



Civics Academy

Empowering Communities Through
Civic Engagement



[Pre-Session Survey](#)

Session 4



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 4

Civic Engagement in Action

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:

- Deepened our work by learning about policies and advocacy and how both can be important ways to create positive change in our communities



Session 4

Civic Engagement in Action

OVERVIEW

- Identify civic engagement roles that fit your comfort level, interests, and strengths
- Distinguish between learning, participating, supporting, advocating, and leading as different forms of civic action
- Use a civic readiness reflection to identify an entry point into civic action
- Begin a personalized civic action plan
- Recognize how lived experience can be a source of civic insight, purpose, and public voice



Session 4

Civic Engagement in Action

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...



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LET'S REVIEW

- One community asset you identified
- One issue you care about
- One advocacy approach you explored



Civic Engagement as a Spectrum

- *Learning*
- *Observing*
- *Connecting*
- *Participating*
- *Supporting*
- *Advocating*
- *Leading*



Civic Readiness Reflection

- Do I want to learn more before acting?
- Do I prefer one-on-one conversations, small groups, or public spaces?
- Am I more comfortable supporting behind the scenes or speaking publicly?
- Do I want to focus on relationships, information, organizing, or direct action?
- What kind of change feels realistic for me in the next 30 to 60 days?



Ideas for Civic Action & Learning*

*From Miami Dade College’s Civic Action Scorecard

A “civic learning and engagement” toolkit with 100+ real world actions across five categories. Students earn points towards a “Civic Action Award” as they build knowledge, skills, and confidence to become active and informed members of their community.



- What do you think of this list, what is missing?
- Which ones might you commit to doing?
- Check the “To Do” column and make your plan.

	Sample Civic Actions – Partial List	
	DEMOCRATIC ENGAGEMENT	To Do
1	Register to vote	
2	Help someone register to vote	
3	Find the sample ballot for upcoming elections	
4	Create a voting plan	
5	Vote in local, state, or federal elections	
6	Attend, watch, or listen to a live debate, session, or address	
7	Know your elected officials at the city, county, state, and federal levels	
8	Research two of your current elected officials	
9	Call or email an elected official	
10	Report issue or concern to proper governmental authority	
11	Research budget from your city or county	
12	Attend, watch, or listen to a community, city, county, or state meeting	
13	Present a prepared speech at a community, city, county, or state meeting	
14	Serve as an election Poll Worker	
15	Attend/participate in an event relating to democratic engagement	
16	Participate in a skills-based training or workshop related to democratic engagement	
17	Sign 5 political, environmental, or social issue petitions relating to causes you support	
18	Serve with a local or state political campaign	
19	Join a local or state voter engagement organization or political party and attend at least 2 meetings	
20	Peacefully attend a rally, protest, or demonstration with positive signage	
21	Write an op-ed or letter to the editor	
22	Read two news articles from a reputable news source on a civic topic	
23	Summarize media fact-checking	
24	Review the SIFT method (Stop, Investigate the Source, Find Better Coverage, Trace) and verify a news story	
25	Read and summarize a United States founding document	
26	Take practice the Citizenship Exam with passing score	
27	Research two political activists who helped individuals secure the right to vote	
28	Earn “Leadership & No-Blame Problem-Solving Certificate” from the Citizens Campaign	
29	Learn “How to Understand Power” by Eric Liu	
30	Learn about the issue of gerrymandering and possible solutions	

Strengthening
Your Civic
Muscles

[Click here](#) to
access this
handout



Strengthening Your Civic Muscles

- What action/actions are you considering that feel both meaningful and realistic to you?



Telling Your Story

Story of Self

- Your own experiences...where did your values come from, what moment, person or experience shaped your sense of what matters? Identifying a meaningful experience that helps other people understand why this work matters to you.

Story of Us

- Moves from individual to collective. What do we share? What values connect us? What do we already have in common that can help us work together? It's about creating a shared sense of purpose.

Story of Now

- This is where the urgency comes in. Why is this moment important? What challenge are we facing, and what happens if we do nothing? This helps move from reflection into action. It says, “we know who we are, we know what we care about, and now we need to do something about it.”

You are an important community asset– and the stories you can share can help connect values into action.



Questions to Consider

- *What in my experience makes this work matter to me?*
- *What strengths and shared values already exist in my community?*
- *What is the issue that makes action feel necessary now?*

Pass out Public Narrative Worksheet

Today's highlights....

- Connected local reflection to ideas for civic engagement through a public narrative lens
- Learned that your lived experience is a civic asset and meaningful change begins with what communities already know and hold
- Identified a few key next steps that will keep you learning and leading in community engagement

Reflections and Wrap-Up

What might be your/our
next steps....



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 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>



- **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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REMINDER— 1) Complete the survey for today's session here via this QR code, and
2) In the next week, you will be emailed a final, important, "post -survey" so check
your emails!



End of Session Survey

Thank you!