



Civic U© 2.0 2018: Roll Up Your Sleeves!

Course Description

About Civic U©

The Civic University (Civic U©) is a partnership between the Pat Brown Institute for Public Affairs at Cal State L.A. (PBI) and the Office of Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti. The Civic U© arose from our shared belief that there are immense gaps in public knowledge and understanding of how Los Angeles city government works. As a result, people in many communities feel that they cannot effectively influence their own government.

Civic U© operates on the premise that a community that is well-informed about local government will be more active and involved. We want to help people have a greater impact on government by increasing their understanding of how the system is designed and how it operates. We are not only interested in explaining the formal processes of local government (“how does a council motion becomes an ordinance?”) but why things happen as they do. We also want to teach the community about the important access points within local government.

In 2015, the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment introduced Civic U© to the neighborhood council system through Civic U© 1.0. Funding for Civic U© 1.0 and 2.0 is provided by the City’s Department of Neighborhood Empowerment.

In association with Cal State LA’s College of Professional and Graduate Education (PaGE), PBI offers a multi-session program for neighborhood council board members that leads to the granting of non-credit university certificates by Cal State LA.



In 2016, Civic U© 2.0 for neighborhood councils was introduced; the program provided an advanced, workshop-based training in the development and presentation of community projects. This is the second iteration of Civic U© 2.0, designed primarily but not exclusively for those who have completed Civic U© 1.0. Civic U© 2.0 features more direct contact than in 1.0 with guest speakers from City Hall.

You will find this program to be different from a traditional training curriculum. We will not be teaching about how to lead a neighborhood council; or how to comply with the Brown Act; or how to organize the budget of a neighborhood council. Rather, we will be examining how neighborhood councils can best achieve their mission and attain a productive influence at Los Angeles City Hall. We will also consider how the 1999 Los Angeles City charter reform changed the formal structures of city government and created new opportunities for civic participation.

As part of a public university, Civic U© is uniquely positioned to integrate community organizing principles into successful best practices for improving the influence of neighborhood councils at City Hall on behalf of the communities they serve. In association with Cal State LA's College of Professional and Graduate Education (PaGE), PBI offers a multi-session program for neighborhood council board members that leads to the granting of non-credit university certificates by Cal State LA. time in 2015.

The course will be under the supervision of Dr. Raphael Sonenshein (Raphael.Sonenshein@CalStatela.edu), Executive Director of the Pat Brown Institute at Cal State L.A., and author of three books on Los Angeles politics and government. Dr. Sonenshein participated in the creation of the neighborhood council system during the 1999 charter reform as executive director of the appointed charter reform commission and served as executive director of the Neighborhood Council Review Commission in 2006.

Dr. Sonenshein will be assisted by a team of six facilitators, drawn from the Center for Nonprofit Management and the Pat Brown Institute senior staff. Guest speakers will be drawn from the ranks of the city's top elected and appointed officials.

Location and Times



The main program will be held in the chamber of the Los Angeles City Council on the third floor of City Hall. Breakout sessions will be conducted in various meeting rooms on the second and third floors of City Hall.



The program will begin on January 8, and continue on January 22 and 29th, concluding with presentations and the awarding of certificates on February 5th. All sessions will be held on Monday evenings, beginning promptly at 6:15 pm and concluding at 9 pm.

Format



Civic U© 2.0 utilizes a mixture of formats, including teaching by Dr. Sonenshein, group work sessions, interaction with guest speakers, and presentations. We ask participants to move into and back from workshop sessions as quickly as possible. Our facilitators will assist in making these transitions.

Spanish language translation assistance is available for all Civic U© sessions. Spanish language requesters will be assigned to the same break-out group where an interpreter will be available.

The format for the work groups is built around the case study model, a teaching tool pioneered at the Kennedy School at Harvard, which has been widely and successfully used in a variety of settings to educate community members and decision makers.

This format allows us to design case studies with certain common elements:

- 1) a neighborhood or neighborhood council issue that could be relevant to NC members throughout the city, not just one community,
- 2) a situation that requires some commitment of city financial resources and the necessity to make a budget case to city officials
- 3) an issue that is widely understood so all members of the work group can quickly grasp its significance and dimensions without specialized or technical knowledge.

Final presentations will NOT use PowerPoint in order to keep the focus on the content of the argument rather than technical skill. Other ways to convey the main points will be allowed, such as poster boards.



Schedule

<i>January 8</i>	<i>Introduction</i>
6:15 pm to 6:30 pm	<p>Welcome Comments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DONE General Manager Grayce Liu • City Council President Herb Wesson, Jr., Tenth District • Chief of Staff to Mayor Garcetti, Ana Guerrero
6:30pm to 7:30 pm	<p>The Structure of Los Angeles City Government and the Neighborhood Council System</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Sonenshein
7:45pm to 8:45pm	<p>Breakout groups initial meeting with facilitators: working through the case study and breaking it into component parts</p>
8:45 pm to 9:00 pm	<p>Staff/Facilitators Meeting</p>

<i>January 22</i>	<i>The Budget Process, Data and Advocacy</i>
6:15 pm to 6:30 pm	<p>Overview of budget and services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Sonenshein
6:30 pm to 7:30 pm	<p>Guest speaker in discussion with Dr. Sonenshein</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City Administrative Officer (CAO), Rich Llewellyn
7:45 pm to 8:45 pm	<p>Breakout groups with facilitators: budget analysis and data for advocacy</p>
8:45 pm to 9:00 pm	<p>Staff/Facilitators Meeting</p>

<i>January 29</i>	<i>Moving Political Leadership</i>
6:15 pm to 6:30 pm	Political Mobilization <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Sonenshein
6:30 pm to 7:30 pm	Discussion with Dr. Sonenshein featuring: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councilmember David Ryu (4th district) • Councilmember Marqueece Harris-Dawson (8th district)
7:45 pm to 8:45 pm	Breakout groups: advocacy strategy for reaching city hall
8:45 pm to 9:00 pm	Staff/Facilitators Meeting

<i>February 5</i>	<i>Show Time!</i>
6:15 pm to 6:30 pm	Hints for presenting to public officials <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Sonenshein
6:30 pm to 7:30 pm	Breakout groups plan and rehearse their presentations
7:45 pm to 8:45 pm	Breakout groups present their arguments to distinguished panel including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chief of Staff to Mayor Garcetti, Ana Guerrero • Cal State LA President William A. Covino
8:45 pm to 9:00 pm	Reception and celebration: President Covino presents certificates of completion to participants



Selected Readings on Los Angeles City Government:

- ✓ League of Women Voters of LA, *Los Angeles: Structure of a City Government*
http://www.lwvlosangeles.org/files/Structure_of_a_City.pdf
- ✓ League of Women Voters of LA website for information on city elections and other issues: <http://www.lwvlosangeles.org>
- ✓ Raphael J. Sonenshein, *The City at Stake: Secession, Reform, and the Battle for Los Angeles*. Princeton U. Press, 2006.
- ✓ The Los Angeles City Charter:
[http://www.amlegal.com/nxt/gateway.dll/California/laac/administrativecode?f=templates\\$fn=default.htm\\$3.0\\$vid=amlegal:losangeles_ca_mc](http://www.amlegal.com/nxt/gateway.dll/California/laac/administrativecode?f=templates$fn=default.htm$3.0$vid=amlegal:losangeles_ca_mc)
- ✓ Raphael J. Sonenshein. Your Guide to Power in L.A. *Los Angeles Magazine*,
<http://www.lamag.com/citythinkblog/your-guide-to-power-in-la/>, February 2013.
- ✓ City elections information: <http://clerk.lacity.org/Elections/ElectionArchives/index.htm>
- ✓ And on neighborhood council elections:
<http://clerk.lacity.org/Elections/NeighborhoodCouncilElections/index.htm>
- ✓ Pat Brown Institute. *Who Votes in LA City Elections?*
<http://calstatela.patbrowninstitute.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/2017-Who-Votes-In-LA-City-Elections.pdf>
- ✓ Budget data for the city:
<http://cao.lacity.org/budget/>
- ✓ Final report of the Neighborhood Council Review Commission:
http://clkrep.lacity.org/online/docs/2005/05-0894-s3_misc_09-25-07.pdf