

Inclusive Community Engagement Online

An initiative led by E-Democracy launched in 2012 with funding from the Knight Foundation

Contact - Steven Clift, Executive Director - team@e-democracy.org - +1-612-234-7072

E-Democracy's Inclusive Community Engagement Online initiative covers three themes:

- **St. Paul Neighbors Forums** - Inclusion, expansion, and engagement
- **Lesson Sharing** - Convening, research, and promoting online engagement
- **Innovation and Technology** - Next generation experiments

A three year grant for \$625,000 from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation supports this major initiative. Additional funding will extend the number of communities served.

Full details: <http://e-democracy.org/inclusion>

1. St. Paul Neighbors Forums

- Reach 10,000 participants across our Neighbors Forums network of 15+ online forums in St. Paul. That will be 10% of households engaged most days on a sustained, long-term basis.
- Inclusively engage diverse communities with special efforts focused on lower income areas, communities of color, and St. Paul's many immigrant communities.
- Develop sponsorship and other revenue-generating experiments across our full network.
- Launch our "campaign" to promote online neighbor connecting: <http://beneighbors.org>

2. Lesson Sharing and Convening

- Provide enhanced training to our many volunteers, outreach team, and others
- Share our special "inclusion" lessons for wide spread adaptation by the online engagement field and build continuous use of metrics and research into our efforts.
- Convene everyone interested online neighbor connecting and inclusive engagement via our 300+ member Locals Online community of practice - <http://e-democracy.org/locals>
- Provide special training and webinars for those interested in applying or exchanging lessons from interest Knight communities (26 possible) as well other communities where funded.
- Request more information at: <http://e-democracy.org/inclusionform>

3. Innovation and Technology

- Foster "next generation" technology experiments in collaboration with technology-oriented civic initiatives to promote people-centric technology and new models for inclusive community engagement online. Leverage: <http://e-democracy.org/locallabs>
- Enhance the open source GroupServer.org online communities tool we use.
- Explore "electronic block clubs" pilots along Central Corridor in St. Paul combining open source technology with intensive outreach and hybrid face-to-face/online models.