CommUnity Conference:
Civic Health of Wisconsin and Beyond

April 28th, 2022

Memorial Union Terrace
Madison, Wisconsin
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American Family Dreams Foundation
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Schlecht Family Foundation
Wisconsin Institute for Public Policy and Service
Land Acknowledgement

Dr. Brian McInnis, Faculty Fellow for Nonprofits and Community Studies, Associate Professor in the School of Human Ecology, will deliver the land acknowledgment. Brian has a deep interest in the preservation of Indigenous cultures and languages and is an accomplished speaker, presenter, and writer in English and Anishinaabemowin. Brian is a tenured professor in the School of Human Ecology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Sounding Thunder: The Stories of Francis Pegahmagabow is one of his many contributions to Indigenous scholarship.
Gender-neutral bathrooms are available on the 4th floor across from the Council Room and by the Wheelhouse on the Lower Level.

Chart Room is located on the Lower Level. Stairs are located right and left outside of the Great Hall. You can also take the elevator to the first floor, then head to the west wing. Take the elevator by the box office to the Lower Level.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:00 - 8:30 AM</td>
<td>FOYER</td>
<td>Register, Networking, Collaboration Café, Continental Breakfast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:40 - 9:30 AM</td>
<td>GREAT HALL</td>
<td>Morning Warm-Up World Café Exercise and Collaboration Café Continued</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:30 - 9:50 AM</td>
<td>GREAT HALL</td>
<td>Remarks from Lieutenant Governor Mandela Barnes and Superintendent of Public Instructions Jill Underly</td>
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**Morning Sessions (Choose one)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:50 - 11:10 AM</td>
<td>CHART ROOM</td>
<td>Strengthening Civics Education in Wisconsin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>GREAT HALL</td>
<td>Voting Access and Local Government</td>
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**Morning Plenary Fishbowls**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11:10 - 12:10 PM</td>
<td>GREAT HALL</td>
<td>Civic Engagement Efforts, Challenges, and Wins of BIPOC, Youth, and Historically Disenfranchised Groups in Wisconsin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:10- 12:25 PM</td>
<td>GREAT HALL</td>
<td>Lunch Transition</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
12:25- 1:50 PM  
GREAT HALL  
Land Acknowledgment 
National Keynote | Ruth Ben-Ghiat  
How Democracy Dies Today and How to Protect it 
Regional Keynote | Arvind Gopalratnam  
How We Can All Contribute to the Civic Health of Wisconsin

Afternoon Sessions (Choose one)

2:00 - 3:15 PM  
CHART ROOM  
Civic Health and News Media in Wisconsin

GREAT HALL  
Corporate Social Responsibility for Civic Health

3:20 - 4:30 PM  
GREAT HALL  
Co-Create Workshop  
What Civic Health Efforts, Challenges, and Opportunities are YOU Seeing in Your Communities? What Do They Need to Thrive?

4:30 - 5:15 PM  
FOYER  
More Collaboration Café Time!  
Turn in your Bingo Sheet for the door prize drawing!

GREAT HALL  
University of Wisconsin Expert Flash Talks

5:15 - 6:45 PM  
UNION TERRACE  
Union Terrace Happy Hour + Snacks
Collaboration Café

Are you Registered to Vote?
BadgersVote and The League of Women Voters are here to support your registration.

Who are my Representatives?
Create your very own cheat sheet so you know who to write a letter or email, to discuss policies that impact you.

Practice Voting
Learn how to vote in a real voting booth, with thanks to the City of Madison.

Neighbor to Neighbor
How do you connect in your area? Write or draw what civic health looks like in your neighborhood.

Selfie Station
Share a selfie and tag us! #CivicHealthofWisconsin

Crowd-Sourced People's History
Conference attendees are invited to share key moments in Wisconsin's civic health history. Suggestions will be used to capture a crowdsourced history of Wisconsin's civic health.

Nonprofit Board Strategies
Graduate students in the UW-Madison Nonprofit Board leadership course will share their suggestions on how boards of nonprofit organizations can promote civic health from within.
World Café

This event is an opportunity to connect around key topics in civic health by cycling through discussion "pods," listed below. Please choose four of the pods to visit. You will have 15 minutes at each pod.

1. Volunteer Engagement and Philanthropy
2. Arts and Storytelling for Civic Health
3. Depolarization
4. Crowd-sourced People's History of the Civic Health of Wisconsin
5. Nonprofit Board for Civic Health
6. Civics Education
7. Civic Health, Media, and Information Sources
8. Voter Access
Morning Sessions | 9:50-11:10am

**Strengthening Civics Education in Wisconsin**

Chart Room

*Co-Founders of the Wisconsin Civic Learning Coalition*

**David Olson**, Director of Education at Retro Report  
**Kate Ulman**, Instructor of Education at Northland College  
Accompanied by Wisconsin high school student representatives

Wisconsin is one of only seven states that does not require students to take a civics or government class to graduate from high school. Join a panel of social studies teachers and students to explore why civics education is important, how it is connected to civic health, and what opportunities there are to strengthen civic education in Wisconsin. This session will involve a short panel discussion, and facilitated small group deliberation about policies to support civics education.

**Voting Access and Local Government**

Great Hall

*Moderated by Bonnie Chang, Municipal Clerk II, Voter Outreach Coordinator, City of Madison*

**Sara Bruckman**, President of the Wisconsin Municipal Clerks Association and Deputy Clerk/Treasurer, Village of Fox Point  
**Diane Coenen**, City Clerk, City of Oconomowoc  
**Nick Ramos, Esq.**, Wisconsin Voter ID Coalition Coordinator, VoteRiders

Whiplash. That’s what it has been like to work on elections recently in Wisconsin. Local governments are on the front line of providing voting access and are subject to the courts and the Legislature. Learn more about the process of putting on an election. It’s not just about showing up on election day. You’ll also hear about lessons learned over the last couple of years.
Morning Plenary | 11:10 - 12:10 pm

**Civic Engagement Efforts, Challenges, and Wins of BIPOC, Youth, and Historically Disenfranchised Groups in Wisconsin** | Great Hall

Join the P.O.W.E.R Collective in a fishbowl discussion with leaders of some of Wisconsin's civic engagement efforts focused on BIPOC, youth, and other historically disenfranchised groups in Wisconsin. This session will reflect on the historic and ongoing challenges to these groups' civic participation, and highlight current and recent efforts to overcome these challenges.

**Mike Davis** and **Dr. Carolina Sarmiento** will host the discussion with panelists representing organizations doing this work in Wisconsin, including: EXPO, BLOC, Menikanaehkem, Voces de la Frontera, and others.

Lunch Transition | 12:10 - 12:25 pm

Attendees may pick up lunch and come back together for the land acknowledgement and keynotes.

Land Acknowledgement & Keynote | 12:25 - 1:50 pm

Great Hall

The introductory welcome will be followed by a land acknowledgement, facilitated by Dr. Brian McInnes (see page 2 for more information).

Details on the national and regional keynote speeches are listed on the following pages.
Historian Ruth Ben-Ghiat is an expert commentator on fascism, authoritarian leaders, and propaganda — and the threats these present to democracies today. Author of the #1 Amazon bestseller Strongmen and over 100 op-eds and essays in CNN, The New Yorker, and The Washington Post, she brings historical perspective to her analyses of current events. Her insight into the authoritarian playbook has made her an expert source for television, radio, podcasts, and online events around the globe.

Dr. Ben-Ghiat is Professor of History and Italian Studies at New York University and an advisor to Protect Democracy. A historical consultant for film and television productions, she was a featured commentator in the Netflix limited series "How To Become a Tyrant" (2021) and the PBS series "The Dictators' Playbook" (2019). Her work has been supported by Fulbright, Guggenheim, and other prestigious fellowships.
Since November of 2018, Arvind has served as the Vice President of Corporate Social Responsibility and Executive Director of the Milwaukee Bucks Foundation. Arvind was born in Milwaukee and received a bachelor’s degree in journalism from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and a master’s degree in strategic public relations from George Washington University.

As the only Indian-American social responsibility leader in the NBA, he oversees the Milwaukee Bucks’ initiatives and collaborations with community partners, focusing on youth education, economic empowerment, criminal justice reform, and community health and wellness. Arvind will speak on the importance of civic participation and his role with the team in creating a positive impact on communities across Wisconsin.
Afternoon Sessions | 2:00pm - 3:15pm

Corporate Social Responsibility | Great Hall

Moderated by Noah Salata
Cindy Howley, Director-Kohler Stewardship, Kohler Co.
Ranell Washington, Strategic Partnerships Advisor-Milwaukee Initiative, American Family Insurance
Juli Aulik, Director of Community Relations, UW Health
Alex Shade, Director of Corporate Social Responsibility, CUNA Mutual Group

With the recent findings of the Edelman Trust Barometer report showing business as the “most-trusted” and only “ethical and competent” institution, the public is both relying on and holding organizations accountable to being the stewards of our communities, our people, and our democracy. With rampant misinformation, skepticism, and polarization in our country; leaders are navigating their civic and social responsibilities with an increased lens on the unique role they play and the consequences of broken systems on our overall community health and well-being. Join a conversation with these Wisconsin-based organizations as they share how they use community involvement, civic engagement, and political participation to strengthen civic health.
Civic Health and News Media in Wisconsin | Chart Room

Moderated by Joy Cardin
Dee J. Hall, Managing Editor, Wisconsin Watch
Tamia Fowlkes, Andrew Goodman Ambassador and Journalist
Eric Greiling, Chief Development Officer, PBS Wisconsin; Executive Director, Friends of PBS Wisconsin
David Dahmer, Publisher and Editor-in-Chief, Madison 365

Join Joy Cardin, retired Wisconsin Public Radio host, with a panel of local news media professionals as we explore the role of traditional and social media, local media sources, and newsrooms in the quest for Civic Health. Learn from local experts about the impact of industry changes on the information landscape, the reliability of information sources in a changing world, and the role of local news media in building connected, better informed communities.

Co-Create Workshop | 3:20pm-4:30pm

What Civic Health Efforts, Challenges, and Opportunities are YOU Seeing in Your Communities? What Do They Need to Thrive? | Great Hall

Co-Create, an initiative within the UW-Madison Center for Community and Nonprofit Studies, will host this interactive session and create a report on feedback collected to inform future Civic Health efforts across Wisconsin. Please join us to share your perspective in this important conversation, to guide our collective future efforts.

UW Expert Flash Talks | 4:30-5:15pm

Key Themes in the Current Civic Health of Wisconsin
Great Hall
CommUnity Conference BINGO

Cross off your board as you do each activity! Once you get a bingo, submit your sheet by 4:45 pm at the Registration Table.

At 5:00 pm, we will hold a raffle and announce the winner.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
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<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I completed the &quot;Who represents me?&quot; worksheet</td>
<td>I shared my #civichealthof wisconsin experience at the selfie station</td>
<td>I added to the peoples history of Civic Health of Wisconsin in Collaboration Cafe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I went to a morning or afternoon breakout session</td>
<td><strong>FREE</strong> I attended the CommUnity Conference!</td>
<td>I attended the Co-Create workshop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I completed the Civic Health Survey OR I asked a question at a session</td>
<td>I exchanged contact info with another attendee</td>
<td>I took part in the World Cafe</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CommUnity Conference BINGO

Cross off your board as you do each activity! Once you get a bingo, submit your sheet by 4:45 pm at the Registration Table.

At 5:00 pm, we will hold a raffle and announce the winner.
Who represents me?

Step up and search your representatives at the national, state, and local level.

[ballotopedia.org/Who_represents_me](http://ballotopedia.org/Who_represents_me)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Office</th>
<th>Representative Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>US Senators (2)</td>
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<td>US House of Representatives</td>
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<td>Governor</td>
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<td>Alder/ Council Representative</td>
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<td>School Board</td>
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<td>Other Office Holders</td>
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Notes
Connect with the CommNS at commnsknowledge.wisc.edu