

# **“Breaking Through: Increasing Civic Engagement Before, During, and After Elections” Agenda**

*"All that is necessary for evil to triumph is for good men to do nothing."*

— *Edmund Burke*

*"Thus we seek to bestir the people into an awareness of their own condition, provide inspiration for their thoughts and rouse them to pursue their true interests."*

— *John S. Knight*

*"The ultimate authority ... resides in the people alone."*

— *James Madison*

*Hosted by the Annette Strauss Institute for Civic Life*

*Generously supported by the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation*

## **Wednesday, July 22, 2015**

### **7:00 am Shuttles begin to run on a rotation**

*AT&T Executive Education and Conference Center to the Belo Center for New Media*

The main conference will be held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Belo Center for New Media. Parking for attendees not staying at the AT&T Hotel will be available in the San Antonio Garage. Please see attached instructions for free parking.

### **8:00 am Conference registration and breakfast**

*Belo Center for New Media, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor Auditorium*

Breakfast tacos! (So you don't want to be late.) Delicious home-made granola, yogurt, and fresh fruit. Coffee and orange juice.

Attendees may pick up their name badges, welcome bags, conference program, and parking passes (if needed) at the registration table on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor.

### **9:00 am “Breaking Through” conference begins**

Welcome from the Annette Strauss Institute for Civic Life and the Moody College of Communication. Introduction to conference technology, lunch caucuses, and opportunities to schmooze.

### **9:30 am Knight News Challenge on Elections winners announced**

Winners of the Knight News Challenge on Elections will be announced and grantees will present their innovative ideas on how to better inform voters and increase civic participation before, during and after elections.

### **11:00 am Break (15 min.)**

Coffee and water bottle refill stations in the lobby.

**11:15 am**

**Engaging Voters: How do people really think?**

**Kate Krontiris**, Principal Investigator, America's Complicated Relationship with Civic Duty, Google

Moderator: **Kelly Born**, Program Officer for The Madison Initiative, William and Flora Hewlett Foundation

**11:45 am**

**How can technology re-engage citizens with government and civic life?**

**Matt Stempeck**, Director of Civic Technology, Microsoft

**Catherine Bracy**, Director of Community Organizing, Code for America

**Sisi Wei**, Propublica

**Troy Thibodeaux**, Data Team, Associated Press

**Russell Stevens** Laboratory for Social Machines, MIT

**12:30 pm**

**Lunch**

Attendees are invited to grab a boxed lunch from the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor lobby and join a speed caucus session (12:45 - 1:15 pm).

**12:45 pm**

**25-minute speed caucuses begin**

*Time to break bread and schmooze!* This will be an informal time to enjoy your lunch and connect with other conference attendees. Topics are based on the Knight News Challenge on Elections grant winner projects. The goal is to connect resources, information, and opportunities among “Breaking Through” conference attendees, New Politics Forum participants, Hatton Sumner’s Foundation Scholars, and Knight News Challenge on Election winners.

**1:15 pm**

**Speed caucuses end**

The conference program will resume at 1:30 pm.

**1:30 pm**

**What does the digital and mobile future mean for voters?**

**Kathryn Peters**, Co-founder & COO, Democracy Works

**Dana DeBeauvoir**, Clerk, Travis County Texas

**Tammy Patrick**, Presidential Commission on Election Administration (PCEA), Bipartisan Policy Center

**Ashley Spillane**, president, Rock the Vote

Moderator: **Adam Ambrogi**, Program Director, Responsive Politics at Democracy Fund

**2:15 pm**

**Civic Renewal: Can we create better citizens?**

**Dr. Peter Levine**, Associate Dean for Research and Lincoln Filene Professor of Citizenship & Public Affairs in Tufts University's Jonathan Tisch College of Citizenship and Public Service

Moderator: **Dr. Sharon Jarvis**, Associate Professor of Communication Studies at the Moody College of Communication and Associate Director of the Annette Strauss Institute for Civic Life at the University of Texas at Austin

**3:00 pm**

**Break (15 min.)**

**3:15 pm**

**Money & Politics: What does the public need to know, and how can we make sure they do?**

**Ken Vogel**, Politico

**Matea Gold**, Washington Post

**Michael Beckel**, Center for Public Integrity

**Evan Smith**, CEO & Editor-in-Chief, The Texas Tribune

Moderator: **R.B. Brenner**, Director of the School of Journalism and the G.B. Dealey Regents Professor in Journalism at UT Austin

**4:00 pm**

**How can news organizations innovate to improve public engagement?**

**Trei Brundett**, VP of Product and Technology, Vox Media

**Becca Aaronson**, Texas Tribune news apps

**Talia Stroud**, Associate Professor, Department of Communication Studies at UT Austin. Director of the Engaging News Project at the Annette Strauss Institute for Civic Life.

**Suman Deb Roy**, digg & data team @ betaworks

Moderator: **Shazna Nessa**, Director of Journalism, Knight Foundation

**4:55 pm**

**“Breaking Through” Conference closing remarks**

We’re interested in your thoughts on today’s program. A quick evaluation survey will be emailed to you shortly. We appreciate your input. See y’all at the BBQ!

**5:00 pm**

**Conference ends**

Attendees are invited to exit Belo and cross the street to our after-conference events at the historic KLRU Studio 6A, the original home of *Austin City Limits*.

Shuttle buses will continue to run on rotation throughout the night between the Belo Center, the AT&T hotel, and KLRU.

**5:15 pm**

**Happy Hour**

*KLRU Studio 6A, 2504 A Whitis Ave.*

Open bar. Conference attendees only.

**6:15 pm**

**Dinner**

Join us for an all-you-can-eat BBQ dinner, drinks, and s’mores bar. Conference attendees only.

**Rock the Vote Live @ KLRU’s Studio 6A**

**8:00 pm - 9:45 pm**