



announcing the **UTAH CIVIC ENGAGEMENT FELLOWSHIP**

What's the Civic Engagement Fellowship about?

We are building a statewide network for citizens seeking to become skilled leaders in supporting and leading civic dialogues in their communities. This yearlong fellowship begins with a 2-day training in dialogue facilitation, held in Salt Lake City (March 2-3, see reverse for training details).

Fellows will be connected to a larger collective impact initiative focused specifically on Utah as an ideal hub for shifting the culture of civic discourse. Fellows will also become part of a broad (and ever-growing) group of facilitators across the state who can offer effective and transformative experiences of dialogue and build public awareness that better dialogue is not only possible, but crucial to the future of civic life in Utah.

Who are we?

We are a partnership of five organizations working in dialogue facilitation and civic engagement. Check us out online:

Essential Partners
whatisessential.org

Village Square
utah.villagesquare.us

Living Room Conversations
livingroomconversations.org

Salt Lake Civil Network
saltlakecivilnetwork.org

Utah Humanities
utahhumanities.org

See reverse page for details about the 2-day training at the heart of this Fellowship!

Benefits of Fellowship:

- Two-day training in facilitating civic dialogues
- Monthly webinars and support gatherings
- Updates about opportunities to facilitate
- One-on-one coaching for community projects
- Training for facilitating Village Square forums and smaller Living Room Conversations

Fellowship requirements:

We encourage candidates to come with a connection to a community, institution, or group in which they could use these skills. Because this work involves collaboration, we strongly encourage candidates to apply with partners, working together to help facilitate conversations. We can help pair people who do not have partners. Teams may be as large as 4. Call with questions.

This Fellowship requires:

- Training completion and monthly webinars
- Design/execution of a plan for using this work in each team's home community or group
- Facilitating at least one civic dialogue
- Participating in a Village Square event
- Hosting a Living Room Conversation
- Supporting other Fellows in their work
- A refundable \$100/person deposit

Interested?

To inquire or apply, email Sara Ostrovitz at sara@whatisessential.org, call 617.923.1216, or visit whatisessential.org/utah.

Application deadline: FEBRUARY 23, 2018



the UTAH CIVIC ENGAGEMENT FELLOWSHIP

About the 2-day Fellowship training

The Fellowship builds on a foundational two-day comprehensive training, *Facilitating Dialogue Across Divides*, provided by Essential Partners.

Are you witnessing an increase in divisiveness in your community? Do you see the need for us to talk across our divides? Do you want to be able to help your community have the difficult conversations it needs to have to move forward together? *Facilitating Dialogue Across Divides* is designed to help you build skills to facilitate tough conversations, whether in your daily life or in formal dialogues. This workshop is intended to be an introductory workshop for those new to facilitation, or to Essential Partners' model.

Community is an act of courage. We believe that behind every belief is a person with a story. 27 years ago, Essential Partners created a unique approach to dialogue that promotes connection and curiosity between those who see one another as enemies. Our approach, Reflective Structure Dialogue (RSD), has transformed conflicts across the country and the world, and is widely applicable to the vital conversations that communities need to have to do the work they need to do. An intentional communication process can help individuals, groups, and communities rebuild trust, enhance resilience, address challenging issues, and have constructive conversations with people from different perspectives or those they otherwise would avoid or fight with.

Beginning with this training, Fellows will embark on a rigorous program to cultivate facilitation skills through practice and direct engagement of their communities in Utah.

**Training dates: March 2-3, 2018
in Salt Lake City (location TBD)**

Skills taught in the training:

- Designing & structuring conversations for civic engagement: focusing on curiosity, community, and connection across difference
- Achieving clarity of purpose & expectations
- Utilizing agreements, structures, preparation, and inquiry
- Practicing competence and confidence in facilitating through challenging moments

As a result of training, Fellows will be able to:

- Create a context for people to communicate with self-confidence about difficult or divisive topics
- Break destructive communication habits (e.g., avoidance, silence, or reactive responses, enabling people to feel heard)
- Design conversations, dialogues, or meetings with clear purpose, full participation, and a structure for moving forward together
- Introduce a dialogue circle
- Intervene to support a group through rough spots

Who might be a Fellow?

- Community or nonprofit leaders, clergy
- Gov't officials seeking to drive collaboration
- School administrators, professors, teachers
- Directors of community engagement, diversity, and inclusion