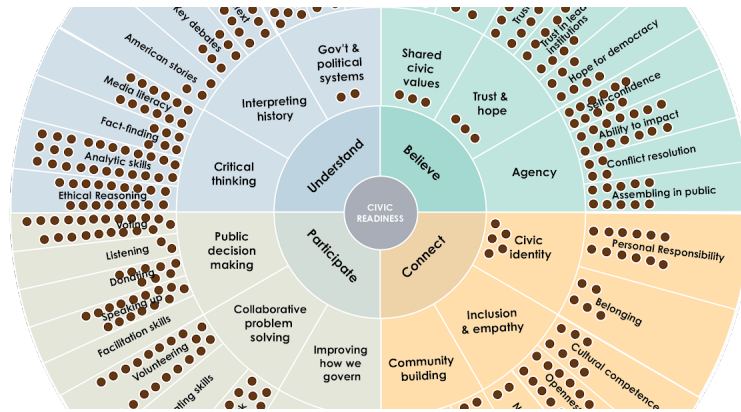
From: Matt Leighninger <matt@ncoc.org>

To: "n3157w@yahoo.com" <n3157w@yahoo.com>

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Subject: latest updates from the Democracy Innovation project





Dear Friends:

Here are the latest developments from the Democracy Innovation project!

On February 16th, the Institute for Citizens and Scholars will release Mapping Civic Measurement: How Are We Assessing Readiness and Opportunities?, a report I worked on as part of a partnership with the Institute for Citizens and Scholars. As one of the authors and a co-Principal Investigator for the project, I'm excited to see it out in the world. The report is a first-of-its-kind landscape review and analysis of existing literature, practices, and 200+ tools in use by the broader civic field. You can [register for the launch event](#), which is next Thursday at 3pm ET, and also get early access to the report by signing up [here](#). During Civic Learning Week, Democracy Innovation will host a webinar featuring the report and some notable measurement tools, like NCoC's Civic Health Index – stay tuned for more information on that event.

Planning is underway for the 2023 Legislators' Forum on Innovations in Democracy, which will take place in October. The report for the 2022 Forum, which brought legislators from Argentina, Brazil, Germany, and the European Union together with Members of Congress, is available [here](#), along with a [list of resources](#) on democracy innovation worldwide.

We have begun assembling our community of practice to inform the "[Measuring, Growing, Embedding Civility](#)" project, which will help cities and towns introduce better engagement practices in official public meetings.

In the next two months I'll be giving the keynote presentation at the [Connecticut Civic Ambassadors Summit](#), helping the Erb Center at the University of Michigan bring the Principles for Corporate Political Responsibility, participating in the [Global Forum on Modern Direct Democracy](#) in Mexico City, and presenting at the American Society for Public Administration conference on "[Protecting Democracy for the Next Generation](#)." Also, the Democracy Innovation project has joined the [Democracy R&D](#) network, which includes practitioners and researchers from around the world.

Finally, I'm excited to announce that [Nick Vlahos](#) has joined the project as Deputy Director of Democracy Innovation. Nick brings a wealth of experience with a range of democracy innovations, including citizen assemblies, participatory planning, participatory budgeting, deliberative democracy, and human-centered design. He has extensive experience in local government, including the Toronto Community Housing Corporation and Toronto's Civic Innovation Office, where his work included issues of diversity and inclusion. Nick also served as international team lead for large-scale civic engagement projects at the Centre for Deliberative Democracy at the University of Canberra in Australia. Nick holds a PhD in political science from York University, Canada, specializing in the interconnection between political economy, decentralization, and deliberative democracy.

Feel free to reach out with questions and ideas –

Matt

Matt Leighninger
Director of Democracy Innovation
[National Conference on Citizenship](#)
Author, [Public Participation for 21st Century Democracy](#)
905-972-0550
On Twitter: [@mattleighninger](#)