

Join the “Deliberate” Discussion List

What is the Deliberate discussion list?

The deliberate discussion list was established to connect librarians interested in using deliberative forums and other civic engagement techniques in their communities. Some of the questions that librarians use the discussion list to ask:

- What kinds of civic engagement activities are going on in libraries?
- What other groups are involved in these efforts?
- Who else is involved with hosting forums and how do they recruit participants?
- Where can I send my colleagues to get trained as moderators of deliberative forums?
- What partners do you work with in your community and how did you form your partnership?
- What local and national issues have been framed for a deliberative conversation?
- How do we connect with policy-makers?

Who is on the Deliberate discussion list?

Discussion list participants are library school educators and students, academic, school and public librarians, ALA staff, state library association staff, and other members of the National Issues Forums network interested in making connections with the library community.

How did this list get started and who manages it?

A groundswell of librarians interested in deliberative forums as a means of strengthening democracy and civic connections in their own community began to find each other in 2000 under the leadership of then-ALA president Nancy Kranich. Nancy's presidential agenda was bolstered by a stirring ALA Presidential speech by Robert Putnam at Annual Conference 2001 in San Francisco. Kranich noted, "As librarians, we share Dr. Putnam's concerns about the erosion of social capital in our communities. The goal of the President's Program is to create strategies for libraries to play a strong and active role in rekindling civil society." Mary Ghikas' tireless leadership led to a series of training sessions at ALA mid-winter and annual conferences. With encouragement from the National Issues Forums and members of the NIF network like Taylor Willingham, these sessions have introduced over 100 librarians to deliberative forums. In 2004, ALA formed the Fostering Civic Engagement Membership Initiative Group (MIG). Members of the group also participate in the discussion list, sharing ideas about civic activities in their libraries.

How do I subscribe?

1. Got to <http://lists.ala.org/www/info/deliberate>
2. Click on "Subscribe"
3. Fill in your e-mail address in the box at the top of the screen
4. Press "submit"

How do I post?

Send a message to: DELIBERATE@ala.org. For more information, send an e-mail to: taylor@austin-pacific.com or nancy.kranich@nyu.edu