

DID YOU
KNOW?

Less than
9%
of Texans contact their
representatives

3/4
of Texans
don't talk about
public affairs

Only
16%
of young Texans
voted in 2010

WE CAN
DO BETTER



TEXAS CONFERENCE

ON CIVIC LIFE



Saturday, November 9, 2013
The University of Texas at Austin
Belo Center for New Media
annettestrauss.org



**The Annette Strauss Institute for Civic Life
would like to thank our
generous sponsors and donors.**



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Student scholarships generously supported by:

Mr. Phil Fountain
New Politics Forum Alumnus



About the Institute

Our Mission

The Annette Strauss Institute envisions a democracy where all citizens are informed, vote, and are actively involved in improving their communities. Through nonpartisan research, education, and outreach, the Institute seeks to understand and overcome the obstacles to civic engagement.

Our History

Founded in 2000 to respond to growing political cynicism and disaffection in the United States, the Institute is named after Annette Strauss, an extraordinary woman whose accomplishments and commitments were legion. Mrs. Strauss served on the Dallas City Council from 1983 through 1987 and then as mayor from 1987 to 1991. By the time she became mayor, Mrs. Strauss had spent some forty years as a city volunteer and community activist. As mayor of Dallas, Mrs. Strauss was said to be one of the few persons who had equal access to the City's diverse communities. When she died in December of 1998, an entire city mourned her passing.

Like what we do?

Consider learning more about our
Annette Strauss Institute Friends Program

www.annettestrauss.org



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Connect your wireless device to AT&T Wi-Fi Network (attwifi) and open a new web browser.

Click on "Use A Coupon" and enter the conference code below:

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Agenda Saturday, November 9, 2013

8:00 am – 8:30 am

BREAKFAST

*Belo Center for New Media
2nd Floor - Lobby*

8:00 am

Why Bother? Civic Pop-Up Space Opens

*Belo Center for New Media
1st floor – visit Station 1 on the plaza*

8:30 am – 9:00 am

INFORMATION SESSION: HOW TO GET THE MOST OUT OF THE TEXAS CONFERENCE ON CIVIC LIFE

*Belo Center for New Media
2nd Floor Auditorium*

Live Conference Polling
Citizen Conversations
Why Bother? Civic Pop-Up Space
New Politics Forum Political Pub Quiz
Social Media Correspondents #TCCL
@AStraussInst @WhyBotherTexas

9:00 am – 9:30 am

THE CIVIC HEALTH OF TEXAS: A CALL TO ACTION

*Belo Center for New Media
2nd Floor Auditorium*

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

@LawrenceRegina



Agenda Continued
Saturday, November 9, 2013

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

*Belo Center for New Media
2nd Floor Auditorium*

Dr. Lance Bennett, director of the
Center for Communication and Civic
Engagement

@UWComm

10:30 am – 10:45 am BREAK

*Sign-up for the Why Bother? Civic Pop-up
activities if you haven't already!*

10:45 am – 11:30 am THE PROMISE OF CIVIC RENEWAL

*Belo Center for New Media
2nd Floor Auditorium*

Dr. Peter Levine, director of the
Center for Information and Research on
Civic Learning and Engagement
(CIRCLE)

@CivicYouth @PeterLevine

**11:30 am (until 2:30 pm) KUT/ KLRU Listening Booth Begins
Why Bother? Civic Pop-Up Space**

Belo Center for New Media- 1st Floor

@WhyBotherTexas @KLRU @KUT



Agenda Continued
Saturday, November 9, 2013

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

*Belo Center for New Media
2nd Floor Auditorium*

Ilir Zherka, executive director of the
National Conference on Citizenship

@NCoC

**12:15 pm – 12:30 pm KICK-OFF OF CITIZEN
CONVERSATIONS**

*Belo Center for New Media
2nd Floor Auditorium*

Larry Schooler, President of the
International Association for Public
Participation

@IAP2USA @LarrySchooler

**12:30 pm – 12:45 pm GRAB A BOX LUNCH & CHOOSE A
CITIZEN CONVERSATION TO JOIN**

*Belo Center for New Media
2nd Floor Lobby*

**12:45 pm – 1:45 pm LUNCH AND CITIZEN
CONVERSATIONS**

Enjoy your lunch while engaging with your
fellow citizens on an issue you care about.

List of topics and room numbers on pg. 21



Agenda Continued
Saturday, November 9, 2013

- 1:45 pm – 2:00 pm** **BREAK**
- 2:00 pm – 2:30 pm** **EXPERIMENTING WITH CIVIC INFORMATION**
- Belo Center for New Media
2nd Floor Auditorium*
- Keya Dannenbaum**, founder and CEO of ElectNext
- @ElectNext @keyajay
- 2:30 pm – 3:15 pm** **“SMARTER TEXANS, BETTER TEXAS:” A CONVERSATION WITH THE TEXAS TRIBUNE**
- Belo Center for New Media
2nd Floor Auditorium*
- Evan Smith**, editor-in-chief and CEO The Texas Tribune
- @TexasTribune @evanasmith
- 3:15 pm – 3:30 pm** **BREAK**
- Belo Center for New Media
2nd Floor Lobby*
- Please enjoy some fresh coffee, nuts and cheese in the lobby!



Agenda Continued
Saturday, November 9, 2013

- 3:30 pm – 5:00 pm** **ENGAGING TEXANS WITH PUBLIC POLICY**
- Belo Center for New Media
2nd Floor Auditorium*
- The Honorable Chuck DeVore**, vice president of policy at the Texas Public Policy Foundation
- @TPPF @chuckdevore
- Ann Beeson**, executive director of the Center for Public Policy Priorities
- @CPPP_TX
- Dr. Sylvia Manzano**, senior analyst for Latino Decisions
- @LatinoDecisions
- 5:00 pm – 5:30 pm** **CONFERENCE DEBRIEFING: BUILDING THE LANGUAGE OF CIVIC LIFE**
- Find out what was trending and where we are going next.
- 5:30 pm** **2013 TEXAS CONFERENCE ON CIVIC LIFE CONCLUDES**
- Presented to you by the Annette Strauss Institute for Civic Life. See you next time!*



POLITICAL PUB QUIZ AFTER-PARTY AGENDA

5:35 pm – 5:40 pm **WALK TOGETHER TO THE POLITICAL PUB QUIZ**

@“The Local” Pub and Patio
2610 Guadalupe Street

Walking Directions (0.2 miles- 5 min.)
Exit Belo Center for New Media toward Dean Keeton Street
Head west on Dean Keeton (right – towards Guadalupe St.)
Cross Guadalupe St. and walk north (right)
“The Local Pub and Patio” will be on your left
(Immediately following Kerby Lane Café)

Head out to the patio. Pub Quiz will be out back!

5:45 pm – 6:00 pm **NEW POLITICS FORUM POLITICAL PUB QUIZ TEAM CHECK-IN**

Grab a seat, a team, and a beverage.
Food truck open!

6:15 pm – 7:45 pm **POLITICAL PUB QUIZ COMPETITION**

Jared Hall, Pub Quiz emcee
Six-time winner of “Jeopardy!”
LBJ School of Public Affairs Graduate

8:00 pm **PUB QUIZ WINNERS ANNOUNCED**

\$500 IN PRIZES AWARDED TO PARTICIPANTS ON 1ST, 2ND, AND 3RD PLACE TEAMS!



2013 TEXAS CONFERENCE ON CIVIC LIFE SPEAKERS

(in order of appearance)

Dr. Regina Lawrence

@LawrenceRegina



Dr. Regina Lawrence is Director of the Annette Strauss Institute at the University of Texas at Austin, where she holds the Jesse H. Jones Centennial Chair in the School of Journalism . She earned a Ph.D. in political science from the University of Washington in 1997. Dr. Lawrence’s books include *The Politics of Force: Media and the Construction of Police Brutality* (University of California Press, 2000); *When the Press Fails: Political Power and the News Media from Iraq to Katrina* (University of Chicago Press, 2007, co-authored with W. Lance Bennett and Steven Livingston); and *Hillary Clinton’s Race for the White House: Gender Politics and the Media on the Campaign Trail* (Lynne Rienner Publishers, 2009, co-authored with Melody Rose).

Lawrence has written numerous articles analyzing media coverage of high profile news events and policy issues, including the Abu Ghraib prison scandal, shootings in public schools, the obesity epidemic, welfare reform, and the “death panels” controversy. Her current research includes journalists’ use of social media to cover politics; media coverage of female political candidates; and film and politics. Articles she has authored and co-authored have appeared in *Journal of Communication*, *Political Communication*, *Political Research Quarterly*, *Journalism*, and the *International Journal of Press/Politics*. Lawrence was a research fellow at the Joan Shorenstein Center on the Press, Politics, and Public Policy at the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University (2003), and has served as chair of the Political Communication section of the American Political Science Association.

2013 Texas Conference on Civic Life Speaker

Dr. Lance Bennett

@UWComm



Dr. Lance Bennett received his Ph.D. in political science from Yale University in 1974, and has taught since then at the University of Washington, where he is Ruddick C. Lawrence Professor of Communication and Professor of Political Science. He is the founder and director of the Center for Communication and Civic Engagement, which is dedicated to understanding how communication processes and technologies can enhance citizen engagement with

social life, politics, and global affairs.

Bennett has lectured internationally on the importance of media and information systems in civic life and is the author or editor of ten books, including *When the Press Fails: Political Power and the News Media from Iraq to Katrina* (University of Chicago Press, 2007, co-authored with Regina Lawrence and Steven Livingston). His current research interests include: press-government relations and the quality of public information, strategic communication campaigns, communication and the organization of social movements, transnational activism, and digital media and youth civic engagement. An ongoing area of research and public scholarship is Civic Learning Online, a project that can be viewed at engagedyouth.org.

2013 Texas Conference on Civic Life Speaker

Dr. Peter Levine

@CivicYouth @PeterLevine



Dr. Peter Levine is Director of the Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning (CIRCLE) and the Lincoln Filene Professor of Citizenship & Public Affairs in Tufts University's Jonathan Tisch College of Citizenship and Public Service. Levine graduated from Yale in 1989 with a degree in philosophy. Levine studied philosophy at Oxford on a Rhodes Scholarship, receiving his doctorate in 1992. From 1991 until 1993, he was a research associate at Common Cause, a nonpartisan,

nonprofit advocacy organization. In the late 1990s, he served as Deputy Director of the National Commission on Civic Renewal.

Levine is the author of *We Are the Ones We Have Been Waiting For: the Promise of Civic Renewal in America* (Oxford University Press, 2013), as well as five other scholarly books on philosophy and politics, and a novel. He has served on the boards or steering committees of AmericaSpeaks, Street Law Inc., the Newspaper Association of America Foundation, the Campaign for the Civic Mission of Schools, the Kettering foundation, the American Bar Association Committee's for Public Education, the Paul J. Aicher Foundation, and the Deliberative Democracy Consortium.

2013 Texas Conference on Civic Life Speaker

Ilir Zherka
@NCoC



Ilir Zherka is a life-long advocate of human rights and civic engagement. Ilir joined the National Conference on Citizenship (NCoC) as executive director in 2012. He leads the development and execution of NCoC programs, operations, and serves as principal spokesperson. Previously, he was the Executive Director of DC Vote. At DC Vote, Zherka organized a coalition of 100 nonprofit advocacy organizations to promote civic participation and democracy in the nation's capital.

In addition to serving as an advisor to the last four Democratic presidential campaigns, he has gained political experience working in the Clinton administration and on Capitol Hill.

Zherka is a recognized community leader. In 2012, the District of Columbia Mayor Vincent C. Gray declared October 26th to be Ilir Zherka Day for his service to Washington, D.C. as Executive Director of DC Vote. He was selected to join Leadership Greater Washington and has received numerous awards, including the Meyer Foundation Exponent Award, the National Urban League's Whitney M. Young Jr. Leadership Award, and the United Nations Association Human Rights Community Award. He has taught emerging leaders at Georgetown University and as an associate with the Human Systems Dynamics Institute. He is also the author of *Winning Inside the Game: the Handbook of Advocacy Strategies*.

2013 Texas Conference on Civic Life Speaker

Larry Schooler
@IAP2USA @LarrySchooler



Larry Schooler oversees civic engagement and dispute resolution for the City of Austin, and he assists other communities, agencies, and organizations as a public engagement consultant, mediator, and facilitator. He teaches at Southern Methodist University and has delivered facilitation and public engagement training courses and speeches across the country and in

Europe. He is also the U.S. president of the International Association for Public Participation. Larry spearheaded development of the community engagement website SpeakUpAustin.org, which has won numerous national awards. His work has also been cited by, among others, *Governing Magazine*; the Alliance for Innovation; and the book *Slow Democracy*.

Prior to this work, Larry reported stories locally, nationally, and internationally for National Public Radio and Voice of America. Larry has a bachelor's degree in history from Yale University and a master's degree in conflict analysis and resolution from Nova Southeastern University, where he is completing a doctorate. He is married to award-winning commercial real estate broker Jolie Schooler, and the father to two-year-old Sammy Schooler and a second boy expected in May, 2014.

2013 Texas Conference on Civic Life Speaker

Keya Dannenbaum

@ElectNext @keyajay



Keya Dannenbaum is founder and CEO at ElectNext, an award-winning civic startup that translates open political data into embeddable tools for digital news media.

Dannenbaum has long been a political person (which is totally different from a political junkie, as she likes to point out). She studied and worked in politics as a Stanford undergrad and Princeton Ph.D., internationally as a Fulbright Scholar in Colombia and a Melman Fellow in India, nationally in the 2008

Presidential election, and locally for the Mayor of New Haven, CT. She is a junkie for Manchester United, Elvis Presley and the Insanity DVDs.

2013 Texas Conference on Civic Life Speaker

Evan Smith

@TexasTribune @evanasmith



Evan Smith is Editor-in-Chief and CEO of The Texas Tribune, a nonprofit, nonpartisan digital news organization based in Austin. The Tribune's deep coverage of Texas politics and public policy can be found at its website, texastribune.org; in the pages of the New York Times; and in newspapers and on TV and radio stations across the state. In not quite four years in operation, the Tribune has won four Edward R. Murrow Awards from the Radio Television Digital News

Association, a Sigma Delta Chi award for excellence in journalism from the Society of Professional Journalists, a general excellence award from the Online News Association and a Knight-Batten award for innovations in journalism.

Before co-founding the Tribune, Evan spent nearly 18 years at *Texas Monthly* magazine, including eight years as Editor and a year as President and Editor-in-Chief. On his watch, *Texas Monthly* twice won the National Magazine Award for General Excellence. For eight years, Evan hosted the Lone Star Emmy Award-winning weekly interview program *Texas Monthly Talks*, which aired on PBS stations statewide. He currently hosts "Overheard with Evan Smith," airing on PBS stations nationally.

A New York native, he has a bachelor's degree in public policy from Hamilton College and a master's degree in journalism from Northwestern University.

2013 Texas Conference on Civic Life Speaker

Dr. Sylvia Manzano

@LatinoDecisions



Dr. Sylvia Manzano is a Senior Analyst with Latino Decisions. She holds a Ph.D. in political science from the University of Arizona. Manzano works with clients on strategic planning, survey design, data analysis, demographic research and focus group facilitation. Her most recent work includes design and analysis of the Latino National Election Eve Poll; national studies on Latino stereotypes and ethnic attitude; and a series of projects that develop strategies to engage Latino voters and promote engagement.

Manzano's academic research on Latino politics and policy issues has appeared in many academic outlets including *Political Research Quarterly*, *State Politics and Policy Quarterly*, *Politics and Gender*, and *Urban Affairs Review*. She has been interviewed by numerous media outlets including NBC Latino, The New York Times, La Opinion, Fox News Latino, The Los Angeles Times and National Public Radio. Prior to joining Latino Decisions, Manzano taught at Texas A&M University.

2013 Texas Conference on Civic Life Speaker

The Honorable Chuck DeVore

@TPPF @chuckdevore



Chuck DeVore is Vice President of Policy at the Texas Public Policy Foundation, one of America's premier conservative state-level public policy think tanks.

From 2004 to 2010, DeVore served as a Republican member of the California State Assembly and represented the 70th District which includes the cities of Irvine, Newport Beach, Laguna Beach, and portions of Orange County. He was the Vice

Chairman of the Assembly Committee on Revenue and Taxation and served on the Joint Legislative Audit and Veterans Affairs Committee. DeVore has been honored as Legislator of the Year by seven groups, and the Americanism Educational League awarded him their American Spirit Award in 2010, a recognition once given to Ronald Reagan.

In 2010, DeVore competed for the Republican nomination for U.S. Senate in California, earning more than 450,000 votes and raising more than \$2.6 million. Before joining the Assembly, DeVore worked in the aerospace industry, where he served as an executive and corporate vice president. DeVore served as a Reagan White House appointee in the Pentagon from 1986 to 1988. As Special Assistant for Foreign Affairs his duties included working with Congress to advance the President's foreign and military policy. He later served on staff for a U.S. Congressman. In 1983, DeVore enlisted in the United States Army Reserve. He earned an ROTC scholarship that allowed him to attend Claremont McKenna College where he graduated with honors with a degree in Strategic Studies in 1985 and was commissioned as an officer. After more than 24 years of active reserve service, DeVore retired from the Army National Guard. He is now a Lieutenant Colonel in the U.S. Army (retired) Reserve. He and his wife Diane have two daughters and reside in Dripping Springs.

2013 Texas Conference on Civic Life Speaker

Ann Beeson
@CPPP_TX



A renowned social justice lawyer, former philanthropy executive, and frequent public speaker and writer, Ann Beeson joined the Center for Public Policy Priorities in 2013. She was previously the Executive Director of U.S. Programs at the Open Society Foundations, where she promoted human rights, justice, and accountability nationwide.

Beeson was the national Associate Legal Director of the American Civil Liberties Union, where she worked from 1995-2007. She argued twice

before the U.S. Supreme Court, litigated numerous cases around the country, and launched groundbreaking programs to stop the erosion of civil liberties in the name of national security and to protect free speech and privacy on the Internet. Ms. Beeson has been recognized as one of the nation's top lawyers by *American Lawyer Magazine* and the *National Law Journal*.

A proud Texan, Beeson has embraced a wide range of innovative strategies to advance social change. Before joining CPPP, she launched a new non-profit to involve the creative sector in social change. In 2012-13, she was a Senior Fellow and Lecturer at the Annette Strauss Institute for Civic Life at the University of Texas, where she co-produced *Why Bother? Engaging Texans in Democracy Today*, a public media series to inspire more people to get engaged in their communities.

She grew up in Dallas, Texas, and received undergraduate and graduate degrees from the University of Texas. Beeson obtained her law degree from Emory University School of Law, and served as law clerk to the Honorable Barefoot Sanders, then chief judge of the Northern District of Texas.



Why Bother? Engaging Texans in Democracy Today **Civic Pop-Up Space**

Sponsored by the Annette Strauss Institute, KLRU-TV, Austin PBS, and KUT Public Radio, the civic pop-up space of *Why Bother? Engaging Texans in Democracy Today* is 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 place-making, and personal experiences. There will be three stations, organized around the following themes:

Listening Booth:

KUT and KLRU-TV will be operating a video and sound recording booth for citizens to share their personal experiences with civic life and ideas for how to improve it.

Neighborhood Identity:

Local artists will lead a creative workshop around the concept of neighborhood identity. Craft a visual manifestation of your neighborhood's identity. Participate in a discussion after the activity around what it means to you and your fellow citizens.

Issue Prioritization:

The issue prioritization board gives citizens the ability to visually prioritize issues that are important to their area (either Austin or more broadly, like Texas). Participants will be invited to write the issues that are most important to them and pin them to a board. Posts will be organized by conference staff to foster a dialogue and ignite conversation around the important issues in Texas.

Scan the QR code (below) to see photos, video, and more blogged in real time on the conference Tumblr!



<http://astraussinst.tumblr.com>

@WhyBotherTexas @KUT @KLRU



Location for the Why Bother? Civic Pop-Up Space Activities

1st Floor and plaza in front of building

- Station 1:** Issue Prioritization Board (*outside plaza*)
Station 2: Neighborhood Identity Project
Station 3: KUT / KLRU Listening Booth

5 Tips for Enjoying the Why Bother? Civic Pop-Up Space

- 1) Join us at **station 1** at any time (**no advance sign-up is needed**). Don't forget to pin your business card to the map so people from your community can connect with you.
- 2) **Advance sign-up** encouraged for station 2 and station 3. Please visit the individual stations to secure your spot!
- 3) **Station 3** will only be open from **11:30 am – 2:30 pm**, so sign up early and get heard!
- 4) Stations should be **completed in order**, but you may **leave** and **come back** throughout the day.
- 5) When you've completed all 3 stations, be sure to **fill out our feedback survey**, located at **station 3**. Most importantly, **HAVE FUN!**

Michelle Dahlenburg

@michellehope



Michelle Dahlenburg is a theatre-maker, facilitator, and educator whose work explores the intersection of art and community, civic, and social change. Recent projects include The Ghosts of Waller Creek, which used site-specific performance workshops to engage Austinites in the redevelopment of an urban creek area, and workshops for the NEA's Your Town: Rural Design Institute, which helped residents of Mart, TX imagine new uses for Mart's empty

lots. Michelle is Co-Artistic Director of Conspire Theatre, which creates theatre with women during and post-incarceration. She is a facilitator and project manager for HATCH: Inspired Social Change, an oral historian for Foodways Texas, and an instructor at Texas State University. Michelle holds an MFA in Drama and Theatre for Youth and Communities from the University of Texas at Austin.

Annette Strauss Institute for Civic Life Citizen Conversations 12:45 pm – 1:45 pm

The Texas Civic Health Index was intended to be a conversation-starter. The data and ideas presented raise as many questions as they answer. In many ways, there is no roadmap for civic engagement in the 21st Century. As the state of Texas continues to grow and change, the way forward can be illuminated with further research and discussion.

During the conference, participants will be invited to join citizen conversations on topics that align with the theme of improving Texas' civic health. All conversations will be held in small classrooms on the 4th and 5th floors of the Belo Center for New Media. Grab your box lunch in the lobby and help us work towards a deeper understanding of what is causing these low levels of civic engagement.

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

- **Whoever participates 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, shoulds, whatever it is, is; work with it.
- **When it starts, it starts. When it's over, it's over.** Done in ten minutes? Great, move on to something else or join a new group.
- **"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.



“Engaging the Disengaged: Bringing Texans off the Political Sidelines”

4th floor, Room 4.206

Facilitator: Dr. Sharon Jarvis



An Associate Professor for the Department of Communication Studies, Dr. Jarvis researches the intersection of language use, politics and persuasion and teaches a variety of courses at the undergraduate and graduate levels including political communication, campaign communication, and persuasion theory. She is the author of *The Talk of the Party: Political Labels, Symbolic Capital & American Life* (Rowman & Littlefield) and a co-author of *Political*

Keywords: Using Language that Uses Us (Oxford University Press).

Dr. Jarvis has been the Principal Investigator on a \$100,000 grant to investigate the political participation of college students and working youth (CIRCLE, funded by The Pew Charitable Trusts) and a co Principal-Investigator on two related projects focusing on the politics of youth (over \$550,000 in funding from The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and The Pew Charitable Trusts). She has been the recipient of numerous teaching awards and honors, including the Texas Exes Outstanding Professor for the College of Communication, the Eyes of Texas Teaching Award, and the Outstanding Professor in the College of Communication. In 2005, she was the second Assistant Professor in the history of the University to receive the Friar Centennial Teaching Fellowship, the largest undergraduate teaching honor at U.T. Austin.

“Digital Engagement and Social Connection”

4th floor, Room 4.204

Facilitator: Dr. Lance Bennett
@UWComm



Dr. Lance Bennett received his Ph.D. in political science from Yale University in 1974, and has taught since then at the University of Washington, where he is Ruddick C. Lawrence Professor of Communication and Professor of Political Science. He is the founder and director of the Center for Communication and Civic Engagement, which is dedicated to understanding how communication processes and technologies can enhance citizen engagement with social life, politics, and global affairs.

Facilitator: Dr. Talia Stroud
@TaliaStroud @EngagingNews



Dr. Talia Stroud is an Associate Professor of Communication Studies and Assistant Director of the Annette Strauss Institute for Civic Life at the University of Texas at Austin. Her recent book, *Niche News: The Politics of News Choice* (Oxford University Press) received the International Communication Association's 2012 Outstanding Book Award. Stroud directs the Engaging News Project, which examines commercially-viable and democratically-beneficial ways of improving online news coverage. The Project has received generous funding from Google and the Democracy Fund. Stroud's work on the use of likeminded news has received several additional awards, including the Michael Pfau Outstanding Article Award from the National Communication Association and the K. Kyoon Hur Award from the International Communication Association. Her research has appeared in *Political Communication*, *Journal of Communication*, *Political Behavior*, *Public Opinion Quarterly*, and the *International Journal of Public Opinion Research*. She teaches courses in public opinion, media effects and politics, and quantitative research methods and is honored to be a member of the Society for Teaching Excellence.

Citizen Conversation Topic

**“Inspiring Community Involvement: Is
42nd in the nation good enough?”**

4th floor, Room 4.212

Facilitator: Ilir Zherka
@NCOC



Ilir Zherka is a life-long advocate of human rights and civic engagement. Ilir joined the National Conference on Citizenship (NCoC) as Executive Director in 2012. He leads the development and execution of NCoC programs, operations, and serves as principal spokesperson. Previously, he was the Executive Director of DC Vote. At DC Vote, Zherka organized a coalition of 100 nonprofit advocacy organizations to promote civic participation and democracy in the nation's capital.

Facilitator: Dr. Emily Hanks

Emily Hanks is an assistant professor in the Department of Political Science at Texas State University in San Marcos. Dr. Hank's primary research interests are in organizational communication, civic engagement, and the nonprofit and voluntary sector. She is particularly interested in how nonprofits express and maintain public values. Dr. Hanks has presented her work at various regional and national conferences and is a board member of the Section for Women in Public Administration.



Citizen Conversation Topic

**“If Texas is so Big, Why...?
A Conversation on Geographic
Diversity and Civic Life”**

5th floor, Room 5.102
(Presentation Room)

Facilitator: Larry Schooler
@LarrySchooler



Larry Schooler oversees civic engagement and dispute resolution for the City of Austin, and he assists other communities, agencies, and organizations as a public engagement consultant, mediator, and facilitator. He teaches at Southern Methodist University and has delivered facilitation and public engagement training courses and speeches across the country and in Europe. He is also the U.S. president of the International Association for Public Participation. Larry spearheaded development of the community engagement website SpeakUpAustin.org, which has won numerous national awards. His work has also been cited by, among others, *Governing Magazine*; the *Alliance for Innovation*; and the book *Slow Democracy*.



Citizen Conversation Topic

“Youth Engagement and K-12 Civics Education”

5th floor, Room 5.208
(Briefing Room)

Facilitator: Deborah Wise
@WiseDeborah



Deborah Wise serves as the director of educational outreach at the Annette Strauss Institute. In 2004, she came to the Institute as a coordinator and producer of the American Trustees project, a collection of documentary vignettes and lesson plans about ordinary citizens doing extraordinary things. For the last five years, she has served as the director of educational outreach and manages Speak Up!

Speak Out!, a high school service learning program, the production of the American Trustees and Turning Points film series, and undergraduate training and voter education efforts. Prior to joining the Institute, Deborah worked with the City of Houston and the County of San Diego conducting program evaluation. Deborah received a Masters of Public Affairs from the LBJ School at The University of Texas at Austin, where her research focused on charter schools and for-profit educational management organizations. She also holds a Bachelor's degree in Political Science from Arizona State University.



Citizen Conversation Topic

“Shaping What Texas Becomes: Race, Ethnicity and our Civic Future”

5th floor, Room 5.214

Facilitator: Laura Barberena
@VIVAPolitics



Laura Barberena is a communications consultant specializing in Latino electorate communications. Specifically, she writes and produces directed mail, radio spots and television commercials targeting the Hispanic electorate in the United States.

Currently, Ms. Barberena is a PhD candidate in Communication Studies at the University of Texas at Austin. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Communications from the University of Texas at Austin and a Master of Arts in International Relations from St. Mary's University.

Ms. Barberena is co-author of “The Almanac of Latino Politics 2002-2004” and is a faculty member of the USHLI Campaign Manager and Candidate School and also serves as a faculty member for the Latino Academy, a campaign school for the Southwest Voter Registration and Education Project.

In addition, Ms. Barberena has served as lead investigator on numerous research projects in the private and public sector. In this capacity Ms. Barberena has undertaken in-depth interviews, survey research, and focus group moderating. She has experience in conducting each of these research methods in English and Spanish.



Live Conference Polling

Speakers and presenters may solicit participants to answer open-ended or multiple choice questions throughout the conference through Poll Everywhere, our audience response system. We want to hear your thoughts! Responses will be used to enhance the conference experience and help further Institute research.

How do I submit responses?

When a poll is displayed, simply send a text message to the number **22333** that contains your response (open-ended questions) or the voting code (multiple-choice questions). Standard text messaging rates apply.

Questions?

Visit www.polleverywhere.com/faq.



You won't want to miss our networking after-party!

Political Pub Quiz *Hosted by the New Politics Forum*

Join us for some friendly competition, networking, and the chance to win trivia glory! Prizes totaling \$500 will be awarded to participants on the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place teams. Emceed by Jared Hall, a six-time "Jeopardy" champion! All ages welcome.

5:30 pm – 6:00 pm Team Sign-Up
6:15 pm – 7:30 pm Competition
7:45 pm – 8:00 pm Awards

@ "The Local" Pub & Food Truck 2610 Guadalupe Street

Jared Hall
@TheJaredHall



The emcee for the New Politics Forum's first-ever Political Pub Quiz comes straight from the trivia big leagues. At only 24 years old, UT alumnus Jared Hall is a six-time winner of the classic game show series "Jeopardy!" His success places him among "Jeopardy!" elite and will

likely qualify him for the next edition of the show's Tournament of Champions.

Jared earned his master's degree in global policy studies from the LBJ School of Public Affairs in May 2013 and is now a full-time research associate for the College of Education, where he works on issues surrounding the Affordable Care Act and healthcare reform in Texas.

Winning over \$180,000 during his whirlwind run, Jared plans on using the money to pay off student loans, travel, and donate to charity.



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