

About the SAGE Citizen Project

The SAGE Citizen Project addresses challenging trends in America that show we are growing increasingly divided along political and other lines and more hostile toward people who hold different views. We are concerned that as these trends persist, it will become harder for people to work together to find solutions to the challenges faced by younger and future generations in our communities.

What we do:

- Each year, we aim to reach 500+ Oregonians through Citizen Project events hosted by individuals and groups interested in promoting better listening and bridging political and other divides. At our events, we collect and share examples of actions that bring people together across differences to solve problems.
- We offer meaningful volunteer opportunities with SAGE and our democracy partners in Oregon who promote better listening, civics education, civil dialogue and service, and local problem-solving. You can learn more about our partners and their work at our website WeAreSage.org/CitizenProject.
- We host an annual convening to help local and statewide organizations better connect and collaborate on shared initiatives that bring people together across differences to solve problems. We strongly endorse opportunities for communities and organizations to work together through better networking, coordination, and partnership.

Help Build a Bridge. Host a Citizen Project Event.

You can help us reach new audiences by hosting or co-hosting a Citizen Project event. We offer many no-cost events. We can facilitate or co-facilitate with your group, and we can help defray costs for venues or refreshments.

Each event has its own energy and pace. We work with event hosts to ensure the event meets an organization's needs. The event can range from 30 minutes to 2 hours, and it can be offered online, in-person, and hybrid. Here are examples of offerings:

- **Bridging Divides: A Presentation About Political Polarization in America and How We Can Come Together to Solve Tough Problems.**



Citizen Project

BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER
ACROSS DIFFERENCES

Learn more:

WeAreSage.org/CitizenProject

Contact us:

Hello@WeAreSage.org

971-717-6570

The Citizen Project is sponsored by SAGE, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit and nonpartisan organization that inspires people over fifty to give forward so that future generations can thrive. We also welcome opportunities to support intergenerational initiatives and conversations.

This 20-minute presentation raises awareness about trends in America that show we are growing increasingly divided and more hostile toward people who hold different views. We point to effective actions to reduce polarization. The presentation can be paired with a 30-minute discussion.

- **Common Ground: What Are Our Shared Values? How Can We Listen To Understand?**

There's plenty in the news about what divides us, but let's talk about what unites us. Turns out, that despite the rancor in the news and on social media, many of us share common values that unite us in service of a greater good. In this conversation, we discuss common values as a foundation for working across divides. We also practice listening to each other so we can better understand our concerns and how each of us can make a difference. Facilitated discussion is 90 minutes.

- **A House Divided: What Would We Have To Give Up to Get the Political System We Want?**

Every American is affected by divisions in politics that prevent us from making progress on urgent problems we care about. During this event, we present three options for deliberation about choices in politics. Should we require more accurate, respectful discussion in the media and online, or would that stifle free speech? Should we reform politics and government to encourage compromise, or will that mean giving up on the changes we really want? Should local communities set policies in areas like health care and the environment, or would that risk the progress we've made and make further progress nearly impossible? Each option offers advantages and risks, and each reflects different ways of understanding what matters most to us. We rely on a [facilitation guide](#) produced by the National Issues Forum. Facilitated discussion is 90 to 120 minutes.

- **Youth & Opportunity: What Should We Do for Future Generations To Thrive?**

Many young people think the United States is on the wrong track and fear that decisions by today's leaders are robbing them of a better future. Distrust in political parties and concerns about inequality are inspiring protests—many led by children and young adults—and fueling grassroots efforts to challenge the status quo. During this event, participants discuss and deliberate three options for creating a better future for all young Americans. We rely on a [facilitation guide](#) produced by the National Issues Forum. Facilitated discussion is 90 to 120 minutes.