

## UTAH CITIZEN SUMMIT EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### *Purposes*

The purpose of the Utah Citizens Summit is to come together civilly, compassionately, collaboratively and inclusively in Utah, and to celebrate what we have already accomplished in this regard; to model how to bridge political and other divides through civil dialogue and creative problem solving; and to lay the groundwork for progress on identified issues and possible solutions. And perhaps most importantly, the Utah Citizens Summit aims to revitalize the American Spirit and give America a fresh start, connecting with communities and groups across the nation who wish to illuminate and interconnect each other's efforts and be in a learning and action community together in support of Americans Coming Together.

### *Team*

The Utah Citizen Summit, to be convened on November 12, 2016 (with related pre-summit and post summit activities) is sponsored by the Utah Civil and Compassionate Communities initiative (UCCC)\* with co-sponsoring support to date from four national organizations and nine Utah organizations\*\*

### *Pre Summit Activities*

Coming Together Through Conversation - In September and October 2016, schools, institutions of higher education and community groups throughout Utah will be invited and inspired to engage in dialogues around challenging issues through the topic: "How Can We Come Together?" A dialogue guide will be provided.

Each dialogue group will be invited to send in summaries of the results of their dialogues with individual follow-ups made of each dialogue group to ensure report-backs. Representatives of each group dialogue will be invited to attend our Utah Citizen Summit Dialogue and the Summit Celebration on November 12.

Coming Together Through Service - In September and October 2016, as part of the "Global Unity Games" sponsored by the Compassion Games organizations schools, institutions of higher education and community groups throughout Utah will be invited and encouraged to engage in acts of service that are designed in some significant part to reflect the theme "Coming Together Through Service".

Coming Together with the Homeless - UCCC is celebrating the wonderful progress that has been made on homelessness in Utah through collaborative, inclusive and non-partisan approaches, and is contributing to this collective effort in various ways. Prior to the Summit,

UCCC will sponsor the launch of a web based global network seeking to identify and interconnect solutions to homelessness and to create new emergent possibilities in a local/global co-learning environment in collaboration with uBegin, a cutting edge social networking platform.

### ***Utah Citizens Summit on November 12, 2016***

By interlinking the pre-summit events with the day of the Summit and by looking forward to the year ahead, we anticipate this day being far more than a 'one-off' event. Indeed, the aspiration is that Utah's Citizen Summit will be a galvanizing point to gather attention and share messages that offer encouragement for the future as set forth in the "Purposes" paragraph above.

#### ***Morning***

##### Utahans Coming Together in Conversation

A citizen dialogue will be hosted for representatives from the pre-Summit dialogues together with a highly diverse group of Utahns. We will harvest important shared themes and recommendations from the pre-summit dialogues under the overall theme of "Utahans Coming Together". New possibilities and more refined themes and recommendations regarding how Utahns can come together will emerge from a well designed and facilitated conversation.

#### ***Afternoon***

##### Americans and Utahans Coming Together after a Divisive Election Season and Much National Trauma – A Panel Discussion

Divisiveness and negativity in our presidential and other election campaigns have been extreme in America leading up to the general elections on November 8, which is creating serious concerns for many Americans. Other factors and forces such as terrorism and conflict between law enforcement and local communities have also been traumatizing. Hyper partisanship has heightened divisions in America.

The panel will harvest the most compelling ideas and harness the enthusiasm and insight of the morning dialogues in order to help set an agenda for working on these issues in Utah in 2017. The panel will then build on this conversation and, in the context of the general elections discuss how we can and should come together - politically and across all of our divides - to address challenging issues and to make progress for the common good. By sharing this conversation with Utah and America, we hope to help galvanize interest in similar processes and events around the country and inspire a fresh new start.

A group of distinguished panelists, representing the political spectrum will address these issues. They will be facilitated by Mark Gerzon, author of the recently released *Reunited States of America: How We Can Bridge the Partisan Divide*.

The dialogues during the day will be held in the Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute of the University of Utah in Salt Lake City.

Groups in many communities throughout Utah will watch a live stream broadcast of this interactive Summit dialogue in the afternoon. After the broadcast, many of those groups will then hold their own similar dialogues in the Utah Humanities network of library venues in communities throughout Utah, at colleges and universities throughout the State, and elsewhere in private and public venues.

*Evening - Utah Citizens Summit Celebration*

There will be an evening of celebration of the exceptional, civil, compassionate, collaborative and inclusive oriented work that has been done in Utah over many years. A call will be made to our local, state, national and international leaders and institutions to begin pursuing more civil, compassionate, collaborative, inclusive approaches and processes to yield higher quality decisions and policies. The co-chairs of Utah Civil and Compassionate Communities will offer remarks on the importance of such approaches.

John Steiner, co-founder of both the Bridge Alliance, and the national Citizens Summit and leader in many other bipartisan initiatives, will introduce the launch of a new national initiative, *Americans Coming Together*. This theme of coming together will have been embodied and modeled throughout our Utah Citizens Summit.

A complementary key note address will be delivered by Mark Gerzon, a leading speaker, author and consultant regarding the importance of inclusive, civil, compassionate and collaborative democracy in America and the world.

Awards will be presented to several Utah and National individuals and organizations which have been working long, hard and successfully to help bring Utahans and Americans together.

This event will be held in the Rose Wagner Performing Arts Center in Salt Lake City, a Salt Lake County facility, sponsored by the Salt Lake County Mayor's office.

*\*The Utah Civil and Compassionate Communities advisory board co-chairs are Utah Lieutenant Governor, Spencer Cox (R) ; Salt Lake County Mayor, Ben McAdams (D); and Salt Lake City Mayor, Jackie Biskupski(D) who serve together with a highly diverse advisory board comprised of approximately 40 Utahans.*

*\*\* We have received co-sponsoring support from the following national/global organizations: Charter for Compassion International, Citizens Summit Initiative, Village Square, Living Room Conversations. Utah co-sponsoring organizations are: Utah Humanities, Utah Campus Compact, Village Square, Utah Living Room Conversations, Utah Lieutenant Governor's Commission on Service and Volunteerism, Salt Lake County Mayors Office, Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute at the University of Utah; Utah League of Cities and Towns, Zions Bank. [Other co-sponsorships are pending]*

**If your community is interested in participating in dialogues similar to our pre-Summit, Summit or post-Summit dialogues and would like a copy of our dialogue guide, or if you would like to receive some mentoring regarding what we are doing in Utah and/or engage in a community of learning, practice and action regarding this and future citizen summits, and/or the America Coming Together movement in a national and global environment, please contact John Kesler at: [john@saltlakecivilnetwork.org](mailto:john@saltlakecivilnetwork.org)**

**If your community is interested in participating in a community of learning regarding globally sourced creative and inclusive approaches to homelessness please contact Camille Winnie at: [camille@saltlakecivilnetwork.org](mailto:camille@saltlakecivilnetwork.org)**