



Civics Academy

Empowering Communities
Through Civic Engagement

Session 3



Pre-Session Survey



MIAMI-DADE COUNTY
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
DANIELLA LEVINE CAVA



MARLEINE BASTIEN
Miami-Dade County Commissioner For District 2

Community Agreements

Examples:

- We will not judge one another
- We will listen with care
- Share the space (our goal is for every voice to be heard, and no single voice to dominate..)
- We will ask questions with curiosity
- “You can share my story with others but not my name”
- We will be on time
- We will respect each other

Civics Academy

Goals:

- Become an active and engaged citizen
- Learn how to participate in your local government and advocate for your community



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nap0-_OJ5oc

Session 3

Solving Local Problems Through Governance & Advocacy

RECAP

Session 1:

- Learned what civic participation is, why it matters, what levels of government handle which issues, who are elected officials are, etc.

Session 2:

- Understood how communities work as systems and identified issues that matter to us, etc.



Session 3

Solving Local Problems Through Governance & Advocacy

OVERVIEW

- Understand what policies are and how they affect community life
- Learn how policies are developed and implemented
- Distinguish between different types of advocacy
- Match a local issue to a possible advocacy approach
- Practice choosing an advocacy strategy that best suits your comfort level and goal



Session 3

Solving Local Problems Through Governance & Advocacy

OPENING ACTIVITY

Icebreaker Discussion:

- My name is...
- The reason I'm here is...
- What I hope to get out of participating is...
- A time I was engaged in my community was...
- It matters to be engaged in my community because...



Session 3

Solving Local Problems Through Governance & Advocacy

- Share 1 community asset, and 1 community issue that you identified in Session 2
- How might the two of them work together in bringing about change?



What are policies?

Policy is how a group, organization, agency, city, or government decides what it will do, how it will do it, and who it will serve.

In community life, policy shows up in rules, funding, access, eligibility, enforcement, and priorities.

- Policies decide what gets paid attention to
- Policies decide who gets access
- Policies decide how resources are used
- Policies often make a community issue easier or harder to solve



Review ChangeLab Solutions handout

“What is Policy?”

What are local policies we encounter every day?

Advocacy 101

Community advocacy is about raising awareness, influencing policy, and mobilizing resources to address concerns that affect a group of people.

It can be helpful to remember it like this:

- *Policies shape the system*
- *Advocacy helps shape the policy*
- *Community members are often the ones who best know what the community needs*

Advocacy Example

[MADD - Mothers Against Drunk Drivers](#)



Key Principles of Advocacy:

- Passion and authenticity
- Evidence-based messaging
- Consistent follow -up

Role of an Advocate:

- Educate the public
- Build relationships with stakeholders
- Amplify marginalized voices

Types of Advocacy

- **Direct Advocacy:** Engaging directly with policymakers and decision-makers
- **Grassroots Advocacy:** Mobilizing community members to create change
- **Coalition Building :** Partnering with organizations and stakeholders

Your Turn....

Select one of these common community issues :

- Unsafe intersection near a school
- Lack of bus service on weekends
- Parks that are poorly maintained
- Lack of affordable housing

Discuss:

- Who needs to hear about this?
- What kind of advocacy fits this issue?
- What would success look like?



Complete “Assets & Advocacy Worksheet”

[LINK TO WORKSHEET](#)

Today's Highlights....

- Policies are the rules, priorities, and decisions that shape everyday community life
- Advocacy is how residents help influence those decisions so they better reflect community needs
- There are multiple advocacy pathways, including speaking up, organizing with others, meeting with decision-makers, and sharing stories
- Effective advocacy starts with a clear issue, a clear audience, and a realistic goal
- Local residents are often the best source of knowledge about what their community needs and what solutions are likely to work

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Solving Local Problems Through Governance & Advocacy

CLOSING REFLECTION

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

Call to Action :

- What's one step you can in the next two weeks to be more civically engaged?





Mayor Daniella Levine Cava



CONNECT WITH YOUR MAYOR

Office of the Mayor

Learn. **Engage**. Become an Ambassador.





County Commissioner Marleine Bastien



District 2 - Commissioner Marleine Bastien



Board of County Commissioners



<https://linktr.ee/MiamiDadeBCC>



Session 3

Solving Local Problems Through Governance and Advocacy

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>



- **The CLEO Institute**
 - <https://cleoinstitute.org/>



- **Hispanic Unity of Florida**
 - <https://www.hispanicunity.org/>



- **Mexican American Council**
 - <https://www.mexamcouncil.org/>



- **Miami Workers Center**
 - <https://miamiworkerscenter.org/>



- **Prosperity Social & Comm. Dev. Grp Inc**
 - <https://www.santia.org/>



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

Choose either In-Person or Zoom attendance

Class Schedule & Locations:

Arcola Lakes Branch Library
July 7, July 14, July 21, July 28
Tuesdays 6 pm – 8 pm
8240 NW 7 Ave.
Miami, FL 33150

Westchester Regional Library
June 23, July 7, July 14, July 21
Tuesdays 6 pm – 8 pm
9445 Coral Way
Miami, FL 33165

North Dade Regional Library
June 25, July 2, July 9, July 23
Thursdays 6 pm – 8 pm
2455 NW 183 St.
Miami Gardens, FL 33056

Naranja Branch Library
July 8, July 15, July 22, July 29
Wednesdays 6 pm – 8 pm
14850 SW 280 St.
Miami, FL 33032

Zoom ONLY platform
June 23, June 30, July 7, July 14
6 pm – 8 pm

Learn. Engage. Become an Ambassador.

Sign up at miamidade.gov/civicsacademy



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[End of Session Survey](#)

Thank you!