



Civic Spirit Educators Cohort Summer Institute 2021

E Pluribus Unum: Exploring Unity and Difference in America

Zoom Link for the Week:

<https://hillel.zoom.us/j/99220216094?pwd=cDJWLy9DL1NIT3k5MlhLOVFtbzRyQT09>

Meeting ID: 992 2021 6094

Password: civics

Please Note: All Meetings Times are in Eastern Standard Time

DAY 1: Monday, August 2nd

Out of Many Faiths

10:00am - 10:30am	Welcome & Introductions <i>Lindsay Bressman and Yael Steiner, Civic Spirit</i>
10:30am - 11:00am	Cohort Opening Circle
11:00am - 12:30pm	Exploring & Personalizing the Civic Spirit Shared Aims <i>Tiphonie Shoemaker and Matthew Brownstein, Civic Spirit</i>
12:30pm - 1:00pm	Lunch Break
1:00pm - 2:30pm	Faith and Freedom <i>Professor Maura Jane Farrelly, Brandeis University</i>
2:30pm - 3:00pm	Closing Reflection / Prep for Day #2

DAY 2: Tuesday, August 3rd

Out of Many States

10:00am - 10:30am	Cohort Opening Circle
10:30am - 12:00pm	Of Justice and Mercy in Lincoln's Second Inaugural Address <i>Professor Lucas Morel, Washington and Lee University</i>
12:00pm - 12:30pm	Lunch Break
12:30pm - 2:30pm	Why Difficult Conversations are Difficult and How to Make Them Better: Civic Skills for More Connected and Complex Classroom Conversations <i>John Sarrouf, Essential Partners</i>
2:30pm - 3:00 pm	Closing Reflection / Prep for Day #3
7:00pm - 8:00pm	Optional Office Hours with Lucas Morel

DAY 3: Wednesday, August 4th

Out of Many Origins

10:00am - 10:30am	Cohort Opening Circle
10:30am - 12:00pm	Immigrant, Migrant, & Refugee Under One Roof: A Virtual Museum Tour <i>Annie Polland, Tenement Museum</i>
12:00pm - 12:30pm	Lunch Break
12:30pm - 2:30pm	The Dialogic Lesson Experience: Preparation, Dialogue, and Synthesis <i>John Sarrouf, Essential Partners</i>
2:30pm - 3:00pm	Closing Reflection / Prep for Day #4
7:00pm - 8:00pm	Optional Office Hours with John Sarrouf

DAY 4: Thursday, August 5th

Where do we go from here?

10:00am - 10:30am	Cohort Opening Circle
10:30am - 12:00pm	The Hill We Climb & the Civics We Teach: The Poet as Historian <i>Professor Susan McWilliams Barndt, Pomona College</i>
12:00pm - 12:30pm	Lunch Break
12:30pm - 1:30pm	Navigating the Educating for American Democracy (EAD) Roadmap <i>Natacha Scott, iCivics</i>
1:30pm - 2:30pm	Core Project Design <i>Tiphonie Shoemaker and Matthew Brownstein, Civic Spirit</i>
2:30pm - 3:00pm	Closing Reflection and Looking Forward
7:00pm-8:00pm	Optional Office Hours with Susan McWilliams Barndt

Session Descriptions

Exploring & Personalizing the Civic Spirit Shared Aims

Tiphonie Shoemaker and Matthew Brownstein, Civic Spirit

Immerse yourself in Civic Spirit’s multi-disciplinary approach co-designed by educators to engage with a student’s heart, head, and hands. We anchor our approach within three core pillars that foster effective and meaningful civic learning for all. Take a deep dive into each pillar and articulate your school or organization’s civic goals within this framework; together we will set clear and reasonable professional goals for the coming school year.

Faith and Freedom

Maura Jane Farrelly, Brandeis University

This session will consider the role that religious belief has played in defining American understandings of freedom. It will consider the difference between religious “liberty” and religious “toleration,” and it will ask participants to consider the rights of religious minorities and majorities in a secular nation that is religiously pluralist, but not necessarily religiously diverse.

Of Justice and Mercy in Lincoln’s Second Inaugural Address

Professor Lucas Moral, Washington and Lee University

This seminar will explore how Lincoln sought to reunite an American people who had been engaged in a devastating civil war. Drawing from both the Old and New Testament, the newly re-elected president proposed that the war could be seen as a divine punishment for the sin of “American slavery.” By doing so, Americans North and South, loyal and rebellious, free and newly freed, could live as fellow citizens in a nation no longer plagued by slavery.

Why Difficult Conversations are Difficult and How to Make Them Better: Civic Skills for More Connected and Complex Classroom Conversations

John Sarrouf, Essential Partners

This interactive workshop will lead participants through a difficult conversation in their own life to explore the impact on their neurobiology, emotions, perceptions, and agency. They will also reflect on ways to disrupt escalating cycles of conflict and argument in order to build a more constructive cycle of conversation. Participants will delve deeper into two elements - deep listening and genuine inquiry - and practice skills that help shift from stuck conversations to more open, complex, and understanding ones.

Immigrant, Migrant, & Refugee Under One Roof: A Virtual Museum Tour

Annie Polland, Tenement Museum

The Tenement Museum elevates the stories of ordinary Americans in order to inspire connections, past and present. Through storytelling, the Museum explores the complex issues that bind us and provides the building blocks for a more inclusive and expansive American identity. Under One Roof carries the immigration story into the present with the experiences of newcomers who settled on the Lower East Side after World War II. Through 360 technology you will visit the homes of Bella Epstein, whose parents built a new life on the Lower East Side after the Holocaust, Jose and Andy Velez, whose mother left Puerto Rico for garment work, and the Wong siblings, whose mother found community in the garment industry.

The Dialogic Lesson Experience: Preparation, Dialogue, and Synthesis

John Sarrouf, Essential Partners

This interactive workshop will begin - before the workshop starts - by inviting participants to explore their own values, commitments, stories and experiences to better understand their own thinking about the specific civics lesson through the use of a reflection worksheet. Participants will then engage in a self-facilitated Reflective Structured Dialogue in small breakout groups, as students might do in class. The EP facilitator will then lead the group through a synthesis process to make meaningful connections between the breakout sessions and the texts from the morning lessons. Teachers will leave the workshop with materials easily adaptable for their own classrooms.

The Hill We Climb and the Civics We Teach: The Poet as Historian

Susan McWilliams Barndt, Pomona College

At the 2021 Presidential Inauguration, Amanda Gorman read a poem -- “The Hill We Climb” -- that she had written for the occasion. How does Gorman’s poem speak to the enduring questions of American politics? What political issues does it raise, and how does it do so? More broadly, what can this poem teach us about the place and possibilities of poetry in American civic education? Susan will continue this theme throughout the academic year using poetry by Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni, Walt Whitman, Claudia Rankine, James Baldwin, and more.

Navigating the Educating for American Democracy (EAD) Roadmap

Natacha Scott, iCivics

Educating for American Democracy (EAD) is an unprecedented effort that convened a diverse and cross-ideological group of historians, political scientists, educators and over 300 additional contributors to create a Roadmap to Educating for American Democracy—guidance for excellence in K-12 civic and history education. EAD explores what and how to teach civics and history, building students’ knowledge and capacities to sustain America’s constitutional democracy. Participants will take a closer look at the Roadmap to explore the design challenges, themes, and pedagogical core principles that schools and educators can use to transform teaching of history and civics to meet the needs of a diverse 21st century K–12 student body.

Core Project Design

Tiphonie Shoemaker and Matthew Brownstein, Civic Spirit

The Core Project is an opportunity for educators to thoughtfully and strategically implement civic learning in a measurable and authentic way. In this session, we will engage in a backwards design approach to identify your project’s desired civic competencies or students, define appropriate evaluation metrics, and begin to develop a learning action plan.

Summer Institute Faculty



Matthew Brownstein is the Director of the Student Delegates Program and Manager of Teacher Development with Civic Spirit. He began teaching career in East Palo Alto California after graduating from Wesleyan University with a degree in Government, History and Economics. In 2011, he moved to New York City to teach at an Expeditionary Learning School where he created inter-disciplinary and authentic learning experiences for students. During this time, he completed a School Building Leadership degree at Queens College and became Assistant Principal at a Middle School in East Harlem and an Elementary School in Corona, Queens.



Susan McWilliams Barndt is chair and professor of politics at Pomona College, where she has won the Wig Award for Excellence in Teaching three times. McWilliams is the editor (with Jeremy Bailey) of the peer-reviewed journal *American Political Thought*. She is the author of *The American Road Trip* and *American Political Thought* (Lexington, 2018) and *Traveling Back: Toward a Global Political Theory* (Oxford, 2014). McWilliams is also the editor of *A Political Companion to James Baldwin* (Kentucky, 2017) and a co-editor of several books, most recently *The Best Kind of College: An Insiders' Guide to America's Small Liberal Arts Colleges* (co-edited with John Seery, SUNY, 2015). Her writing has been published widely, including in *Boston Review*, *Bust*, *Front Porch Republic*, *The Nation*, *Perspectives on Political Science*, *Political Science Quarterly*, *The Review of Politics*, and *The Star-Ledger*. For her work, McWilliams has received awards including the Graves Award in the Humanities, a National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship, and the Quarry Farm Fellowship from the Elmira College Center for Mark Twain Studies.



Maura Jane Farrelly is associate professor and chair of American Studies at Brandeis University. She holds a Ph.D. in History from Emory University, with an emphasis on religion and the colonial and early-American periods. Farrelly is the author of *"Papist Patriots: The Making of an American Catholic Identity"* (Oxford University Press, 2012) and *"Anti-Catholicism in America, 1620-1860"* (Cambridge University Press, 2017). Her current research project is entitled *"Compliments of Hamilton and Sargent: A Story of Mystery and Tragedy and the Closing of the American Frontier."* It uses the lives of three people in Wyoming at the turn of the 20th century to explore a topic that touches the lives of many Americans today -- the right to be forgotten. Before joining the faculty at Brandeis, Farrelly worked as a full-time reporter, first for Georgia Public Radio in Atlanta and then for the Voice of America in Washington, D.C., and New York. Farrelly has also freelanced for National Public Radio, Public Radio International and the British Broadcasting Corporation. Her scholarly research and publications have focused on Catholicism and Methodism in the 18th and 19th centuries. Specific issues of interest have included the role of religion in the shaping of American identity, the relationship between religious asceticism and American understandings of freedom, and the origins and development of religious "relativism" in America.



Lucas Morel is the John K. Boardman, Jr. Professor of Politics and Head of the Politics Department at Washington and Lee University. He holds a Ph.D. in political science from Claremont Graduate University. Prof. Morel also teaches in the Master's Program in American History and Government at Ashland University in Ohio; high school teacher workshops sponsored by the Gilder-Lehrman Institute, the John M. Ashbrook Center, the Jack Miller Center, and the Liberty Fund; and summer programs for the Claremont Institute for the Study of Statesmanship and Political Philosophy. Prof. Morel is the author or editor of the following books: *Ralph Ellison and the Raft of Hope: A Political Companion to "Invisible Man"*, *The New Territory: Ralph Ellison and the Twenty-First Century*, *Lincoln and Liberty: Wisdom for the Ages*, and *Lincoln's Sacred Effort: Defining Religion's Role in American Self-Government*. In June 2020, he published *Lincoln and the American Founding* for the Concise Lincoln Library Series of Southern Illinois University Press. He is a trustee of the Supreme Court Historical Society, former president of the Abraham Lincoln Institute, a consultant on the Library of Congress exhibits on Lincoln and the Civil War, was a member of the scholarly board of advisors for the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission, and a member of the U.S. Semiquincentennial Commission, which will plan activities to commemorate the founding of the United States of America.



Annie Polland is a public historian, author and President of the Lower East Side Tenement Museum, where she served as Vice President for Programs & Education from 2009 to 2017. Prior to her return to the Tenement Museum she served as Executive Director of the American Jewish Historical Society. She is the co-author, with Daniel Soyer, of *Emerging Metropolis: New York Jews in the Age of Immigration*, winner of the 2012 National Jewish Book Award. She received her Ph.D. in History from Columbia University, and served as Vice President of Education at the Museum at Eldridge Street, where she wrote *Landmark of the Spirit* (Yale University). Polland has taught at New York University and serves as an educator for the Bronfman Fellowship. She grew up in Milwaukee, WI and lives in Brooklyn with her husband and daughter.



John Sarrouf is Co-Executive Director and Director of Program Development at Essential Partners. He was first exposed to EP's work while studying in the master's program in dispute resolution at the University of Massachusetts in Boston. Since then, John has facilitated dialogues on issues such as sustainability, gender, Israel-Palestine, religious pluralism, and technology and sexuality. John served as the Assistant Director of Difficult Dialogues at Clark University, where he taught dialogue to faculty and students and previously taught in the departments of Communication and Peace and Conflict Studies at Gordon College. John's private consulting work has focused on mediation and transforming conflict in small workgroups and non-profit boards. To all of his work, he brings a background of 15 years in the theater as an actor, director, and administrator.



Natacha Scott is the Director of Educator Engagement for iCivics. As the Director of Educator Engagement, Natacha focuses on growing the engagement of educators in-person and virtually through professional development sessions, curriculum, and other experiences. This work provides the opportunity to learn from and with educators in order to continue to evolve iCivics products. Prior to joining iCivics, Natacha was an educator at Boston Public Schools for 14 years serving a variety of roles from elementary classroom teacher to the district K-12 Director for History and Social Studies. For EAD, Natacha has been involved as an expert in elementary education, support in the curation of educator resources, and facilitator of professional development sessions.



Tiphonie Shoemaker serves as Civic Spirit's Director of Education, strategizing, designing and overseeing best practices for teacher development, school programming and student learning. Previously, she worked at Luria Academy of Brooklyn as the Director of Teaching and Learning, grades 4-8. Tiphonie has also taught Humanities for grades 4-8, carefully weaving civics and American history across ELA standards. She earned a BS from Suny New Paltz and an MS from CW Post. She has completed training in Montessori Teaching, School Leadership and Teacher Mentoring. Recently, Tiphonie was a guest speaker at the Girl Scouts of America, Be an Active Citizen, launch event. She lives in Brooklyn with her husband, son and dog.