

Profiles of Successful

Engagement Investments

Autumn Review 2004 Volume One

Profiles of Successful Engagement Investments

Autumn 2004

There are many ways in which people participate in civic, community and political life and, by doing so, express their engaged citizenship. From volunteering to voting, from community organizing to political advocacy, the defining characteristic of active civic engagement is the commitment to participate and contribute to the improvement of one's community, neighborhood and nation.

PACE – Philanthropy for Active Civic Engagement collects and shares examples of philanthropic investments that have successfully advanced civic and community engagement. In early summer, **PACE** invited 1,000 grantmakers and donors to nominate a program or project that they are currently supporting or have supported in the past. We received a great response and are excited to share with you the first twenty-seven programs nominated for the Autumn 2004 Review.

For a complete alphabetical listing of the twenty-seven programs in this review, see the Table of Contents Page. If you are reading this Review on-line, you can click on the Bookmark tab at the left of the screen to see the full list; click on the name of any program to go directly to that profile.

PACE is continuing to collect and expand our list of successful engagement investments. The lists will be available to view on our website, and we will highlight a few in our future newsletters and publications. We invite all funders and donors to nominate your successful engagement investments. Use the nomination form on the last page of this review, and send it to us by mail or fax or email. You can also submit an email nomination from the **PACE** website www.pacefunders.org.

PACE is an association of grantmakers and donors who are committed to improving the effectiveness and impact of our investments in civic and community engagement. Our mission is to inspire interest, understanding, and investment in civic engagement. We are interested in the full range of engagement strategies – community and youth organizing, civic education, voter education and mobilization, service-learning, national service, military service, public service, and volunteering. We believe philanthropy can substantially improve the impact of civic engagement strategies. Our goal in finding and promoting the relationships between and among different engagement strategies. Our goal in finding and supporting the connections between engagement strategies is to leverage the value of each to maximize the collective impact of all.

If you have questions about any specific grants or projects, please contact the listed programs and nominators. If you want to know more about *PACE*, nominate a program, or become more active in our community of grantmakers, please contact me. We welcome your comments.

Jill Blair Executive Director Philanthropy for Active Civic Engagement jblair@informingchange.org Telephone 510-665-6130 ext 308

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 1. Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now (ACORN)
- 2. Campus Compact
- 3. Center for Community Change
- 4. City Cares: Citizen Academy
- 5. Chautauqua Region Community Foundation: Community Conscious Youth Kids First Mini Grants
- 6. University of Maryland School of Law: Community Law In Action
- 7. The Community Foundation for the National Capital Region: DC Youth Philanthropy Initiative
- 8. DC Vote
- 9. America Speaks: Deliberative Democracy Consortium
- 10. Northern Chautauqua Community Foundation: Dunkirk Latino Television Voice (DLTV)
- 11. California Voter Foundation: Election Verification Project (a collaborative project)
- 12. National Voice: General Support for Democratic Participation/Get Out The Vote
- 13. Decatur Community Partnership: Integrated Model of Communication for Social Change
- 14. KaBOOM!
- 15. United Way of Wyandotte County: Kansas City, Kansas Study Circles
- 16. Council of Michigan Foundations: Learning to Give
- 17. The Tides Foundation: Los Angeles Immigrant Funders Collaborative
- 18. National Coalition for Dialogue and Deliberation
- 19. George Washington University: New Voters Project
- 20. Progressive Maryland
- 21. Providence College: Project 540
- 22. Project Vote
- 23. Scranton Tomorrow
- 24. University of California Los Angeles, Center for the Study of Urban Poverty: Social Change Across Borders
- 25. Arkansas School Board's Association: Statewide Study Circles Program
- 26. Sioux Falls Area Community Foundation: Straight Forward- "Don't Tell My Parents"
- 27. Students for the Advancement of Global Entrepreneurship: Wise Kid, Healthy Kid Youth Entrepreneurship Camp

Nominee	Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now (ACORN)	
Nominee Contact	Steve Kest New York, NY 718/246-7900 <u>skest@acorn.org</u> <u>www.acorn.org</u>	
DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAM/SERVICES		
ACORN is a nationwide democratically-run membership organization for low and moderate- income families. The organization trains and educates its members to become community leaders who advocate and engage others in the community on issues such as affordable housing, better public schools, and economic development. "Civic engagement is the core of what they do," says one of their funders.		
NOMINATED BY		
Christine Doby of the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation		

Nominee	Campus Compact	
Nominee Contact	Liz Hollander, Executive Director <u>ehollander@compact.org</u> Nick Longo, National Student Coordinator <u>nlongo@compact.org</u> Brown University, Providence, RI 401/867-3950	
DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAM/SERVICES		
Description of Program/SERVICES Campus Compact is a national coalition of more than 900 college and university presidents, committed to connecting, challenging, and supporting college and university students in their community work, activism, leadership, and civic growth. The organization's Raise Your Voice initiative is increasing, celebrating, and deepening student civic engagement efforts on college campuses. Campus Compact has been a leader in creating supportive academic environments for community service, helping to pass and establish service-oriented federal programs and legislation; forming partnerships with business, community and government leaders; and providing funding and awards for outstanding service work.		
NOMINATED BY		
Tobi Walker of the Pew Charitable Trusts		

Nominee	Center for Community Change	
Nominee Contact	Deepak Bhargava Washington, DC 202/342-0529 www.communitychange.org	
DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAM/SERVICES		
The Center for Community Change helps people to develop the skills and resources they need to improve their communities and change policies and institutions that adversely affect them. They work with local and national organizations to build a community's capacity for self-help, develop strong leaders, provide critical services, build homes, develop businesses, give residents a say in their community's future and give low income people a sense of hope.		
NOMINATED BY		

Lee Winkelman of the Unitarian Universalist Veatch Program at Shelter Rock

Nominee	City Cares: Citizen Academy
Nominee Contact	Michelle Nunn Atlanta, GA 404/979-2840 <u>mnunn@citycares.org</u> <u>www.handsonatlanta.org</u>
	DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAM/SERVICES
City Cares affiliates in nine cities have included Citizen Academies as part of their program offerings. Citizen Academy provides a forum for concerned citizens to gather and have moderated discussions about critical community issues. In these discussions, citizens brainstorm possible grassroots solutions, bring their skills to the table, create action plans, and learn from one another. The program also includes one-time and multi-week courses on community issues, taught by volunteer faculty, as a way to provide community volunteers with a bridge from volunteer service to broader civic involvement.	
NOMINATED BY	
Omidyar Network	

Nominee	Chautauqua Region Community Foundation: Community Conscious Youth - Kids First Mini Grants
Nominee Contact	June Diethrick Jamestown, NY 716/661-3390 jdiethrick@crcfonline.org www.crcfonline.org
	DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAM/SERVICES
This program offers grant money for youth-initiated projects that benefit the community. The program encourages youth to contribute their unique ideas for programs and projects and then see them actualized. The mini-grants fund one time events, recreation, cultural/arts leadership development, community involvement and community events.	
NOMINATED BY	

Tom Faber of the Gebbie Foundation

Nominee	University of Maryland School of Law: Community Law In Action
Nominee Contact	Terry Hickey Baltimore, MD 410/706-3875 <u>thickey@law.umaryland.edu</u> <u>www.law.umaryland.edu/clia</u>
DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAM/SERVICES	

The program, called a community advocacy "clinic," brings high school students to meet and work on community legal projects with law students and faculty members. The project enhances the learning of basic law-related education as well as critical thinking and problem solving skills. Out of this program have evolved two high school-focused programs to promote student leadership and activism in the community: a youth congress that works closely with the city council and a new "innovation" high school with a student activism theme.

NOMINATED BY

Diana Morris of the Open Society Network- Baltimore

Nominee	The Community Foundation for the National Capital Region: DC Youth Philanthropy Initiative	
Nominee Contact	Silvana Straw Washington, DC 202/955-5890 <u>sstraw@cfncr.org</u> <u>www.cfncr.org</u>	
DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAM/SERVICES		
The DC Youth Philanthropy initiative believes that youth voice and participation deserve true integration into community and civic life. Their goals are to increase opportunities for youth civic engagement, increase investments in youth development, raise awareness of youth needs, and raise awareness that youth are real partners and sources of knowledge and strength in a community.		
NOMINATED BY		
Pam Stevens of the Time Warner Office of Corporate Responsibility		

Nominee	DC Vote
NOMINEE CONTACT	llir Zherka Washington, DC 202/462-6000 <u>izherka@dcvote.org</u> <u>www.dcvote.org</u>
	DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAM/SERVICES
DC Vote is an educational and advocacy organization dedicated to securing full voting representation in Congress for the representatives of the District of Columbia. Their strategies include informing Congress and the American public about this issue, working with elected officials and coalition partners to develop solutions, and promoting change based on the principal that "a government is democratic only when people have the ability, through freely elected leaders, to shape the laws under which they live."	
NOMINATED BY	
Hope Gleicher of the Trellis Fund	

Nominee	America Speaks: Deliberative Democracy Consortium
Nominee Contact	Tonya Gonzalez tgonzalez@deliberative-democracy.net www.deliberative-democracy.net
	DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAM/SERVICES
The Deliberative Democracy Consortium is composed of more than 20 organizations working to renew democracy through citizen participation and deliberation. The group aims to demonstrate national public deliberations on critical policy issues using multiple methods to support participation, including integrating online and face-to-face approaches. The consortium is also working to develop a national infrastructure for democratic deliberation that is connected to local capacity; to integrate research and practice in the field; and to reduce barriers to inclusion.	
NOMINATED BY	
Terry Amsler of the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation	

Nominee	Northern Chautauqua Community Foundation: Dunkirk Latino Television Voice (DLTV)	
NOMINEE CONTACT	Diane Hannum Dunkirk, NY 716/366-4892 <u>dhannum@nccfoundation.org</u> <u>www.nccfoundation.org</u>	
DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAM/SERVICES		
Dunkirk Latino Television Voice (DLTV) is a partnership among the Northern Chautauqua Community Foundation, the State University of New York at Fredonia, and the Dunkirk High School. Bi-lingual high school students are learning media production skills at the local university, including camera work, interviewing and writing skills, and news presentation. The project is providing needed bi-lingual news and informational programming to the local Latino community as well as a venue for local youth to speak out about race and race relations and explore careers in media.		
NOMINATED BY		
Tom Faber of the Gebbie Foundation		

Nominee	California Voter Foundation: Election Verification Project (a collaborative project)
Nominee Contact	Kim Alexander Davis, CA 530/750-7650 <u>kimalex@calvoter.org</u> <u>www.calvoter.org</u>
	DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAM/SERVICES
DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAM/SERVICES The Election Verification Project is a nationwide coalition of technology, legal, voting rights and reform organizations working together to advance verification of computerized voting and vote- counting systems. Project partners work together on reforms to reduce electronic voting risks and to enable the public to audit the accuracy of election results. An example of the project's work is their call for a voter-verified paper record of every digital ballot cast. Coalition members include the Verified Voting Foundation, Computer Professionals for Social Responsibility, the Electronic Frontier Foundation, Common Cause, the California Voter Foundation, the Electronic Privacy Information Center, Miami-Dade Election Reform Coalition and the Maryland Campaign for Verifiable Voting.	
NOMINATED BY	
Lenore Hanisch of the Quixote Foundation	

Nominee	National Voice: General Support for Democratic Participation/Get Out The Vote
Nominee Contact	Mark Ritchie Minneapolis, MN 612/879-7500 <u>mark@nationalvoice.org</u> <u>www.nationalvoice.org</u>
DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAM/SERVICES	

National Voice helps non-partisan non-profit and community groups promote voting and other forms of civic participation. The organization is tracking what these non-partisan non-profits are doing to increase public participation in the democratic process, and has made the information publicly available on its website. In just a year, National Voice has stimulated over 2000 non-profit groups to make the connection between their issues, their constituencies, and voting. Using a wide variety of expertise, media, project modeling and technologies, National Voice has helped nonprofit groups communicate in neighborhoods as well as with the media. The organization is also helping non-profit groups discuss and understand the challenges and opportunities of non-partisan electoral activity.

NOMINATED BY

Martin Teitel of the Cedar Tree Foundation

Nominee	Decatur Community Partnership: Integrated Model of Communication for Social Change
Nominee Contact	Cheryl Brown 217/872-1204 <u>cip96@midwest.net</u>
	DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAM/SERVICES
DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAM/SERVICES The Decatur Community Partnership is a group of organizations and civic leaders in Decatur, III, working since 1991 to coordinate the delivery of health and human services citywide. Since 2000, the Partnership has led efforts in civic dialogue and community-based problem-solving using a "communications for social change" model. With this model, the Partnership has helped Decatur residents articulate a community agenda, identify necessary changes, and achieve positive changes in attitudes, behaviors, and opportunities. Under the Partnership's leadership, Decatur started a Youth Engagement Strategy group to provide young people with a forum to discuss racism, gain leadership skills, engage in dialogue with business leaders and public officials, and take collective action. The Partnership has convened and facilitated public dialogues air quality and pediatric asthma, county wide access to information and referral services, and the county's high incidence of cardiovascular disease. In each case, a community-supported action step resulted from the public dialogues. A summary of the change model and Decatur's experience was reported in <i>Talking Cure: A Case Study in Communication for Social Change</i> , available for download from the Rockefeller Foundation's website www.rockfound.org or by writing to Rockefeller Foundation, Job # 5134	
NOMINATED BY	

Brian Byrd of the Rockefeller Foundation

NOMINEE CONTACT Darell Hammond Washington, DC 202/659-0215 darell@kaboom.org www.kaboom.org Description of Program/Services KaBoom! helps communities develop healthy play areas for their children by leading community- build playground projects; gathering resources from civic and business leaders, the community, and funding partners; providing events and tools to educate people on the benefits of community- build playground projects; and advocating for children's rights.	Nominee	KaBOOM!
KaBoom! helps communities develop healthy play areas for their children by leading community- build playground projects; gathering resources from civic and business leaders, the community, and funding partners; providing events and tools to educate people on the benefits of community-	NOMINEE CONTACT	Washington, DC 202/659-0215 <u>darell@kaboom.org</u>
build playground projects; gathering resources from civic and business leaders, the community, and funding partners; providing events and tools to educate people on the benefits of community-	DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAM/SERVICES	
	build playground projects; gathering resources from civic and business leaders, the community, and funding partners; providing events and tools to educate people on the benefits of community-	
NOMINATED BY		

Omidyar Network

Nominee	United Way of Wyandotte County: Kansas City, Kansas Study Circles
Nominee Contact	Diane Hentges Kansas City, KS 913/371-3674 <u>dhentges@unitedway-wyco.org</u> <u>www.unitedway-wyco.org</u>
	DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAM/SERVICES
Kansas City's school superintendent started the Study Circles to address the growing disconnect between parents, communities and schools. Involving more than 1,300 residents in study circles, this program has helped create a new tenants' association, a youth sports camp, tutoring and after school programs, and a support group for Spanish-speaking Moms in the community.	
NOMINATED BY	
Amy Malick of the Paul J. Aicher Foundation (formerly Topsfield Foundation, Inc.)	

Nominee	Council of Michigan Foundations: Learning to Give
Nominee Contact	Kathy Agard Muskegon, MI 231/767-3100 <u>kagard@remc4.K12.mi.us</u> <u>www.cmif.org</u> <u>www.learningtogive.org</u>
	DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAM/SERVICES
Guided by the Council of Michigan Foundations and a Steering Committee of 13 leaders in education, volunteerism and nonprofit leadership, Learning to Give develops curriculum, lessons, and materials to educate Michigan's elementary, middle, and high school students about philanthropy and to teach the importance of volunteerism. The materials and lesson plans are used in Michigan and other states.	

NOMINATED BY

Kyle Caldwell of the Michigan Community Service Commission

Nominee	The Tides Foundation: Los Angeles Immigrant Funders Collaborative
NOMINEE CONTACT	Daranee Petsod dpetsod@mindspring.com
	DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAM/SERVICES
This group of eight local and national funders makes grants to non-profits working with immigrants and refugees in the areas of health, civic participation, education, and immigrant rights. The collaborative's goal is to strengthen the nonprofits' capacity and long term viability so they can best serve the needs of the diverse immigrant and refugee communities of Los Angeles.	
NOMINATED BY	
Christina M. Regalado of the California Welness Foudation	

Nominee	National Coalition for Dialogue and Deliberation	
Nominee Contact	Sandy Heierbacher Brattleboro, VT 802/254-7341 <u>sandy@thataway.org</u> <u>www.thataway.org</u>	
DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAM/SERVICES		
This organization is often viewed as the primary organization working to unite the dialogue and deliberation community. Their efforts include reaching out to an increasing number of dialogue and deliberation practitioners and scholars, the development of fundable projects, and an annual conference.		
NOMINATED BY		
Terry Amsler of the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation		

Nominee	George Washington University: New Voters Project	
Nominee Contact	Ivan Frishberg Denver, CO 202/546-9707 x313 <u>ivan@pirg.org</u> <u>www.newvotersproject.org</u>	
DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAM/SERVICES		
A very large grassroots youth voter mobilization campaign, the New Voters Project conducts non- partisan voter registration, list building, and grassroots strategies in six states. Strategies include maintaining a strong presence on college campuses, reaching out to non-students, providing online voter registration, and creating partnerships with businesses, community groups and schools.		
NOMINATED BY		

Tobi Walker of the Pew Charitable Trusts

Nominee	Progressive Maryland	
Nominee Contact	Tom Hucker Silver Spring, MD 301/495-7004 tom@progressivemaryland.org www.progressivemaryland.org	
DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAM/SERVICES		
Progressive Maryland is a grassroots organization comprised of thousands of working families. They support issues of living wages, health care, election reform, tax fairness, public transportation, and voter registration through aggressive community organizing. Their goal is a more mobilized, informed, and engaged public.		
NOMINATED BY		
Diana Morris of the Open Society Network- Baltimore		

Nominee	Providence College: Project 540	
Nominee Contact	Rick Battistoni Providence, RI 401/865-2787 <u>rickbatt@providence.edu</u> <u>www.project540.org</u>	
DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAM/SERVICES		
This organization was created to give high school students a greater voice in their schools and communities. Students are asked to identify their key concerns (racial tensions, teacher-student relations, school policy, etc) and then create a Civic Action Plan of specific action steps to address these concerns.		
NOMINATED BY		
Tobi Walker of the Pew Charitable Trusts		

Nominee	Project Vote	
NOMINEE CONTACT	Zach Polett Columbus, OH 800/546-8683 www.projectvote.org	
DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAM/SERVICES		
Through non-partisan work, Project Vote has registered over 3 million low-income and minority voters nationwide, won a dozen law suits to protect their right to vote, trained organizers, and provided registrants with follow-up voter education.		
NOMINATED BY		
Lee Winkelman of the Unitarian Universalist Veatch Program at Shelter Rock		

Nominee	Scranton Tomorrow
Nominee Contact	Paul Colaiezzi Scranton, PA 570/963-5901 info@scrantontomorrow.org www.scrantontomorrow.org
	DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAM/SERVICES
Scranton Tomorrw aims to create a sustainable vision and strong foundation for the community of Scranton, Pennsylvania. The organization is working to establish the city as "economically vibrant, modern, and active". They encourage and support the different sectors of the community (businesses, institutions, residents, government, schools) to work together towards this goal by sharing ideas, creating action plans on community issues, and making maximum use of opportunities for growth.	
	NOMINATED BY
Jean Bovard of the Scranton Area Foundation	

Nominee	University of California Los Angeles, Center for the Study of Urban Poverty: Social Change Across Borders	
Nominee Contact	Saul Sarabia Los Angeles, CA 310/825-9156 <u>ssarabia@issr.ucla.edu</u>	
DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAM/SERVICES		

This project aims to promote civic participation amongst "disenfranchised" populations, with a focus on indigenous residents, immigrant households and women. The project convenes gatherings within these communities and facilitates dialogues that allow participants to identify effective techniques for civic engagement and share success stories and challenges. To support participants in these dialogues and build their leadership skills, the project connects them with more established activists and organizations.

NOMINATED BY

Christina M. Regelado of the California Wellness Foundation

Nominee	Arkansas School Board's Association: Statewide Study Circles Program	
Nominee Contact	Heather Gage Little Rock, AR 510/372-1415 hgage@arsba.org www.arsba.org	
DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAM/SERVICES		
This program focuses on engaging the people of Arkansas in issues of equity and funding in Arkansas schools. In 2002, the Arkansas School Board Association organized a statewide "town meeting" that drew 6,000 participants in 91 locations and resulted in the organization of several new study circle programs.		
NOMINATED BY		
Amy Malick of the Paul J. Aicher Foundation (formerly Topsfield Foundation, Inc.)		

Nominee	Sioux Falls Area Community Foundation: Straight Forward- "Don't Tell My Parents"	
Nominee Contact	John Beranek Sioux Falls, SD 605-361-8757 johnspeak@sio.midco.net	
DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAM/SERVICES		
Straight Forward is a teenage advocacy group funded by the Youth Safety Initiative of the Sioux Falls Area Community Foundation. The youth-organized campaign aims to increase awareness and encourage healthy communication between teens and parents about the tough topic of underage and unprotected sex. The youth have created a comprehensive website with a local directory of teen crisis services, a page of helpful links, and information about how parents can approach their teens to talk about sex.		

NOMINATED BY

Marsha Englert of the Sioux Falls Area Community Foundation

Nominee	Students for the Advancement of Global Entrepreneurship: Wise Kid, Healthy Kid Youth Entrepreneurship Camp		
Nominee Contact	Dr. Curt DeBerg Chico, CA 530/898-4824 <u>cdeberg@csuchico.org</u> <u>www.wisekid.org</u>		
DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAM/SERVICES			
Students from the Business College at California State University, Chico operate a Youth Entrepreneurship Camp twice a year to teach basic business concepts to children in grades 5-8 and help them actually start their own micro-enterprises. This is a service-learning project for the university students, who serve as mentors and provide one-on-one consultation to the young entrepreneurs throughout the camp. The children who participate are identified through Title I programs at local public schools. Local businesses donate healthy lunches and contribute to a "tool kit" for each student, which includes a brief case and supplies. The camp takes place for five consecutive Saturdays each fall and spring on the university campus, linking the university community with local neighborhoods, schools, and businesses.			
NOMINATED BY			
Patricia Call of the North Valley Community Foundation			

Profiles of Successful Engagement Investments

Program Nomination Form

PACE invites grantmakers and donors to nominate programs that have successfully advanced civic & community engagement for the **PACE** *Profiles of Successful Engagement Investments* project. To nominate a program, complete this form and return it by fax, mail or Email to the address listed at the bottom of this page.

Organization:	
Specific Program/Project/Grant:	
Address:	
Phone:	
	Email, if available:

Please provide a brief description of the program/project/grant (3-5 sentences), including why you think this is a successful civic engagement investment:

Organization:	
Specific Program/Project/Grant:	
Address:	
Phone:	
Contact person:	Email, if available:

Please provide a brief description of the program/project/grant (3-5 sentences), including why you think this is a successful civic engagement investment:

NOMINATED BY

Your name: ______ Your phone or email ______ Foundation name: ______

PACE will print and distribute a list of the nominated programs, including your name and organization as the nominator. If you have any questions about this, please contact Normie Pineda at the Email, fax, or phone below. To refer additional program examples, copy this form or add additional pages.

THANK YOU!

Return this form to *PACE*:

Fax to 510-665-6129, or Email information to <u>info@pacefunders.org</u> or Mail to **PACE**, 2550 Ninth Street, Suite 113, Berkeley, CA 94710. You can also complete this form on-line at our Web site <u>www.pacefunders.org</u>.