

Healthy Democracy News



Greetings Friends of Democracy,

We are happy to share with you the latest news from the world of Healthy Democracy. Be sure to visit our Facebook page for the most up-to-date program and event information!

Citizens Juries



On September 11, Healthy Democracy selected the citizen panel for the first [pilot Citizens Jury project](#), in partnership with the City of Milwaukie, Oregon. The [live-streamed](#) panel selection was held in the Milwaukie City Council chambers and was open to the public. New software, developed by the [Sortition Foundation](#) in the UK specifically for the purpose of sortition (random selection), was used for the first time and worked perfectly. We are grateful to the Sortition Foundation for developing this immensely helpful open-source software.

Restoring Trust in Democracy: How You Can Make a Difference

Join us on October 18 at Southern Oregon University in Ashland to learn about Healthy Democracy's experience with transformational models of lottery-based, citizen-centered deliberative democracy and how they can be adopted in local communities. Participants are invited to bring their creativity and passion for helping to build a democracy that is truly by the people, for the people. [Register today!](#)

Community Oregon



The 3-part Community Oregon program brings rural and urban Oregonians together to better understand one another and to think about the kind of democracy they want to build together in their state. Community Oregon provides opportunities to create stronger and more resilient relationships among the state's citizenry in a way that will build and sustain a healthier democracy in Oregon.



On September 21, the third and final phase of the Community Oregon program, the Community Oregon Expo, was held at Concordia University in Portland, where program participants shared their learnings from the past 5 months.

Damon Isiah Turner, a 2019 Community Oregon Camp Assistant Facilitator and 2017 Community Oregon participant, offered the [concluding remarks](#), sharing his own lessons, learnings, and reflections on the program.

Civic Saturday



Oregon's first rural Civic Saturday was held in Crook County on September 14, hosted by the C Bar C Ranch in Powell Butte. [Civic Saturdays](#) are offered in collaboration with the [Deliberative Democracy Consortium](#) and [Oregon Humanities](#), and are a creation of [Citizen University](#).



The theme was Belonging & Homecoming, which turned out to be a particularly rich topic embraced by the approximately 30 attendees. Read "Civic Seminarian" [Wendy Willis' sermon](#).

The next Civic Saturday in Oregon will be hosted by Clackamas Community College on November 16 (please note date change from October 12). Watch for updates on future programs on our [Facebook page](#).

Showcasing Healthy Democracy in Argentina

Healthy Democracy continued its world tour this month, playing a well-received gig in Argentina at the invitation of the City of Buenos Aires. Program Manager



Linn Davis presented on Healthy Democracy's new city-level Citizens Jury work at the 3rd International Congress on Urbanism, Mobility & Citizen Participation. Its tagline – "La Ciudad Que Queremos" ("The City We Want") – was the perfect motto for Citizens Jury work. The city we want is one that brings everyday folks from all walks of life into decision making in new ways – civic lotteries where everyone has a shot at serving, and where those who serve have real problem-solving tools and power.

Many thanks to the incredible hospitality from our new friends at the other end of the Americas. We are looking forward to many future collaborations! ¡Hagámoslo! (Let's do it!)

Staff Feature

Farres Alkhaiyer, our Community Solutions Program Fellow from the DC-based nonprofit IREX, [shares his reflections](#) on his second month in the U.S.

We will continue to share Farres' thoughts, reflections, and musings from his time with us through to the end of his fellowship. His perspectives and insights have been a welcome addition to our small, but mighty, crew.

Healthy Democracy Calendar

- October 18 – Restoring Trust in Democracy – Southern Oregon University, Ashland, Oregon
- October 19 – Healthy Democracy Board Retreat - Ashland, Oregon
- October 24-25 - [2019 OAPA Annual Planning Conference](#) - Eugene, Oregon
- October 29 – [Imagine Tomorrow's Democracy, Today, Bridge Alliance Annual](#)

- November 9-12 – Citizens Jury, Clackamas Community College Harmony Campus, Milwaukie, Oregon
- November 16 – Civic Saturday – Clackamas Community College, Oregon City, Oregon (rescheduled from October 12)
- November 16-17 & 23-24 - Citizens' Initiative Review - Sion, Switzerland

Please Support Our Work

Friends, we have reached the time of year when we need to make sure that our work for the coming year can be supported. We know that you care about building a more engaged, responsive, and citizen-driven democracy (you have read at least this far down so we are making somewhat of an assumption!). But it takes all of us to contribute to this work so that it can continue.



Healthy Democracy's transformative programs are in high demand, but the means to pay for them isn't always available. That's where you come in.

Please consider joining this important movement, at this consequential time in our nation's history, and invest in this shared project of building a healthier democracy. Just as every single citizen voice counts . . . every single [donation](#) counts. We appreciate and thank you for your support!

For Citizenship

In these times when anger
Is turned into anxiety
And someone has stolen
The horizons and mountains,

Our small emperors on parade
Never expect our indifference
To disturb their nakedness.

They keep their heads down
And their eyes gleam with reflection
From aluminum economic ground,

The media wraps everything
In a cellophane of sound,
And the ghost surface of the virtual
Overlays the breathing earth.

The industry of distraction
Makes us forget
That we live in a universe.

We have become converts
To the religion of stress
And its deity of progress;

That we may have courage
To turn aside from it all
And come to kneel down before the poor,
To discover what we must do,
How to turn anxiety
Back into anger,
How to find our way home.

—John O'Donohue

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Healthy Democracy's mission is to elevate the voice of citizens and improve public discourse for the benefit of all voters.

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