



**A Resource Guide to Civic Engagement
*Books, Web Sites and Quotes***

This guide was prepared in support of CityCares Citizen Academy, which is made possible through the support of:

*The UPS Foundation
&
The Surdna Foundation*

A Reading List for Civic Engagement

The following list is designed to provide intellectual resources to those interested in thinking more about effective citizenry and our work as community-based organizations.

Section 1: The Framers' Intent

The first section is reserved specifically for thoughts about democracy, its definition and the power within the idea.

Creating a Democratic Public, by Kevin Mattson

"Today there seem to be few arenas where citizens can discuss and deliberate on the political issues that face them. Political debate instead is shallow, relying less on deliberation than on political advertising, shoddy slogans, and imagery. Lacking the means to shape political debate, we distance ourselves from politics, and by distancing ourselves from politics, we threaten the foundation of democracy: citizens participating in their own self-government by deciding their own political fate."

Diversity and Citizenship, by Susan Dunn and Gary Jeffrey Jacobsohn

Everything from the *Federalist Papers* to *Dred Scott* and how they apply today, this book explores definitions of citizenship in America in the context of the growing diversity in the country and its impact on the socio-political climate. Includes speeches by: Robert A. Dahl, Nathan Glazer, Sanford Levinson, Randall Kennedy, Pauline Maier, and Noah M. J. Pickus. "The scholars represented here are all concerned with the connection between citizenship and nationhood, between individual and collective identities."

A People's History Of The United States : 1492-Present, by Howard Zinn

With more than 300,000 paperback copies sold in its previous edition, this phenomenal bestseller, now revised for the first time, provides a "brilliant and moving history of the American people from the point of view of those who have been exploited politically and economically and whose plight has been largely omitted from most histories"

The Quickening of America : Rebuilding Our Nation, Remaking Our Lives, by Frances Moore Lappe and Paul Martin Du Bois

Lappe and Du Bois argue, can solve real-life problems and "bring new meaning and effectiveness into our lives [if it] becomes not simply what we have, but what we *do*." In their accessible, emphatically interactive volume, they challenge debilitating myths about democracy, public life, self-interest, and power; describe experiments in practical democratic problem solving at work--in the media, in human services, in government, and in education; and discuss the one-on-one skills (active listening, creative conflict,

mediation, and negotiation) and the skills for use in group settings (political imagination, public dialogue, public judgment, celebration and appreciation, evaluation and reflection, and mentoring) that are essential elements in building a "culture of democracy." In the face of widespread doubt and despair about the future, *The Quickening of America* offers the encouraging suggestion that, with little fanfare, "regular Americans are applying the lessons we all need to learn in order to create the lives we want . . . and a country that works."

Additional Resources:

The Federalist Papers, by James Madison and Alexander Hamilton

Leviathan, by John Locke

The Declaration of Independence, by Thomas Jefferson

Amile, by Jean Jaques Rousseau

Section 2: Civic Renewal and Community Action

This section provides us with information about civic renewal and community organizing.

The Backyard Revolution: Understanding the New Citizen Movement, by Harry C. Boyte

"The citizen movement represents, indeed, an alternative popular democratic thread of insurgency in modern society - what I believe can be called a 'populist' heritage. It grows mainly out of different spaces in the society than the left - those 'organic' relations that modern life has not completely collectivized, rationalized, and refashioned in the image of the marketplace. And it incubates an alternative world view, different than the conventional vision of either left or right."

Building America: The Democratic Promise of Public Work, by Harry C. Boyte, and Nancy N. Kari

"*Building America* is an interpretive essay meant to spark discussion and further investigation. It is not an exhaustive treatment. It suggests some lessons from environments in which public work has flourished and other in which it is reborn. This book focuses in particular on the renewal of public work in low-income and blue-collar communities, in professionalized service institutions where expert-client patterns have replaced productive public interactions, and on the interactions between such communities and such institutions. The emphasis is based on analysis of how 'civic muscles' have been eroded over the last several decades."

Citizen Action and the New American Populism, by Heather Booth, Harry C. Boyte, and Steve Max

"It has become fashionable these days to lament the passing of the age of idealism and commitment that spawned the civil rights, anti-Vietnam war, environmental, and arms control movements. . . What happened to these democratic idealists? Did they give up or "sell out?" Some may have. But many just refocused their energies closer to home, organizing their neighbors to fight for such issues as better housing, fair taxation . . . In many instances, they've achieved spectacular success.

All over the country, ordinary citizens in the city and on the farm were making local government and businesses more responsive and accountable. But this book, while chronicling their achievements, would not have been written if it had stopped there. Citizen Action and the New American Populism is about how these local efforts - thousands of disconnected universes - have been brought together to form a national network for progressive action." (taken from the foreward written by US Senator Tom Harkin)

Civil Society, Democracy, and Civic Renewal, by Robert K. Fullinwider

The essays in this book were produced for the National Commission on Civic Renewal whose report *A Nation of Spectators* was issued in June 1998. . . the chapters in this book provide a broad-ranging consideration of civil society including: the definitions of "civil society" and "public sphere;" the notions of "public journalism, deliberative democracy, and national community;" the connection between official political structures and the character of civil society institutions; women's volunteer efforts and attitudes and behavior in the volunteer environment.

Civic Engagement in American Democracy, by Morris P. Fiorina and Theda Skocpol

Collection of essays and conferences. Part I offers "an eagle-eye examination of the roots of civic engagement. In its own way, each chapter challenges the too-often taken-for-granted notion that civic engagement is something purely social and separate from the state and electoral politics. . ." Part II explores "long-term changes in American society and culture, asking how they have influenced voluntary associations and citizens' political involvements . . . Part III suggests that participation needs to be analyzed more critically (17-8)."

Bowling Alone : The Collapse and Revival of American Community, by Robert D. Putman

In his book, "Bowling Alone," Robert Putnam examines the decline of participation in American civic society over the past several decades. Putnam draws on a wide array of studies from all aspects of American life, membership in community organizations, voter turnout and satisfaction with the government, to name just a few, as evidence for his arguments. More than just citing surveys and

listing numbers, Putnam also proposes a number of causes and effects for the deterioration of civic life.

The Emerging Nonprofit Sector: An Overview, by Helmut K. Anheier and Lester M. Salamon

"Nonprofit organizations are playing an increasingly influential role in the economies and societies of countries throughout the world. This book offers an unparalleled international overview of the scope, structure, financing, and role of this emerging nonprofit sector. The authors provide a comparative analysis of the findings of empirical assessments of the scope, structure, and financing of the nonprofit sector in 12 countries. They explore the global scale of this sector, its sources of revenue, and differences between the countries analyzed. They evaluate how well-equipped nonprofit organizations are to respond to the shift towards nonprofit action and away from government in many societies, and they identify key issues such organizations need to address in the future such as coming to terms with government and improving management."

The Community Activist's Handbook, by John Huenefeld

"Unless we come to grips locally - in varied and personal ways - with the significant problems of our social existence, we will almost certainly evolve into a homogeneous nation of nearly identical communities, reacting inflexibly and statistically to national trends without regard to local differences. To prevent such a dull society, we need a far-flung underground of community activists who dare to translate their personal aspirations - or their communities' peculiarities - into political enterprise with a forcefulness, which will keep local government on its toes. This handbook is written to encourage that underground." The handbook includes tips on having fun while changing things, recruiting, publicity, managing, budgets, organization, the diplomatic handling of non-performers, calculated flattery of potential financial contributors, use of peoples' guilt feelings as a basis for discipline, among other quite machiavellian tactics.

Additional Resources:

Engaging the Public - How Government and the Media Can Reinvigorate American Democracy, by Carol E. Hays and Thomas Johnson

A Nation of Spectators. Report published in June 1998 by the National Commission on Civic Renewal - Sam Nunn, William J. Bennet (available for free from CityCares)

The Lexus and The Olive Tree, by Thomas Friedman

Section 3: Leadership and Attitudes in Service

The fourth section addresses leadership and attitudes in service.

Soul of a Citizen: Living With Conviction in a Cynical Time, by Paul R. Loeb

Soul of a Citizen awakens within us the desire and the ability to make our voices heard and our actions count. A book of inspiration and integrity, Soul of a Citizen is an antidote to the twin scourges of modern life--powerlessness and cynicism. In his evocative style, reminiscent of Thomas Moore and M. Scott Peck, Paul Loeb teaches us that it's possible for us to lead lives worthy of our convictions. At the book's core are moving stories of ordinary Americans who've found unexpected fulfillment in social involvement. Through their example and Loeb's own wise, powerful lessons, we are compelled to move from passivity to participation. The reward for this, we learn, is a sense of connection and purpose not found in a purely personal life.

Leadership Without Easy Answers, by Ronald Heifetz

Ronald A. Heifetz, professor at the John F. Kennedy School of Government offers a practical approach to leadership for those who lead as well as those who look to them for answers, drawing on research among managers, offices, and politicians in the public and private sectors. He discusses leading with and without authority, values in leadership, the roots of authority, and leaders such as Lyndon Johnson, Martin Luther King, and Mahatma Gandhi.

Collaborative Leadership: How Citizens and Civic Leaders Can Make a Difference, by David D. Chrislip, Carl E. Larson

Drawing on their extensive research--which includes six in-depth case studies and 46 additional studies of successful community collaborations--the authors provide insight and answers to the major challenges facing communities today. They describe how to design, initiate, and sustain a constructive, collaborative process; and they show that the leaders who are most effective in addressing public issues are those who have the credibility to bring together the right people to create visions and solve problems.

The Power of Servant-Leadership, by Robert K. Greenleaf

"The servant-leader is servant first. It begins with the natural feeling that one wants to serve. Then conscious choice brings one to aspire to lead. The best test is: do those served grow as persons; do they, while being served, become healthier, wiser, freer, more autonomous, more likely themselves to become servants?"

The Model Leader, by Bill Hitt

"[This book] begins with a general theory of leadership and then sets forth 25 specific leadership competencies. These competencies, taken collectively, describe the model leader. The term "model leader" will be used as an ideal type to designate the hypothetical

individual who possesses all 25 competencies in full measure. The term "effective leader" will be used to designate the real-world person who is striving to become a model leader. This latter individual is the person to whom the book is addressed."

Section 4: A Tribute to the Courageous Ones

The last section is a tribute to those women and men who have proved the possibility of mobilizing ordinary citizens to bring about massive changes in society and paradigm. Listed below are speeches or works you can look to for inspiration. In any order:

Chief Seattle, *We may be Brothers Afterall*

Henry David Thoreau, *Civil Disobedience*

John F. Kennedy, *1961 Inaugural Address*

Martin Luther King Jr., *Letter from a Birmingham Jail*

Martin Luther King Jr., *I Have a Dream*

Alain Locke, *The New Negro*

Civic Engagement and Leadership Development Web Sites

<http://www.coro.org>

Coro is a leadership development organization with a mission to strengthen communities and the democratic process by preparing individuals for effective and ethical leadership in the public affairs areas. There are Coro centers in Los Angeles, San Francisco, St. Louis, Pittsburgh and New York.

<http://www.focus-stl.org>

FOCUS St. Louis is a nonprofit organization dedicated to creating a cooperative, thriving region by engaging citizens in active leadership roles to influence positive community change. The organization also functions as the region's citizen's league and has numerous community-based training programs.

<http://www.cfil.com/>

The Center for Innovative Leadership is a consortium of consultants, educators, and managers dedicated to developing information that can help leaders improve the effectiveness of their implementation efforts.

<http://publicagenda.com/>

Public Agenda is a nonpartisan, nonprofit public opinion research and citizen education organization based in New York City. It was founded in 1975 by social scientist and author Daniel Yankelovich and former Secretary of State Cyrus Vance. The two-fold mission of Public Agenda is to:

- Help leaders better understand the public's point of view on major policy issues.
- Help citizens better understand critical policy issues so they can make their own more informed and thoughtful decisions.

<http://www.crf-usa.org/~crf/index2.html>

Constitutional Rights Foundation (CRF) is a non-profit, non-partisan, community-based organization dedicated to educating America's young people about the importance of civic participation in a democratic society. Under the guidance of a Board of Directors chosen from the worlds of law, business, government, education, the media, and the community, CRF develops, produces, and distributes programs and materials to teachers, students, and public-minded citizens all across the nation.

<http://www.tenet.edu/volunteer/>

The Texas Education Network (TENET) was established in August 1991. It was authorized by the 71st Texas Legislature and developed by the collaborative efforts of the Department of Information Resources,

the Texas Education Agency, and The University of Texas at Austin. Its purpose was to advance and promote education in Texas by providing a communications infrastructure, which can be used to foster innovation and educational excellence in Texas. There are tons of service-learning and educational resources on their page.

<http://forum.theglobeandmail.com/>

National Issue Forum is a great site for discussion on current topics both national and international.

<http://www.wkkf.org/>

The W.K. Kellogg Foundation is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to apply knowledge to solve the problems of people. Its founder W. K. Kellogg, the cereal industry pioneer, established the Foundation in 1930. Since its beginning the Foundation has continuously focused on building the capacity of individuals, communities, and institutions to solve their own problems. They have a 'knowledge base' on their Web site that provide access to current publications and articles.

<http://www.leadershape.org/Overview.html>

Leader Shape offers quality state-of-the-art leadership programs focused on men and women ages 17-25; to facilitate their application through follow-up and advisory support; and to expand leadership programs to new audiences.

<http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/agecon/PIE/cornell.html>

A report from the Cornell Cooperative Extension, *Educating about Public Issues: Lessons from Eleven Innovative Public Policy Education Projects*

<http://ianrwww.unl.edu/ianr/triad/commlead.htm>

Community Leadership Training developed by community leaders in Hamilton and Merrick counties. The purpose of the program is to increase the quality and quantity of leadership available to organizations, public and private, throughout the community. It is a nine-month program consisting of on-site visits to businesses, community boards and the state legislature, and training sessions on leadership. Participants will have many opportunities to interact with community leaders, put into practice the skills they will be learning and set goals for their future involvement in the community.

<http://www.lwv.org/>

The League of Women Voters site is a great resource for the most up to date thinking and resources on our electoral process.

<http://www.ncl.org/anr/events.htm>

National Civic League program, the Alliance for National Renewal - a coalition of over 200 national and local organizations dedicated to the principles of community renewal. Our diverse group of Partners range from the Study Circles Resource Center in Pomfret, Connecticut -- where a small staff has facilitated issue-based discussions in more than 70 communities -- to the National 4-H Council and the 33 million member American Association of Retired Persons.

<http://www.hotsalsa.org/>

The Social Action & Leadership School for Activists (**SALSA**) of the **Institute for Policy Studies (IPS)** offers affordable classes to make you and your organization more effective. **SALSA** is:

- a skills training program that strengthens community activism and fosters engaged citizenship.
- a forum for discussion and development of progressive issues and agendas.
- a unique networking opportunity for social change activists.

<http://www.handsnet.org/>

For more than a decade, HandsNet has worked to make online collaboration and information sharing a reality for the human services community. They empower organizations to effectively integrate new online strategies, strengthening their program and policy work on behalf of people in need. Tons of links to other organizations and resources.

<http://www.norfolk.va.us/neighborhoods/university.htm>

The Neighborhood University (NU) is intended to engage, inform, and equip citizens with the education, training, and technical assistance needed to help build the capacity of residents to be better advocates for their communities. The NU will provide opportunities for networking and sharing practical ideals for problem solving, decision making, and managing community development initiatives; cultivate community interest and neighborhood support; orient citizens to specific policy issues and government practices; and, inform citizens of available resources.

<http://www.cpn.org/>

Civic Practices Network (**CPN**) is a collaborative and nonpartisan project bringing together a diverse array of organizations and perspectives within the new citizenship movement. We share a commitment to bring practical methods for public problem solving into every community and institutional setting in America. We assume the responsibility of telling our stories, so that all citizens may have the opportunity to learn from what others are doing to renew their communities. And we have a common faith that we can revitalize our democracy to tackle the complex problems of the 21st century if we can broadly exchange and continually refine the civic wisdom of what works and what empowers citizens to work together. **CPN** is

designed to bring schooling for active citizenship, which has always been at the heart of our rich democratic and associational life, into the information age.

<http://www.publiceye.org/>

Political Research Associates is an independent, not-for-profit research center, which monitors and analyzes those organizations, leaders, ideas, and activities of the US political right that undermine democracy and diversity.

<http://www.democracy.org/>

An educational non-profit organization that promotes education for democratic citizenship; creates and strengthens "learning organizations;" assist individuals and organizations to make and act on decisions based on ethical principles; and promotes character education and service learning.

<http://www.urban.org/>

The Urban Institute, a nonpartisan economic and social policy research organization

<http://www.arnova.org/>

The Association for Research on Nonprofit Organizations and Voluntary Action (ARNOVA) is an international, interdisciplinary membership organization. Our members include scholars and nonprofit leaders fostering the creation, application and dissemination of research on voluntary action, nonprofit organizations, philanthropy and civil society.

<http://ksgwww.harvard.edu/saguaro/>

The Saguaro Seminar at the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University develops far-reaching, actionable ideas to significantly increase Americans' connectedness to one another and to community institutions over the next five years. The Seminar publicizes a few approaches, networks, organizations, or strategies that are working but need to be exploited more broadly both to build effective social trust and reciprocity in neighborhoods nationwide and to loosen America's hardened civic arteries.

<http://www.brook.edu/>

The Brookings Institution functions as an independent analyst and critic, committed to publishing its findings for the information of the public. In its conferences and activities, it serves as a bridge between scholarship and public policy, bringing new knowledge to the attention of decision makers and affording scholars a better insight into public policy issues.

<http://www.livingdemocracy.org>

The Center for Living Democracy inspires and prepares people to make democracy a rewarding, practical, everyday approach to solving society's problems. CLD accomplishes its mission through various services. We invite you to explore The American News Service (ANS), the CLD Learning Center Learning Tools Catalogue and Interracial Democracy program.

<http://www.ctd.northwestern.edu/cep/>

Through school break programs and summer courses, the Civic Education Project (CEP) combines traditional education and community service to promote civic responsibility among young people. CEP offers high school and junior high school students opportunities to learn and serve in communities across the country, developing the knowledge, experience, and leadership skills they need to make a positive impact on society.

<http://www.cfsv.org/communitysurvey/>

Overview of the Social Capital Benchmark Survey as reviewed by the Community Foundation of Silicon Valley.

<http://www.hicitizen.com/>

A one-stop shop for government information at all levels.

Quotes Relating to Civic Engagement and Social Capital

"Citizenship cannot be taught as revealed truth or transferred from one mind to another by inspired leadership or persuasive individuals. Citizenship has to do with commitment, with one's skill in working with and relating to others, with one's identity and place in a group. It is innate and universal but often lies dormant. It must be brought forth amidst experiences, lived and hungered for, and finally perceived and claimed in the individual mind. Citizenship "training" and leadership "training" as well will always have the quality of discovery as an individual and personal encounter."

- *Fletcher & Dodge, Founders of the Coro Fellowship in Public Affairs*

"If you look closely you will see that anything that really matters to us, anything that embodies our deepest commitment to the way human life should be lived and cared for, depends on some form - often many forms - of volunteerism."

- *Margaret Mead*

"The true bulwark of a society is a government strong enough to protect the will of its people; and a people strong enough and well enough informed to maintain sovereign control of its government."

- *Franklin Delano Roosevelt*

"If you want to change the world, be that change."

-*Ghandi*

Humankind has not woven the web of life. We are but one thread within it. Whatever we do to the web, we do to ourselves. All things are bound together. All things connect.

- *Chief Seattle*

"You and I want our lives to matter. We want our lives to make a real difference - to be of genuine consequence in the world. We know that there is no satisfaction in merely going through the motions, even if those motions make us successful, or even if we have arranged to make those motions pleasant. We want to know we have made some impact on the world. In fact, you and I want to contribute to the quality of life. We want to make the world work."

- *Werner Erhard*

I was taught that the world had a lot of problems; that I could struggle and change them; that intellectual and material gifts brought the privilege and responsibility of sharing with others less fortunate; and that service is the rent each of us pays for living--the very purpose of life and not something you do in your spare time or after you have reached your personal goals.

- *Marian Wright Edelman*

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.

- *Margaret Mead*

"The glory of friendship is not the outstretched hand, not the kindly smile, not the joy of companionship; it is the spiritual inspiration that comes to one when he discovers that someone believes in him and is willing to trust him with his friendship."

- *Ralph Waldo Emerson*

Until one is committed, there is hesitancy, the chance to draw back, always ineffectiveness. Concerning all acts of initiative (and creation) there is one elementary truth, the ignorance of which kills countless ideas and splendid plans: that the moment one definitely commits oneself then providence moves too. All sorts of things occur to help one that would never have otherwise occurred. A whole stream of events issue from the decision, raising in one's favor all manner of unforeseen incidents and meetings and material assistance which no one could have dreamt would have come one's way. So...whatever you can do or dream you can, begin it. Boldness has genius, power, and magic in it.

- *Goethe*

The health of a democratic society may be measured by the quality of functions performed by private citizens.

- *Alexis de Tocqueville*

Leadership is action, not position.

- *Donald M. McGannon*

We have to face the fact that either all of us are going to die together or we are going to learn to live together and if we are to live together we have to talk.

- *Eleanor Roosevelt*

I think there are only three things that America will be known for 2,000 years from now when they study this civilization: the Constitution, jazz music, and baseball. They're the three most beautifully designed things this culture's ever produced.

- *Gerald Early, Baseball, 1994*

The meeting of two personalities is like the contact of two chemical substances: If there is any reaction, both are transformed.

- *C.G. Jung*

To the extent that it is possible, you must live in the world today as you wish everyone to live in the world to come. That can be your contribution. Otherwise, the world you want will never be formed. Why? Because you are waiting for others to do what you are not doing; and they are waiting for you, and so on. The planet goes from bad to worse...

- *Alice Walker*

"When we volunteer, we build on good qualities. We are not just building a fence, we are building our children, building our schools, building our community. When we come together on days like today, we are showing that volunteers can do things the government can't do. And volunteers can do these things with more lasting effect."

- General Colin Powell