



# CIVIC SATURDAY FELLOWSHIP

**2020 APPLICATION PACKET**

# WHO WE ARE

Citizen University exists to spread the belief that a strong democracy relies on strong citizens – that we all have the power to make change happen in civic life and the responsibility to try.

Our mission is to build a culture of powerful, responsible citizenship across the country. We envision a great civic revival across our nation – our dream is a country in which Americans are steeped in a sense of civic character, educated in the tools of civic power, and are problem solving contributors in a self-governing community.

# THE FELLOWSHIP

*The Civic Saturday Fellowship prepares motivated, local leaders to start their own Civic Saturday gatherings in their home communities. This program was launched in 2018 and has trained over 50 civic catalysts with the Citizen University team in Seattle.*

## CIVIC SEMINARY

## TRAINING

The Civic Saturday Fellowship begins with the 'Civic Seminary,' a three-day training with Citizen University staff. Fellows will explore the ideals, morals, and values of American civic life and have discussions around what it means to be a responsible citizen – preparing them to engage in these conversations with their home communities. Additionally, fellows will learn how to write a 'civic sermon,' create a short version for their future civic sermon, and begin the planning process for their future Civic Saturday gatherings.

## FELLOWSHIP

## COHORT

Fellows will attend the Civic Seminary with a diverse group of civic catalysts from all around the country. We put together cohorts that intentionally include geographic, ideological, and urban/rural diversity. After completing the fellowship, fellows will join a robust, national community of Civic Seminary alumni who serve as a support and peer-learning group for developing strong Civic Saturday practices around the country.

## CIVIC SATURDAY

## GATHERING

After attending the Civic Seminary, fellows will begin planning their Civic Saturday gatherings. Fellows will each organize and lead three Civic Saturdays, creating a place for people to reflect on and rededicate themselves to the practice of being an active citizen in their communities.

### WHAT YOU'LL DO

**DISCOVER** how to lead your community toward a renewed sense of shared civic purpose and civic character

**EXPLORE** the foundations of your beliefs and those of others

**LEARN** about and dive into the concept of American civic religion (the study and practice of the creed, deeds, and rituals that bind us together as Americans)

**CRAFT** and **DELIVER** civic sermons

**LEAD** at least three Civic Saturdays in your community.

photo credit: Alan Alabastro

# THE FELLOWSHIP

## THE FELLOWSHIP TIMELINE

Over nine months, fellows will attend the Civic Seminary and commit to leading three Civic Saturdays.

MONTH BY MONTH	
1	Civic Seminary with your cohort
2	Plan and prepare for your upcoming Civic Saturdays
3-4	Convene Civic Saturday #1
5-6	Convene Civic Saturday #2
7-8	Convene Civic Saturday #3
9	Reflection, evaluation, and next steps

## 2020 TRAINING DATES

Fellows will attend **one** Civic Seminary training.

**September** 15-18, 2020 or **October** 20-23, 2020

These Civic Seminary sessions are slated to occur virtually.

*There will be additional Civic Seminars in Spring 2021; applications will be open for these sessions later in 2020.*

## WHAT IS CIVIC SATURDAY ANYWAY?

*In 2016, Citizen University convened the first Civic Saturday, and it has since grown into a civic ritual held in cities and towns all around America.*

*At Civic Saturday we hear poetry and readings of American civic texts, sing together and have conversations, and listen to a 'civic sermon.'*

*Originally modeled as a civic analogue to a faith gathering, Civic Saturday is not a replacement of any faith tradition, rather, it provides a place to rededicate ourselves to the practice of being active citizens and to do so in community with others.*

# APPLYING

## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

*Fellows should believe that a strong democracy depends on strong citizens, that a culture of civic responsibility is a foundational part of strong civic life, and feel called to bring their community together to develop shared civic rituals to strengthen collective civic muscles.*

## WHAT CU WILL PROVIDE

**A three-day training** that covers the framework of building a Civic Saturday community, and explores the moral and conceptual building blocks to support that gathering.

**A Civic Saturday toolkit**, monthly cohort and broader alumni community calls, one-on-one **support**, and ongoing learning opportunities throughout the fellowship experience.

## YOUR FELLOWSHIP COMMITMENT

**Attend** the three-day Civic Seminary

**Organize and lead** three Civic Saturday gatherings

**Check-in** with fellowship Program Manager every-other-month

**Explore** sustaining Civic Saturday in your community after the fellowship



# FELLOWSHIP APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

Carefully **read the following details and the questions** below.

The questions are a preview of the Civic Saturday Fellowship application, the actual application will be submitted through an online submission form.

Use the questions below to **prepare your answers in advance** of submitting your application for the fellowship. Once your application has been submitted, you will not be able to modify supporting documents, so please proofread your materials thoroughly before submission.

Please also **include one letter of recommendation and your resume** in your application. There will be a submission box for you to upload these documents.

**PRIORITY DEADLINE** JUNE 19, 2020

**REGULAR DEADLINE** JUNE 26, 2020

**APPLY NOW!**

## Application Questions for Your Review

1. Why are you interested in being a Civic Saturday fellow? (250 words max.)
2. Civic Saturdays inspire people to come together as a community of powerful, responsible citizens. Tell us what being a "powerful, responsible citizen" means to you.
3. Civic Saturday is about creating a gathering that brings a sense of shared civic purpose into the civic life of a community and inspires active citizenship. This requires a strong notion of "community." Please answer the following based on YOUR community. Please keep your responses to under 250 words each.
  - 3.1 How do you define community?
  - 3.2 In your community, what civic issues need mending?
4. Describe your experience with creating successful community gatherings.
5. Part of creating a successful Civic Saturday is partnering with others. Who do you see as potential partners for your gatherings, whether that is your employer, an organization you work with, a community you are a part of, or others? We won't hold you to this if you decide to organize things differently, but this will help give us a sense of your current status. (100 words max.)
6. Civic Saturday, like a faith gathering, often revolves around discussing a text and how it highlights the moral choices and dilemmas we face today. Please share 2 texts from American civic life (broadly defined) that you think are particularly relevant to our time and to your community and tell us why you think they are meaningful. Submit both the text excerpts and explanation. Each quote should be no more than 250 words respectively, and does not have to be the full text.

***Please include a letter of recommendation and your resume with your application.***