Inclusive Community Engagement Online

An initiative led by E-Democracy launched in 2012 with funding from the Knight Foundation
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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](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](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](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](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/localabs](http://e-democracy.org/localabs)
   - 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.