

## Civic Spirit Summer Institute 2021:

### E Pluribus Unum: Exploring Unity and Difference in America

#### About the Theme -- E Pluribus Unum: Exploring Unity and Difference in America

The United States adopted the phrase “E Pluribus Unum” as its official motto in 1782. A Latin phrase meaning “Out of Many, One,” the motto captured the founders’ determination to establish a single nation from a group of states and individuals from numerous origins. Over time, “E Pluribus Unum” has reflected America’s ongoing project of forging a unified nation of diverse individuals and communities. The challenge of honoring differences while seeking unity has played a complicated, yet central role in shaping American history, literature, arts, and character. In a time of increased polarization, this motto challenges us to consider the aspirations and tensions that this concept has reflected, and the values, virtues, and skills we need to imagine and realize its potential. Throughout the year, we will explore “E Pluribus Unum” through multiple lenses—such as race, religion, and immigration--and reflect on how this idea can inform the ways we bring civic learning into our schools.

**[Please Note: All Meetings are Virtual and Times are in Eastern Standard Time]**

#### DAY 1: Monday, August 2<sup>nd</sup> - *Out of Many Faiths*

10:00am - 10:30am: Welcome & Introductions

Lindsay Bressman and Yael Steiner, Civic Spirit

10:00am - 11:00am: Cohort Opening Circle

11:00am - 12:30pm: Exploring & Personalizing the Civic Spirit Shared Aims

Tiphanie Shoemaker and Matthew Brownstein, Civic Spirit

12:30pm - 1:00pm: Lunch Break

1:00pm - 3:30pm: Faith and Freedom

[Professor Maura Jane Farrelly](#), Brandeis University

2:30pm - 3:00pm: Closing Reflection / Prep for Day #2

#### DAY 2: Tuesday, August 3<sup>rd</sup> - *Out of Many States*

10:00am - 11:00am Cohort Opening Circle

10:30am - 12:00pm: Of Justice and Mercy in Lincoln’s Second Inaugural Address

[Professor Lucas Morel](#), Washington and Lee University

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  
John Sarrouf, [Essential Partners](#)

### **DAY 3: Wednesday, August 4<sup>th</sup> - *Out of Many Origins***

10:00am - 11:00am: Cohort Opening Circle

10:30am - 12:00pm: Immigrant, Migrant, & Refugee Under One Roof + Virtual Museum Tour  
[Annie Polland](#), Tenement Museum

12:00pm - 12:30pm: Lunch Break

12:30pm EST - 2:30pm: The Dialogic Lesson Experience: Preparation, Dialogue, and Synthesis  
John Sarrouf, Essential Partners

2:30pm - 3:00pm: Closing Reflection / Prep for Day #4

7:00-8:00pm: Optional Office Hours with John Sarrouf of Essential Partners

### **DAY 4: Thursday, August 5<sup>th</sup> - *Where do we go from here?***

10:30am - 12:00pm: Poet as Historian: Amanda Gorman's The Hill We Climb & Civics We Teach  
[Professor Susan McWilliams Barndt](#), Pomona College

12:30pm EST - 1:30pm: Navigating the Educating for American Democracy (EAD) Roadmap  
[Natacha Scott](#), iCivics

1:30pm - 2:30pm: Core Civics Project Design  
Tiphonie Shoemaker and Matthew Brownstein, Civic Spirit

2:30pm - 3:00pm EST: Closing Reflection / Prep for Day #3

7:00pm - 8:00pm EST: Optional Office Hours with Lucas Morel

## 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 neurobiology, emotions, perceptions, and agency. They will also reflect on ways to disrupt escalating cycles of conflict and argument to build a 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 + Virtual Museum Tour**

Annie Polland, *Tenement Museum*

Description to come.

## **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 wrote for the occasion. How does Gorman's poem speak to the enduring questions of American politics? What political issues does it raise? What can she teach us about the possibility 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 effort that convened a diverse and cross-ideological group of historians, political scientists, educators and 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 design challenges, themes, and pedagogical principles to transform K-12 civic learning.

## **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.