

# THE ANNETTE STRAUSS INSTITUTE FOR CIVIC LIFE

## *20 YEARS OF IMPACT*







2018 Campaign Bootcamp



Institute director Susan Nold with Speak Up Speak Out State Civics Fair award winners

## 2020 IMPACT REPORT

- 3 CIVIC DISCOVERY**  
We study and apply our expertise in communication to civic and political life.
- 5 EVERYDAY EXTRAORDINARY**  
We seek to understand and inspire active, engaged citizens.
- 7 PROPELLING STUDENTS**  
We create programs to help young people experience their education.
- 9 BRIDGING DIVIDES**  
We pursue participation, not partisanship.
- 11 THROUGH THE YEARS**  
We reflect on 20 years of people and their impact.

“Faith in tomorrow begins with you.”

– ANNETTE STRAUSS

## THE ANNETTE STRAUSS INSTITUTE FOR CIVIC LIFE IS NOT A TYPICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE.

Our work comes with a sense of urgency. Because civic trends have been in a steady decline, we pursue applied academic research that has potential to address a pressing civic concern. We also devote significant resources to hosting evidence-based educational outreach programs that directly benefit students. While our research seeks to better understand civic engagement, we also work to prepare students to take part.

From the start, part of the institute's mission was to conduct research and help students afford a summer internship in a public service field. Internships in government or non-profits are often unpaid and inaccessible for many students who must work to afford college. The Theodore H. Strauss Civic Internship Awards were established to fill the gap and make these opportunities accessible to more students.

As our programs have expanded, the institute has provided experiential civic education opportunities for tens of thousands of students across Texas. We are in the business of giving students at The University of Texas at Austin and colleges, elementary, middle and high schools across Texas – the knowledge, skills, attitudes and dispositions for constructive civic involvement and leadership.

We have helped prepare an entire generation of young people for positive impact in communities across the world.

Without reservation, I believe that Texas, the nation and our world are better because of the impact and work of the Annette Strauss Institute for Civic Life. Support from many has made this possible, and support from many will assure that it continues.

*Susan*

Susan Turner Nold, Director  
Annette Strauss Institute for Civic Life





# Civic Discovery

Whether he is finding meaning in a word or phrase of unnoticed importance, such as in a letter to the editor in a small-town newspaper, or talent in a student, advisee or mentee with veiled potential, Dr. Roderick P. Hart finds significance in places where many others may not bother to look.

An informed teacher and creative scholar, Dr. Roderick P. Hart purposed the Annette Strauss Institute as a space for collaboration between renowned scholars and motivated students to understand civic participation and increase engagement.

For 20 years, the institute has supported research to explore how political communication among citizens and the press impact civic and political life. Here are a few examples of notable research collections and projects.

The **Campaign Mapping Project** is a multi-year attempt to assemble campaign materials produced during presidential elections from 1948-2016. The collection includes speeches, advertisements, debates, broadcast news stories, newspaper accounts and letters-to-the-editor. This content was keyboarded into a computerized database that analyzed language patterns, using the DICTION program developed by Dr. Hart.

Since 1996, the project has facilitated significant scholarship, including:

- Dr. Kathleen Hall Jamieson's "Everything You Think You Know About Politics...and Why You're Wrong"
- Dr. Hart's "Campaign Talk: Why Elections Are Good for Us," "Civic Hope: How Ordinary Americans Keep Democracy Alive," and "Trump and Us: What He Says and Why People Listen"

- Dr. Sharon Jarvis' "The Talk of the Party: Political Labels, Symbolic Capital & American Life," and "Votes That Count and Voters Who Don't: How Journalists Sideline Electoral Participation (Without Even Knowing It)" with co-author Dr. Soo-Hye Han

**Trick or Tweet** examines political discussion on social media. The project, led by Dr. Matthew McGlone and made possible by the Kozmetsky Family Foundation, involve experiments designed to better understand information shared on Twitter.

**Electorally Speaking**, led by Jarvis, is a set of studies addressing how people talk about voting and why this matters. A recent report, supported by Democracy Fund, presents findings on how to talk about threats to the mechanics of elections in ways that will not dampen people's desire to vote.

The **Engaging News Project** led by Dr. Talia Stroud launched in 2012 to study and test newsroom methods to better engage online audiences. It spun off into the **Center for Media Engagement** in 2017.

The **Texas Media & Society Survey** was fielded in 2016, 2017 and 2018. It revealed attitudes of Texans and Americans on media and politics, measured habits of news consumption and offered insight into how people are informed in the digital age. The survey results are released to coincide with the annual **Denius Symposium on News Integrity**.



2013 Campaign Bootcamp



2012 Campaign Bootcamp



2019 Speak Up Speak Out



2013 Speak Up Speak Out

## HART OF THE MATTER

Rod Hart was the creator of the Annette Strauss Institute. My mother-in-law would be very proud of the institute and of Rod's brilliant idea. Thank you, Rod.

– Cappy McGarr

*Advisory Council Lifetime Member, Son-in-law to Annette Strauss*

In many ways, the Annette Strauss Institute for Civic Life truly reflects the genius of Dr. Roderick Hart. Its many and varied research topics and its educational outreach programs embody the unique and insightful teaching skills of Dr. Hart. The institute is Rod's "movable feast."

– Chuck Courtney

*Associate Director for Administration, 2008-18*

What do you say about 20 years reflecting on Rod Hart? It starts with the intimidating demeanor and professorial hair perfection. But for those willing to learn the lessons he teaches that are larger than the course subject matter, the relationship with Rod Hart ends with a lifelong friend and a fatherly teacher who recognized, encouraged and channeled individual talent toward full potential. He is wickedly smart, smartly funny and a thoughtful, provocative scholar.

– Marsha Jones

*Chair of Moody College Advisory Council and former student of Dr. Hart*

Dr. Rod Hart believes that citizens are not born but made. It has been an honor to witness the number of lives, communities and civic norms that have benefited from his vision for the Annette Strauss Institute for Civic Life.

– Dr. Sharon Jarvis

*Associate Director for Research, Annette Strauss Institute*

Dr. Rod Hart has a legacy of scholarship that will stand the test of time at Moody College. He is eternally curious about how people and politicians communicate in the public sphere and how those lessons can contribute to the greater good of our democracy. Dr. Hart turned that spirit into energy and enthusiasm for 11 years as dean of our college, and because of his visionary leadership, the institute he launched remains focused and committed to those same pillars 20 years after its founding.

– Dr. Jay Bernhardt

*Dean, Moody College of Communication*





# Everyday Extraordinary

Active, engaged citizens are made, not born, and the institute's work seeks to understand how and why individuals become engaged citizens.

In 2013, the institute published its first Texas Civic Health Index. This sparked statewide conversations among citizens, as findings showed that Texas ranked in the bottom half in many categories measuring political involvement, community service and neighborliness.

The 2018 follow-up report indicated that Texans still ranked below the national averages in active citizenship. The index remains a call to action and roadmap for communities and civic organizations, highlighting the necessary components of citizenship that connect strong communities.

## Following the 2018 survey, the institute made the following recommendations for improving Texas civic health:

- 1 Reimagine civics education
- 2 Explore opportunities for systems-level changes
- 3 Develop civic leaders
- 4 Encourage innovation
- 5 Support organizations that invest in Texas



Rushi Shah, Maya Patel and Kassie Phebillo



## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

### Kassie Phebillo



Sharon Jarvis, Gladys Acosta and Kassie Phebillo

Kassie Phebillo got her start at The University of Texas at Austin as a journalism doctoral student. She had previous experience as a journalist, high school teacher and non-profit administrator. Her passion for mentoring and civic responsibility connected her to the Strauss Institute, and she eventually changed her doctoral focus to communication studies and studies under Dr. Sharon Jarvis.

**What drives your curiosity for civic engagement?** Ensuring that each person knows how they can be an educated participant in the democratic process and understanding the best ways to support this through research and application are the two key factors.

**What has your time at the institute revealed to you about your path, passions and purpose?** I've learned the power of being a

mentor. I've learned how difficult and nuanced the nonpartisan civic education space can be for civic leaders. My path has not been a typical one for a Ph.D. student at UT Austin, but I know to embrace it because I'm making a difference in the lives of students and changing how students perceive civic engagement on the Forty Acres. I've learned how I can combine my love of mentoring, political communication research and civic education practice into a future career.

**What have you learned about "everyday" people through your research and engagement that is "extraordinary?"** All you have to do is unlock a door. There are so many civic spaces that our college students, especially our college students of color, have trouble accessing – even though they are the most qualified to occupy that space. My job is not to pander. My

job is to make sure those students have access to those spaces. Then, I get the absolute privilege of watching them flourish as the young civic leaders they are. Our students are extraordinary when given the chance to be. I've watched this happen with more than 300 students in five years through TX Votes.

**What is a research discovery that illustrates the capacity for human good and potential?** Our young people are activated and ready to participate in the democratic process. According to reports by Tufts University's Institute for Democracy and Higher Education, college student voter turnout doubled in 2018, and UT Austin increased voter turnout rates from 14.8 percent to 54.8 percent.





2019 Leadership Summit



# Propelling Students

AS TEXAS GROWS IN POPULATION, IT IS ALSO GROWING YOUNGER.

The Annette Strauss Institute remains committed to providing today's students with the knowledge, skills, attitudes and dispositions needed to make constructive and impactful civic contributions. We believe our civic institutions – our schools, churches, governments and universities – are only as strong as the people who show up, take part and contribute.

**Speak Up Speak Out** is the institute's research, problem-solving and public speaking program for students in grades 3-12. More than 8,500 young Texans have experienced engaging civic education through the program, and many get to present and compete at the State Civics Fair hosted by the institute at the State Capitol annually.

**TX Votes** is a UT Austin student organization that works on campus to create more voters, increase electoral participation and inspire citizenship. "Get Out the Vote" activities include registration booths, deputization sessions and campus competitions each election cycle.

**RU Ready Texas** is a course offered in partnership between the institute and Moody College's communication and leadership degree plan. Students in the course learn the theory behind effective civic learning, as well as classroom communication. They apply what they learn by teaching a series of civics lessons to local high school students.

**New Politics Forum** is a statewide-program that hosts events and workshops that are youth focused and non-partisan or bipartisan. These events aim to enhance students' understanding of democratic principles while teaching civic skills and highlighting civic values.

## DID YOU KNOW?

Since the institute's inception, more than 1,200 student staff and student volunteers have received appointments and, in many cases, funding and tuition assistance, to enable the research and education programs of the institute.

College students from more than 60 colleges and universities across Texas have participated in the institute's programs, which are often organized during student holidays, breaks or weekends to accommodate the often-hectic student schedule.



# Bridging Divides

*Our pursuit of political learning and engagement focuses on all people instead of partisanship.*

*Amid a time of increasing partisan political polarization, the Strauss Institute creates spaces to highlight the values that bring us together – such as knowledge, honor, participation, association, ethics, civility, respect and decency.*

## CREATIVE CIVIC INVOLVEMENT

**Campaign Bootcamp** brings a bipartisan group of political professionals together to train the next generation of campaign staffers, equipping them with not only the nuts-and-bolts of campaign work, but also empowering them to consider the ethical and democratic implications of campaigns.

**Texas Civic Ambassadors** brings together young leaders from around the state. As ambassadors, they receive information, gain knowledge and cultivate skills needed to promote civic engagement among their hometown peers or their home campuses.

**Great Conversations** brings together supporters and friends of all political stripes for an evening of civil dialogue about shared values and ideals.

### 2014

- **Featured Guests:** The Hon. Karen Hughes, The Hon. Julian Castro
- **Event Co-Chairs:** The Hon. Florence Shapiro, Eddie Aldrete

### 2015

- **Featured Guests:** The Hon. Christi Craddick, Catherine Robb
- **Event Co-Chairs:** Jay Brown, Christy Carpenter

### 2016

- **Featured Guests:** Kristine Soltis Anderson, Paul Begala, Charlie Cook, Wayne Slater
- **Event Co-Chairs:** The Hon. Glenn Hegar, The Hon. Kirk Watson

### 2017

- **Featured Guests:** The Hon. Todd Hunter, The Hon. Judith Zaffirini, Patricia Kilday Hart
- **Event Co-Chairs:** The Hon. Todd Hunter, Judith Zaffirini

### 2018:

- **Featured Guests:** Dr. Greg Fenves, Darren Walker, Jade Fabello
- **Event Chair:** The Hon. Joe Straus

### 2019:

- **Featured Guests:** Larry Temple, The Hon. Senfronia Thompson, Nancy Seliger
- **Event Co-Chairs:** Del Williams, Rusty Kelley

### 2020:

- **Featured Guests:** Matthew Dowd, Brandon Rottinghaus, Karen Tumulty
- **Event Co-Chairs:** Janie Strauss McGarr, Nancy Strauss Halbreich

**TX Votes** programming organizes student volunteers to offer voter registration to all students, regardless of party affiliation or viewpoint.

Students who attend the **Texas Tribune Festival** as **Social Media Ambassadors** learn to write social media posts free of personal opinion or bias.

**Texas Voting Summit** assembles campus organizations, students and faculty for state colleges and universities to learn about Texas' low civic participation rates and develop plans to increase involvement.



2019 Civic Thursday

“The work my mother did in the civic arena made her community a better place for all. She would be so proud of all the institute has accomplished.”

– JANIE STRAUSS MCGARR



## 2000-10 TIMELINE

### 2000

The **New Agendas Conference**, featuring 22 young scholars from throughout the United States, convened to consider new ways to improve communication between government and society. This conference marked the first event ever sponsored by the institute and led to the subsequent publication of two books in 2002: “Politics, Discourse and American Society,” edited by **Dr. Roderick P. Hart** and Dr. Bartholomew Sparrow, and “Communication in U.S. Elections,” edited by **Dr. Roderick P. Hart** and Dr. Daron R. Shaw.

### 2001

A grant from the Pew Charitable Trusts funded the **Young Voter Initiative** directed by **Dr. Roderick P. Hart** and **Dr. Sharon Jarvis** (2001-2003).

### 2002

- **Campaign Bootcamp** launched following a grant from the Hatton W. Sumners Foundation (2002-present).
- **Campaign for Young Voters** project launched with a grant from the Council for Excellence in Government and the Pew Charitable Trusts directed by **Dr. Roderick P. Hart** with **Dr. Sharon Jarvis** (2002-2004).
- A grant from the Annenberg Foundation and Pew Charitable Trusts expanded **Student Voices**, a national initiative that connected students to local mayoral campaigns.
- The institute hosted “**Voices of Citizenship**” lecture series.
- Then University of Texas at Austin President, **Dr. Larry Faulkner**, joined **Ted Strauss** for a luncheon in Dallas introducing the Annette Strauss Institute for Civic Participation to civic leaders and Strauss family and friends.
- The Strauss Institute opened an office at the Lake Austin Center on Lake Austin Boulevard.

### 2003

- A grant from CIRCLE and the Pew Charitable Trusts funded the **Political Participation of Working Youth** study directed by **Dr. Sharon Jarvis** (2003-2004).
- The institute launched the **New Politics Forum**, a program that introduces young adults to professional politics (2003-present).
- **Speak Up Speak Out** started as a program leading high school students to examine pressing local problems and craft and present solutions (2003-present).
- Institute hosted international visitors through **U.S. Department of State** program.
- Institute, along with Dr. Sean Theriault, welcomed the **Congress to Campus** program.

### 2004

- The institute expanded into public opinion research with the **Office of Survey Research** led by Dr. Veronica Inchauste and the **Center for Deliberative Opinion Research** led by Dr. Robert Luskin.
- The institute launched new web-based civic education initiative, **American Trustees Project and the Living Democracy Project**.
- **Tex Elects** launched as a creative arts competition centered around voting and elections for Texas high school students.
- Jeremy and Nancy Halbreich established the **Theodore H. Strauss Civic Internship Endowment**.
- Greg Levison and Shana Harnisch established the **Greg Levinson Civic Participation Endowment**.
- Through the assistance of Congressman Lamar Smith, Strauss Institute received federal appropriation to help support federal efforts to improve civic literacy in U.S. schools.
- Institute Advisory Council formed and inaugural co-chairs Cappy McGarr and Bud Shivers presided over first meeting.
- Institute director, **Dr. Roderick P. Hart**, named Dean of Moody College of Communication.

### 2005

- The **Campaign Mapping Project**, started in 1995 with a grant from the Ford and Carnegie Foundations, celebrated 10 years and the publication of four books.
- The institute hosted inaugural **Careers in Politics** seminar for students.
- **Patricia Witherspoon Graduate Research Awards** launched.
- **Dr. Roderick P. Hart** and Dr. John Pauly II published “Political Pulpit Revisited.”

### 2006

- **UT Votes** becomes a sponsored student organization.
- **Politics and Media in the New Millennium** event hosted.
- **Dr. Natalie (Talia) Jomini Stroud** joined faculty and appointed Assistant Director of Research.
- **American Trustees** documentary on **Annette Strauss** created for use in classrooms.
- Project led by **Dr. Sharon Jarvis** examined young people’s use of Facebook for political purposes. It was one of the first academic studies looking at Facebook in the country.

### 2007

- Grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation led to a report by **Dr. Sharon Jarvis** to examine the question of whether young people are prepared for citizenship leading to the “**Attitudes, Skills and Knowledge (ASK) Inventory**.”
- **American Trustees Project**, a video series and teacher training, launched.
- Dr. Bartholomew Sparrow and **Dr. Talia Stroud** studied the media’s coverage of public opinion polls.
- The institute supported Dr. Thomas Johnson and colleagues in a survey examining how individuals use internet searches to learn political information.
- State of Vermont funded a deliberative poll on energy alternatives led by **Dr. Robert Luskin**.

### 2008

- **UT Votes** students attended annual Harvard Institute of Politics conference for the first time.
- In partnership with the James Baker Institute at Rice, **New Politics Forum** hosted first conference broadcast live over the internet to examine the impact of the internet on American Democracy.
- Through a grant from the Public Broadcasting Corporation, Dr. Stephen Reece and **Dr. Talia Stroud** examined how people perceive balance and objectivity in the news.

### 2009

- **Dr. Roderick P. Hart** received American Political Science Association’s Graber Book Award for best book in political communication over the past 10 years for “Campaign Talk: Why Elections are Good For Us.”
- The institute launched two adult outreach programs: Executive Communications Training program with institute fellows Jen Sarver and Marjorie Clifton, Public Engagement Training with institute fellow Dr. Larry Schooler.

### 2010

- A grant from the U.S. Election Assistance Commission created the **UT Poll Worker Program** to recruit, train and support college students as nonpartisan poll workers.
- The institute launched a partnership with **Project Vote Smart** to research, manage and produce the Key Votes content for the website.



## 2010-20 TIMELINE

### 2011

- New Politics Forum hosted the 21st Century Civic Engagement Conference.
- **Dr. Talia Stroud** published book, “Niche News: The Politics of News Choice.”
- Annette Strauss Institute Civic Education Fund established.
- The Hon. Kay Bailey Hutchison honored with Spirit of Texas Award.
- The Hon. David Dewhurst honored as Civic Steward.

### 2012

- **Dr. Regina Lawrence** named director.
- The institute renamed “Annette Strauss Institute for Civic Life.”
- In conjunction with the White House, hosted youth town hall.
- Research fellow Ann Beeson launched **Why Bother?** a news and dialogue series in partnership with KLRU and KUT.
- A grant from the Omidyar Foundation was awarded to **Dr. Talia Stroud** to study how to analyze and cultivate news audiences online.

### 2013

- The institute hosted **Texas Conference on Civic Life** and in partnership with the National Conference of Citizenship published the first **Texas Civic Health Index**.
- **Dr. Roderick P. Hart** published book “Political Tone: How Leaders Talk and Why” with co-authors Dr. Jay P. Childers and Dr. Colene J. Lind.
- **Engaging News Project** launched and led by **Dr. Talia Stroud** to provide research-based techniques for engaging online audiences in commercially viable and democratically beneficial ways.
- New Politics Forum partnered with the **Texas Politics Project** to host the first **Legislative Internship Seminar**.

### 2013 (continued)

- In partnership with the **Texas Tribune**, the institute hosted first Student Experience at the Texas Tribune Festival.
- The Hon. Joe Straus honored as Civic Steward.

### 2014

- A gift from the Lebermann Foundation established the **Lowell Lebermann Forum**, a series of dialogues in partnership with KLRU and KUT.
- The institute hosted first **Great Conversations** dinner.

### 2015

- In partnership with the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, ASI hosted *Breaking Through: Increasing Civic Engagement Before, During and After Elections*.
- In partnership with the School of Journalism, the institute hosted first **Denius Symposium on News Integrity**.
- **Susan Turner Nold, JD** named director.
- The institute hosted **Distinguished Dialogue** event with The Hon. Karen Hughes and Donna Brazile.

### 2016

- **Dr. Jay Bernhardt** named Dean of the Moody College of Communication.
- New Politics Forum hosted **Civic Life in the Cyber Age** conference with Henry Timms and Erica Williams Simon.
- The institute launched the **Texas Media and Society Survey**.
- Post-election debriefing event with Matthew Dowd.
- New Politics Forum launched the Texas Civic Ambassador program.
- **Speak Up Speak Out** State Civics Fair moved to the Texas Capitol.

### 2017

- Support from the Meadows Foundation, the Boone Family Foundation and others support **Dr. Katherine Haenschen** and **Dr. Jay Jennings** research into how online election information is received by voters prior to a Dallas municipal election.
- New Politics Forum hosted the **Civic Power Symposium** with **Eric Liu**.
- The institute consolidated North and Central Texas civics fairs to host a single **Speak Up Speak Out** State Civics Fair at the Texas Capitol.
- **Shirley Bird Perry Endowed Excellence Fund** established with funding from **Sam Perry**.
- ALL IN Campus Challenge honors **TX Votes** and UT Austin with national award for most improved undergraduate voter turnout.

### 2018

- A grant by the Kozmetsky Family Foundation awarded to Dr. Matt McGlone launched **Trick or Tweet**, a series of studies on how political information is presented through Twitter.
- The **New Politics Forum** hosted *People First Politics* with Guy Benson and Dylan Marion.
- **Charls & Harmolyn Walker Graduate Research Excellence Fund** established.
- **Phebillo Endowed Excellence Fund** for Longhorn Civic Engagement established.
- In partnership with the LBJ School for Public Affairs, institute hosted A Conversation with Mayor Mitch Landrieu.
- In partnership with the LBJ Foundation, institute hosted A Conversation with California Governor Jerry Brown.
- **TX Votes** hosts the first Texas Voting Summit.
- In partnership with SAGA Labs and Dr. Hannah Wojciechowski, the institute launched **BeVote**, a student election information app.

### 2019

- A grant from **The Democracy Fund** awarded to **Dr. Sharon Jarvis** to study media and social media coverage of election threats and how language can diminish or enhance election trust and legitimacy.
- With funding from the **Texas Department of Transportation**, Dr. Keri Stephens and a team of graduate students created a public engagement planning and training program for TXDOT staff and engineers.
- Lowell H. Lebermann, Jr. Distinguished Professorship established.
- **Texas Civic Ambassadors** plan and host the State of the Rio Grande Valley Conference, the State of El Paso Conference and the Houston Young Voters Conference.
- In partnership with the Texas PTA, institute hosted **Yes! Civic Leadership Academy** for Texas high school students.
- Institute partnered with Code2College to challenge students to use technology to solve civic problems.
- ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge honors **TX Votes** and UT Austin with Platinum Seal.

### 2020

- The institute celebrates its 20th anniversary by hosting an academic conference to reconvene the same 20+ scholars who attended the inaugural conference to establish the institute in 2000. Twenty years later, their timely discussion is the “Fixing American Politics Conference.”
- The institute partners with Rutgers University to launch **RU Ready Texas** program.
- Civic Champion Award presented to the Hon. Kirk Watson.



# Grants & Gifts

We are grateful for our donors, their collective commitment to our mission and cumulative impact.



**\$9 Million+**  
in grants



**\$7.5 Million+**  
in gifts

The generosity of many friends and supporters has led to the creation of a number of endowed funds. These funds provide essential support for programs, staff and students in perpetuity.

- Levenson Family Endowment for Political and Civic Participation, established in 2004
- Theodore H. Strauss Endowed Scholarship for Civic Participation, established in 2004
- Annette Strauss Institute Civic Education Fund, established in 2011
- Lowell Lebermann Forum, established in 2014
- Shirley Bird Perry Endowed Excellence Fund, established in 2017
- Charls & Harmolyn Walker Graduate Research Excellence Fund, established in 2018
- Phebillo Endowed Excellence Fund for Longhorn Civic Engagement, established in 2018
- Lowell H. Lebermann, Jr. Distinguished Professorship, established in 2019

Special thanks to the following organizations for their lifetime support of \$50,000 or more

Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation	The Sumners Foundation	Texas Bar Foundation
CenterPoint Energy Inc.	The Chickasaw Nation	Texas Department of Transportation
Dorot Foundation	The Meadows Foundation Inc.	Moody College of Communication
H. E. Butt Grocery Company	Charls and Harmolyn Walker	The University of Texas at Austin
Institute of International Education	CRUT	Center for Women in Politics & Public Policy at Texas Woman's University
John S. and James L. Knight Foundation	William and Flora Hewlett Foundation	The US Elections Assistance Commission
Lebermann Foundation	Cain Foundation	Center for Information & Research on Civic Learning and Engagement (CIRCLE)
The Eugene McDermott Foundation	Democracy Fund	Carnegie Foundation
Omidyar Network Fund	Facebook Inc.	The State of Vermont
Rita Allen Foundation	Ford Foundation	
Ryan LLC	Kozmetsky Family Foundation	
Harold Simmons Foundation Inc.	Meadows Foundation Inc.	
Theodore H. & Annette G. Strauss Foundation	Moody Foundation	

# By the Numbers

**1,205**  
Student Staff & Volunteer Positions

## SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS

### Ted Strauss Civic Internship Award

54 Students who have benefited  
\$114,386 Total amount of money given  
65 Awards given

### Patricia Witherspoon Research Award

30 Students who have benefited  
\$60,000 Awards given

### Shirley Bird Perry Longhorn Citizenship Award recipients

Darren Walker, 2018  
Larry Faulkner, 2019  
Bobby Inman, 2020

## K-12 PROGRAMING

### Speak Up Speak Out

24 Number of cities impacted  
92 Number of schools served  
8,535 Number of student participants  
175 Number of teachers trained

Since 2003: Approximately 9,200 young people served by New Politics Forum

### Texas Civic Ambassadors

- Created in 2016
- 99 total ambassadors
- 28 different universities
- Total number of "student impressions": 2,739

### Campaign Bootcamp

- Created in 2002
- Served approximately 500 young adults
- 53 college and universities represented

### Texas Tribune Festival

- Created in 2014
- ~1,200 students attended

### Texas Legislative Internship Seminar

- Biannual program hosted by Dr. Jim Henson and Texas Politics Project
- Served more than 640 students

### Post-Election Debriefing

- 2010, 2012, 2014, 2016 and 2018
- Served more than 600 students

### Careers in Politics

- Created in 2011
- Served 1,040 students

### Thought Conference

- Served 930 students



# Advisory council

## CURRENT MEMBERS

James Adams  
James Aldrete  
The Hon. Ernest Angelo, Jr.  
Ellen Arnold  
Daniel Becka  
The Hon. Chris Bell  
Jay Brown  
Kevin Burnette  
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## HONORARY MEMBERS

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The Hon. Henry Bonilla  
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Jo Anne Christian  
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Dr. Charls Walker  
Joe Bill Watkins  
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The Hon. Anne Wynne

## SPECIAL THANKS

Garrett and Cecilia Boone  
Wofford and Beth Denius  
Dr. Roderick and Peggy Hart

Al G. Hill, Jr.  
Jim Moroney  
Kassie and Taylor Phebillo

Kathryn Q. Hopper  
Nathan E. Crain  
The Hon. David H. Dewhurst



## THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF Annette Strauss

Annette Greenfield was born in Houston, Texas, in January 1924. She was the only child of Edith and Jacob Greenfield, and she credited her father for instilling a strong sense of civic responsibility and commitment to public service at an early age.

She recalled that her father liked to say, "What I have is what I've given away."

After graduating from The University of Texas at Austin in 1944, she pursued master's degrees in sociology and psychology from Columbia University in New York. She returned to Houston as a Red Cross social worker, and then married UT Austin classmate Ted Strauss in September 1946. The next year they moved to Dallas, where they raised two daughters, Nancy and Janie.

Annette immersed herself in serving the Dallas community. She volunteered for educational, arts, healthcare and social services organizations. Following decades of local service, fundraising and advocating for myriad causes, she entered the political arena. In 1983, she ran for and won an at-large seat in the Dallas City Council. She became deputy mayor pro tem in 1984, and in 1987, she was elected Mayor of Dallas.

She served as mayor honorably and capably until 1991 and was later appointed Ambassador-at-Large for the city. She passed away in 1998 and is remembered for her devotion to her family, her faith and her community through countless, selfless acts of service as a friend, volunteer, philanthropist, elected official, civic leader and citizen.

The Annette Strauss Institute was founded in 2000 and proudly bears her name.

“This is not the time for selfish interest or partisan politics. This is the time for men and women, rich and poor, Democrats and Republicans, to work together...”

– ANNETTE STRAUSS





The University of Texas at Austin

**Annette Strauss Institute for Civic Life**

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