



The University of Texas at Austin

Annette Strauss Institute for Civic Life

Moody College of Communication

CONFERENCE AGENDA

8:15 am – 9:00 am

Registration and Breakfast

BMC 1st floor lobby

Grab a cup a coffee and a few tacos to fuel up for the day ahead!

9:00 am – 9:10 am

Welcome from the Director

Fleming Hall, BMC 1.202

Susan Nold, *Director of the Annette Strauss Institute for Civic Life*

9:10 am – 9:15 am

Welcome from the New Politics Forum

Fleming Hall, BMC 1.202

Taylor Foody, *Program Coordinator at the New Politics Forum*

9:15 am – 9:30 am

What is civic life and how do we measure its health?

Fleming Hall, BMC 1.202

Emily (Einsohn) Bhandari, *Annette Strauss Institute for Civic Life*

9:30 am – 9:45 am

Break

On your way to your breakout sessions, sign up to participate in our Civic Power Listening Booth at the registration table in the first floor lobby.



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Agenda Continued

9:45 am – 10:50 am

Civic Life 101: How civically healthy are we really?

This introductory session is a quick dive into the current state of civic life in Texas. Through a “gallery walk” of graphs from the Texas Civic Health Index (2013 / update forthcoming 2018), participants will:

- *Identify **obstacles** towards increasing participation;*
- *Create **stories** that bring life to the differences seen in engagement; and,*
- *Find **opportunities** for making change.*

Classrooms BMC 1.202, 3.206 and 4.206

Facilitators: Emily (Einsohn) Bhandari, Korrine Salas Young, and Erin Smith

10:50 am – 11:00 am

Break

11:00 am – 12:00 pm

Civic Life 102: Exploring civic experience.

Ever thought about how much civic power you really have? How is your civic story the same or different than other citizens? This exercise will deepen your understanding of your unique experience, while also learning from others about theirs. Through dialogue, participants will



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learn key factors that contribute to our democratic knowledge, political skills, and attitudes towards civic life.

Classrooms BMC 1.202, 3.206 and 4.206

Facilitators: Emily (Einsohn) Bhandari, Korrine Salas Young, and Erin Smith

12:00 pm – 1:00 pm

Lunch & Civic Power Listening Booth

BMC 1st floor lobby and KUT Public Media Studios (BMC 1.108)

Join our Texas Civic Ambassadors, Cody and Cam, to share your personal experiences with civic life and ideas for how to improve it. We'll be creating a social media project focused around your contributions!

Our Civic Power Listening Booth is produced in collaboration with KUT Public Radio. Supported by the Lebermann Forum.



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1:00 pm – 1:45 pm

Keynote Address

Fleming Hall, BMC 1.202

Citizen Power: Examining Its Structure, Its Role, and Its Potential

Eric Liu, *Civic Leader, Author & Educator*

Far too many Americans are illiterate in power – what it is, how it operates, why some individuals have more than others. As a result, those few who do understand power wield it disproportionately. How can you learn to activate your civic power to see problems through fresh eyes, and bypass broken institutions, stale ideologies, and divisive politics? In this powerful talk about power and civic purpose, Eric Liu expounds the values, knowledge and skills of effective citizenship, and rejuvenates the meaning of being an active American.

1:45 pm – 2:30 pm

Q&A with Eric Liu

Facilitated by Texas Civic Ambassadors

Fleming Hall, BMC 1.202

Use the interactive platform, Sli.do, to ask Eric Liu your questions. Event code: #civicpower



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2:30 pm – 3:00 pm

**Symposium Debriefing, Program
Evaluation, & Book Raffle**

Fleming Hall, BMC 1.202

3:00 pm – 3:30 pm

Book signing with Eric Liu

BMC 1st floor lobby

3:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Civic Power Listening Booth

KUT Public Media Studios (BMC 1.108)

**Join us for our after-party at
Pizza Press (404 W 26th St) for FREE snacks!**
Hosted by Texas Civic Ambassadors