

## Accelerating Climate Action

National Forums Commemorating 40th Anniversary of ICA's Bicentennial Town Meetings  
**ToP Facilitation Month of Service: October 2016**



Your Organization  
+ Other Climate  
Stakeholders



A Local, Pro-Bono  
Technology of Participation  
Facilitator



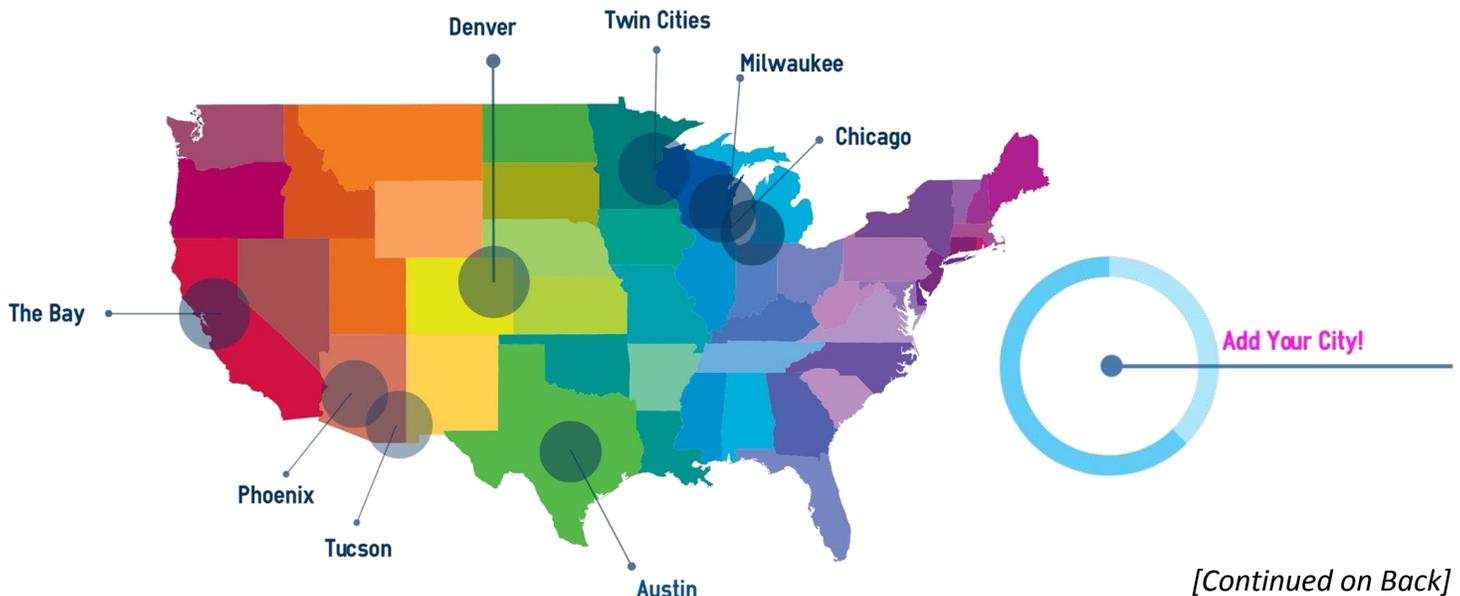
New Collaborations +  
Changing the Conversation  
Around Climate Action

### Is your organization or community:

- Working on local sustainability initiatives?
- Initiating local efforts to reduce carbon footprint and other greenhouse gas emissions?
- Promoting community health and equity as we face the impacts of climate change?
- Looking to connect and collaborate to advance your work?

If this speaks to your work, we invite you to partner with the **Institute of Cultural Affairs (ICA)** and the **Technology of Participation (ToP<sup>®</sup>) Network** in our Facilitation Month of Service: *Accelerating Climate Action*. During the month of October, professional ToP facilitators and ICA colleagues will be offering pro bono assistance to meet needs for facilitation among the diverse array of groups acting to address our climate crisis.

### Current Committed Cities:



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## What is inspiring this national service initiative?

Today, we face the reality of our planet's shifting climate that threatens the well-being of humans and all living things. Yet the politicizing of climate change has made it a topic that many find taboo to discuss, hindering understanding and action. Many ToP Facilitators are already engaged in supporting groups and communities in acting and in fostering constructive dialogue and conversation on this issue. It is time to do more and use the expertise we have to support the change we need.

ToP Facilitation methods bring a legacy of tools for groups that foster participation, engagement, collaboration and effective action. Forty years ago, these methods were utilized by ICA to launch town meetings across the country. These local efforts engaged citizens in considering issues and opportunities before them as they sought to improve and develop their towns and communities. It was a bold experiment in catalyzing engagement, collaboration and action and over 5,000 community meetings were conducted.

*Today we are re-igniting this spirit of service to join with partners working on action for a healthy climate.*

## How can Your Organization Participate?

Professional, ToP-trained facilitators around the country are partnering with local groups to offer meeting facilitation services. These services will be designed appropriate to the scope set by local partners. To receive these services, organizations must be interested in working on climate change and have a project that requires enhanced participation for effective action. Examples of projects are:

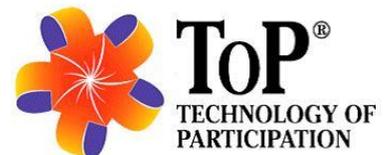
- *Designing efforts to enhance engagement with additional partners or community members;*
- *Connecting sustainability initiatives to encourage peer sharing and inspire new ideas;*
- *Facilitating a planning or strategy retreat;*
- *Assisting the formation of collaborations and emerging partnerships;*
- *Providing community input for City Climate Action Plans; and*
- *Accelerating productive discussions, leading to consensus and shared commitment.*

## About Us:



The **Institute of Cultural Affairs (ICA)** is a 50 year old non-profit social change organization. Our mission is *to build a just and equitable society in harmony with planet earth*. ICA has realized this mission through locally-led community development initiatives which assist people to visualize, plan, and implement consensus-based strategies aimed at reaching goals they envision for themselves in a collaborative manner.

ICA's methods evolved in the 1990's to what is now known as the **Technology of Participation (ToP)<sup>®</sup>**, an internationally respected facilitation practice, that uses highly participatory techniques to foster creative thinking, consensus-based decision-making, and team building. ToP Facilitation Methods generate ownership, create clear goals, open lines of communication, broaden perspectives, and motivate people to adapt to their changing environment while honoring cultural traditions and diversity of all involved.



ToP empowers communities, organizations, government and businesses to achieve their greatest strategic impact through inclusive decision-making. ToP methods are structured facilitation tools that enable groups to think, talk and work together. These carefully developed methods build consensus by welcoming diversity, while minimizing conflict.

To Learn More, contact ICA - [twysocki@ica-usa.org](mailto:twysocki@ica-usa.org) or your local contact \_\_\_\_\_