Civics Academy

Empowering Communities Through Civic Engagement











Arcola Lakes Branch Library

April 7, April 21, May 5, May 19 6 pm – 8 pm 8240 NW 7 Ave. Miami, FL 33150 Westchester Regional Library April 8, April 22, May 6, May 20 6 pm – 8 pm 9445 Coral Way Miami, FL 33165

North Dade Regional Library

April 8, April 22, May 6, May 13 6 pm – 8 pm 2455 NW 183 St. Miami Gardens, FL 33056

Naranja Branch Library April 8, April 26, May 10, May 24

3 pm – 5 pm 14850 SW 280 St. Miami, FL 33032

Learn. Engage. Become an Ambassador.

Become an active resident, learn how to participate in your local government and advocate for your community.

> **Main Library** April 10, April 24, May 8, May 22 12 pm – 2 pm 101 West Flagler St. Miami, FL 33130

OVERVIEW

- Public Speaking, Media Engagement & Storytelling
- Advisory Board Role & Responsibilities
- Mobilizing Communities and Leading Initiatives
- Creating a Civic Action Plan & Sustaining Engagement
- Post-Completion Survey & Follow-up Engagement





OBJECTIVES

Assessing Civic Leadership Strengths

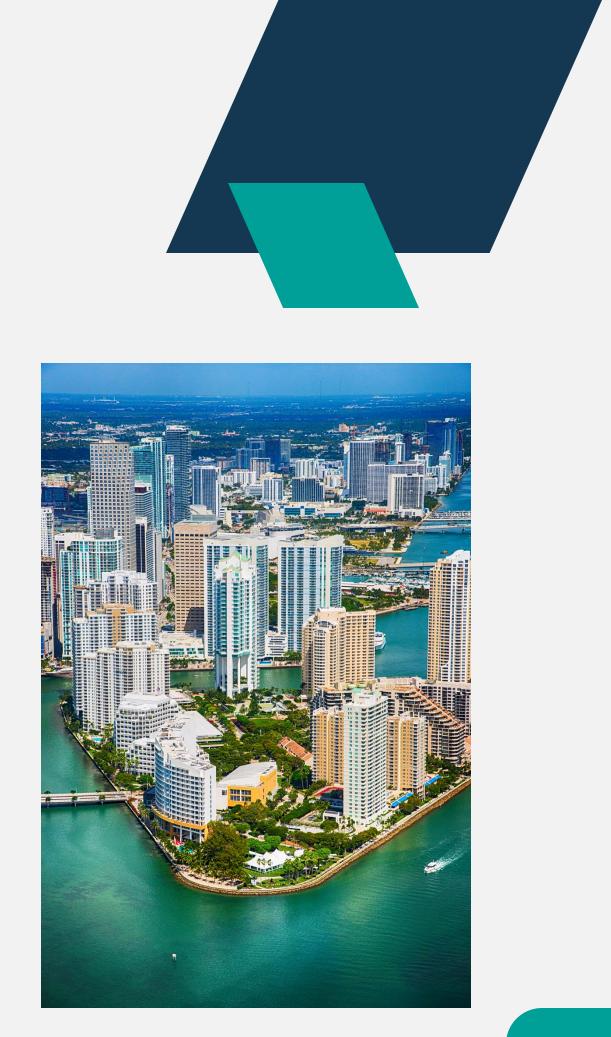
Participants will evaluate their personal leadership qualities and identify areas for growth in civic engagement and advocacy.

Understanding Effective Public Engagement Strategies

Participants will explore key leadership skills and engagement strategies that drive community action, using real-world examples of successful civic initiatives.

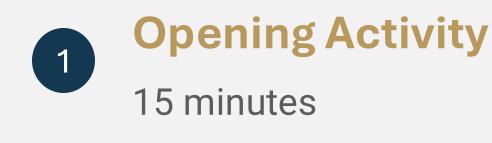
Developing a Personalized Civic Action Plan

Participants will create a personal civic action plan outlining a specific issue they want to address, along with concrete steps to take meaningful action in their community.











- Content Presentation 30 minutes
- 3
- Hands-on Workshop 30 minutes



Interactive Discussion 30 minutes

5 Closing Reflection 15 minutes

OPENING ACTIVITY

Civic Word Association

Purpose: Discover common themes within your peers.

Capture words on a notepad and discuss out loud the answer to the following question:

1. When you hear the word "engagement", what's the first word or image that comes to mind?"

From this discussion, what do these responses tell us about how we view our roles as civic leaders?









Opening Activity 15 minutes



Content Presentation 30 minutes



Hands-on Workshop 30 minutes



- Interactive Discussion 30 minutes
- 5 Closing Reflection 15 minutes

CONTENT PRESENTATION

What Effective Civic Engagement Looks Like

- Community-driven solutions with measurable impact
- Inclusive, diverse, and collaborative efforts
- Sustainable efforts that go beyond one-time activism
- Policy advocacy and direct action working hand in hand





CONTENT PRESENTATION

Levels of Civic Engagement

- Individual Action Voting, self-education, advocacy letters
- **Community Involvement** Volunteering, organizing local events
- Policy Influence Public testimonies, lobbying, coalition building
- Systemic Change Running for office, institutional partnerships





CONTENT PRESENTATION

The Connection Between Assets, Policy, and Action

- **Community Assets** include human capital (local leaders, volunteers), physical infrastructure (schools, parks), and institutional resources (nonprofits, public services). These assets provide a foundation for growth and resilience.
- Public Policy shapes the way resources are allocated, determines access to opportunities, and impacts economic development. Laws and policies can either help or hinder community progress.





CONTENT PRESENTATION

Innovative Civic Engagement Strategies

- Micro-volunteering & Digital Advocacy Small actions with big impact
- Crowdsourced Policy Initiatives Citizens drafting legislative proposals
- Community Participatory Budgeting Directly influencing resource allocation



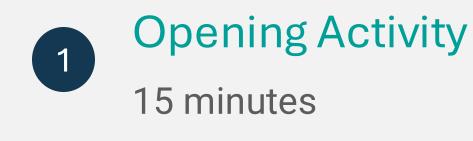














Content Presentation 30 minutes



Hands-on Workshop 30 minutes



Interactive Discussion 30 minutes

5	Closing Reflection
	15 minutes

Hands-on Workshop

Discover Your Civic Leadership Strengths

This self-assessment is designed to help you explore your civic leadership skills, identify your strengths, and recognize areas for growth. Civic leadership involves advocating for community needs, collaborating with diverse groups, making ethical decisions, and taking action to create positive change.

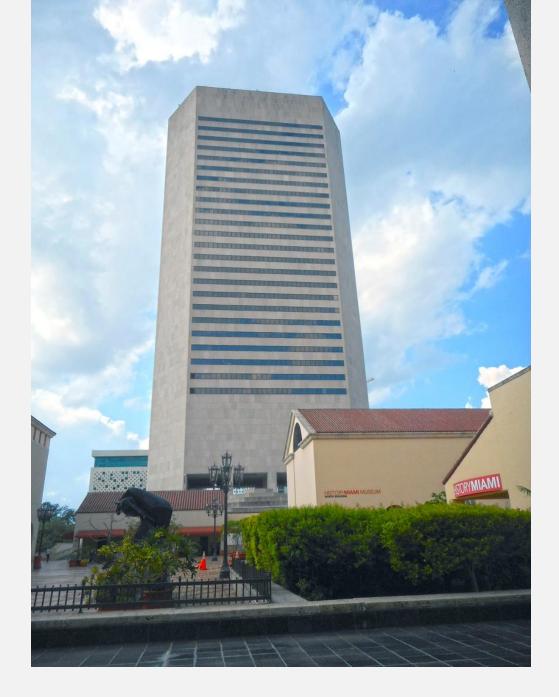
Why Take This Assessment?

- Gain insight into your leadership abilities and civic engagement skills.
- Reflect on your role in public service and community involvement.
- Identify areas where you can grow as a civic leader.

Instructions:

- 1. Read each statement carefully.
- 2. Rate yourself on a scale from **1 (Strongly Disagree) to 5 (Strongly Agree)** based on how much the statement applies to you.
- 3. Be honest in your responses—this is a tool for self-reflection, not a test.
- 4. Once completed, review your scores and reflect on your strengths and opportunities for improvement.

After the assessment, we will discuss how to apply your civic leadership skills in real-world settings. Learn. **Engage.** Become an Ambassador.







Legislative Information

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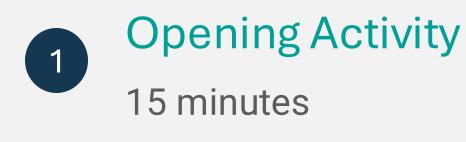
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- Content Presentation 30 minutes
- 3
- Hands-on Workshop 30 minutes



- **Interactive Discussion** 30 minutes
- 5 Closing Reflection 15 minutes

Civic Engagement Classes

Session 4 **Civic Engagement in Action**

CLASS ACTIVITY

Where Do You Stand? (Stand & Share)

Purpose: Spark dialogue about shared values and different civic perspectives. Instructions:

- 1. Signs are placed around the room: Strongly Agree, Agree, Disagree, Strongly Disagree.
- 2. Once a statement has been read, move to the sign that matches your view and discuss it with that group (2-3 minutes each statement).

Statements:

- One person can create systemic change.
- Local government is more important than federal government.
- Storytelling is more powerful than statistics.

At the end of the three questions, a few attendees will share why they stood where they did.



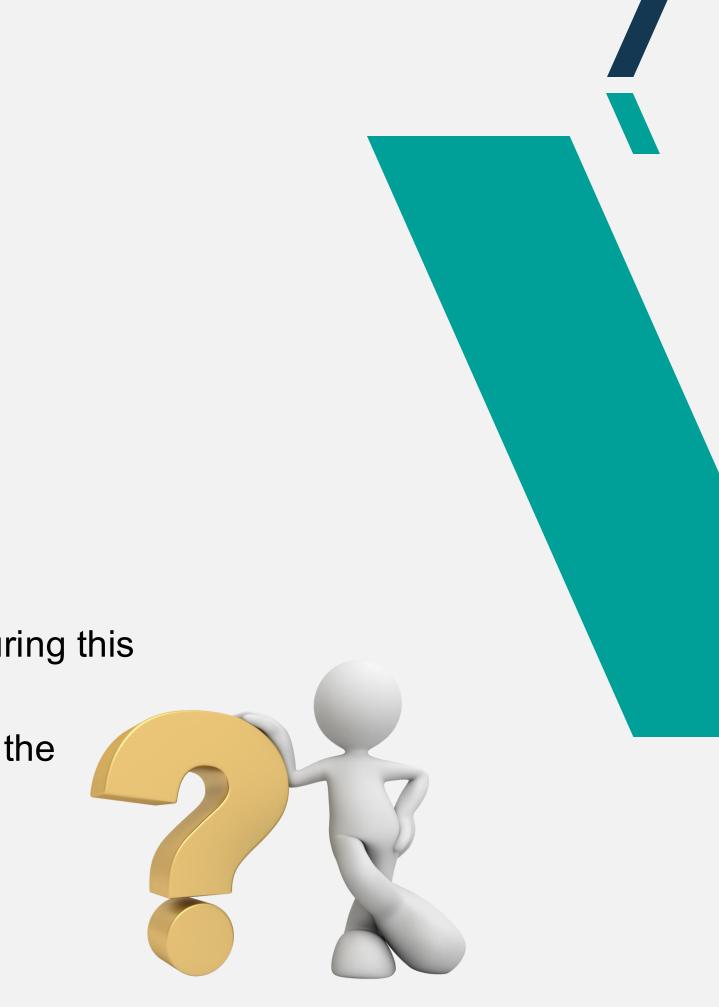




INTERACTIVE Q&A

Discussion Questions

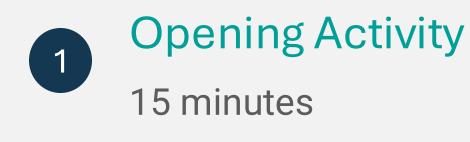
- 1. What is one civic issue you feel passionate about, and why?
- 2. What is one new insight you gained about civic engagement during this program?
- 3. What challenges have held you back from civic engagement in the past? How can you overcome them?
- 4. How has your understanding of leadership in civic engagement changed?





Civic Engagement in Action







- Content Presentation 30 minutes
- 3
- Hands-on Workshop 30 minutes



Interactive Discussion 30 minutes



CLOSING REFLECTION

• What's one key takeaway from today's session?

Call to Action:

- Determine your individual civic plan
- Complete the evaluation survey







Session 4

Civic Engagement in Action

CONTACTS

- Miami-Dade County
 - https://www.miamidade.gov/



- Miami-Dade Public Library System
 - https://www.mdpls.org/



- Community & Education Well-Being Research Center at the University of Miami
 - https://sites.education.miami.edu/cewrc/



- Maurice A. Ferre Institute for Civic Leadership at Florida International University
 - https://www.ferre.fiu.edu













CABA Pro Bono

https://cabaprobono.com/

Catalyst Miami

https://www.catalystmiami.org/

Engage Miami

https://engage.miami/

• Family Action Network Movement (FANM)

https://www.fanm.org/

Sant La Haitian Neighborhood Center

https://www.santla.org/



Mayor Daniella Levine Cava











Board of County Commissioners

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