



FOUNDATIONAL FUTURES SUMMIT

**A Democracy Innovation Summit
Developing the Innovation Prize and Grants**

HATCH





The Problem

A deepening set of political, economic, and social changes across society are threatening democracy



Broken trust in institutions

Trust in government and other democratic institutions are at an all-time low.



Fragmented media markets

In a world of echo chambers, algorithms, and limited trust for legacy media sources, there is often no shared pro-democracy narrative.



Us versus Them-ism

The effort to blame “others” for the country’s problems and defining one group’s success as at the expense of another is a powerful tool to keep us divided.



Public Sector Failures

Gridlock and polarization, as well as bureaucratic hurdles, are the hallmarks of our governmental institutions.



No Long-Term Innovation Center

Innovation is typically limited to elections, ignoring the deeper cultural, structural, and trust-based challenges to democracy. Less than 15% of organizations show evidence of true innovation with potential for long-term transformation.



Anti-democratic agendas

The MAGA movement is accelerating a decades-long movement to consolidate elite and corporate power, restrict rights, and limit opportunities.



Lack of agency

People are feeling powerless to shape their own futures and the future of our country. Some are disengaging while others look to authoritarian leaders who promise to “fix it all.”



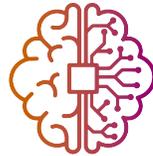
What This Moment Calls For

This moment requires bolder solutions that match the scale and scope of the challenges facing our democracy. **Innovating for U.S.** is organized to:



Target Root Challenges

Focus on structural and attitudinal challenges to democratic resilience



Cross-Pollinate Diverse Expertise

Curating unlikely collisions leads to unlocking unexpected solutions.



Spark Bold Ideas

Solicit and test ideas from unexpected sources



Promote Experimentation

Create space for learning through risk-taking, embracing failure and iteration as necessary to scalable breakthroughs



Build for Now and the Future

Invest in the infrastructure (people, practices, and metrics) that yield short-term gains while making durable civic transformation possible



Design with Intentionality

Define clear goals and build plans for how we want to shape the future of our democracy

INTRODUCING



A Democracy Innovation Summit & Prize

Innovating for U.S., in partnership with HATCH, will convene a 2.5-day summit to identify and refine the foundational challenges shaping the future of U.S. democracy. The summit will produce focused problem statements that inform Democracy Innovation Prize pathways, seeding long-term, scalable solutions beyond short-term electoral tactics.



How it works: The Democracy Innovation Prize

We boost innovation in targeted high-leverage areas by awarding an annual Prize for Democratic Innovation. Prizes are grants to individuals, teams, or organizations leading innovative efforts.

The prize program offer multiple benefits, such as:



**Concentrating
problem-solving around our
identified gaps**



**Expanding the net cast for
identifying promising
solutions**



**Surfacing and elevating the
most promising ideas**



**Encouraging cross-sector
collaboration**



**Seeding risky but potentially
transformative solutions**



Definitional Work

A 2.5-day summit to identify and refine the foundational challenges shaping the future of U.S. democracy.

Foundational Problem Statement Alignment

- Identify 2–3 core problem statements facing the U.S. (e.g., othering, loss of agency, declining public trust, punitive public sector systems, economic malfeasance).
- Identify underlying dynamics shaping these issues.
- Define what success would look like for multi-year work project emerging from the convening

Prize & Multi-Year Pathway Framing

- Support the ideation of a prototype democratic prize and light framing for a future open call.
- Develop creative councils of different subject matter experts around prize themes.

Development and scaling of strategies, approaches and programs that produce tangible structural change



The Five Phases

The Foundational Futures Summit & Democracy Innovation Prize prototyping process:

PHASE 1

Pre-Session Design & Preparation

- Stakeholder interviews and landscape review
- Curated participant selection across sectors
- Initial framing of Democracy Prize concepts

PHASE 2

Pre-Session Design & Preparation

- Structured dialogue and facilitated working sessions
- Problem identification, refinement, and prioritization
- Identification of potential prize concepts and pathways

PHASE 3

Commitment Session (¾ Day)

- Finalize 2–3 core problem statements
- Select 1–2 Democracy Prize pathways
- Define and select Creative Councils



How it works: The Foundational Futures Summit

The Foundational Futures Summit & Democracy
Innovation Prize prototyping process

PHASE 4

Written Outputs

- Final report to stakeholders, funders, and participants
- Clear articulation of next steps and pathways forward

PHASE 5

Plan Democracy Prize Development

- Award prize to address core problems
- Plan needs a creative team, a timeline, a budget, and outcomes



Why it works

- Complex democratic challenges require interdisciplinary insight
- Problem definition is currently fragmented and siloed
- High-quality convenings can accelerate clarity and alignment
- This summit is designed as a working intervention, not a conference





A Unique Team of Experts, Innovators and Visionaries: Hatch Studio and Innovating for U.S.

HATCH

HATCH is an ecosystem, community of thought leaders, and network accelerator of trusted relationships for collective impact, that de-siloes and cross pollinates diverse expertise to solve global challenges.

The HATCH community includes leaders from across sectors, including filmmakers, musicians, CEOs, founders, designers, technologists, educators, and policymakers from IDEO, NASA, Google, and more. By bringing together diverse perspectives, HATCH catalyzes meaningful collaboration and measurable impact on complex global challenges.



Innovating for U.S. fills a critical gap in the civic ecosystem by investing in long-term, risk-tolerant innovation. We focus on root causes—not just symptoms—to build a more resilient and pluralistic democracy.

Innovating for U.S. deploys a disciplined R&D model for democracy. We identify foundational civic challenges, develop strategic blueprints to clarify priorities and align action, and catalyze innovation through targeted prize pathways and incubation support. Through rigorous evaluation, we move promising ideas from concept to scalable impact.

HATCH

A SAMPLING FROM OUR WORLD RENOWN NETWORK

WE CURATE THE BRIGHTEST MINDS IN THE WORLD



MICHAEL MCAFEE

President and CEO / PolicyLink



DAN CARDINALI

Board Chair at The Fetzer Institute, Senior Advisor at Stand Together Foundation, and on the boards of Sojourners and Bridgespan



MARK GERZON

Board Chair / Mediators Foundation



BRITTAN HELLER

Lecturer in Political Science and Lecturer in Law / Stanford University



OTHO KERR

Director of Community Impact Investing / Federal Reserve Bank of New York



JENNIFER MCCOY

Regents Professor of Political Science / Georgia State University



LISA WITTER

CEO/Co-Founder / Better Politics Foundation/Apolitical



MEG BUSSE

COO, The Roddenberry Foundation



FARHOUD MEYBODI

Founder/Filmmaker / Ritual Arts



MARJORIE CLIFTON

Managing Partner/Founder / IGC (In Good Company)/Clifton Consulting



RALPH LEWIN

Executive Director / Peter E. Haas Jr. Family Fund



JOSH LYNN

Principal / JGL Inc. Former CEO Represent Us



SARAH CROSS

Senior Vice President, Strategic Partnerships / Stand Together



ALOE BLACC

Music & Activism | Artist | Social Change



SHEPARD FAIREY

American contemporary artist, activist and founder of OBEY Clothing



TRISTAN HARRIS

Tech ethicist, entrepreneur, co-founded the Center for Humane Technology



RADHIKA FOX

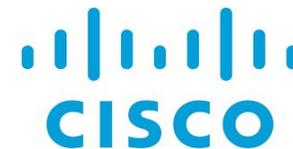
Consultant \ Former Assistant Admin of Water at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency



JAMIE BENNETT

Thought Leader / Lord Cultural Resources

THE HATCH COMMUNITY IS COMPRISED OF EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP FROM MANY OF THE LARGEST BRANDS IN THE WORLD

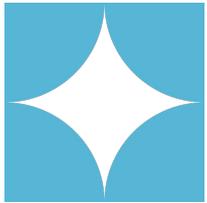




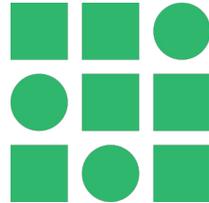
Innovating for U.S.

We take cutting-edge initiatives to market by incubating promising ideas and supporting strong leaders.

Our team sources, evaluates, and selects concepts based on their potential to address long-term challenges, giving support to ideas that may otherwise be overlooked.



1: Apply a broad lens to source ideas from unexpected places



2: Build out ideas, develop teams, pilot interventions, and establish core operating infrastructure



3: Reward successful initiatives and launch them for larger adoption.



Innovating for U.S.

Innovating for U.S. is a 501(c)(3) R&D incubator focused on strengthening American democracy. Modeled in part on private-sector research and innovation systems, it develops and advances new strategies, tools, and programs designed to address structural distortions and reinforce democratic resilience.

Core programs include:

Prizes for Democratic Innovation

Competitive prizes will expand democratic innovation by broadening participation in the development of solutions to foundational civic challenges.

Supporting individuals and cross-sector partnerships, these multi-year grants will enable research, piloting, and iterative refinement of high-potential approaches. Promising models will be assessed for broader application and long-term impact.

Summits

Summits will convene experts from different professional fields that showcase breakthrough innovations and generate unexpected collaborations. The summits are also designed to guide discussions and recommendations regarding the Prizes for Democracy Innovation.

There will be one major national summit per year that will cover a wide range of topics with opportunities for organizations, scholars, researchers and other innovators to submit proposals and discussion topics.

Two topic specific summits will be held in different regions of the country annually in partnership with local organizations and universities with a focus on state-based needs and policy solutions.



Budget

**Pre-session design,
stakeholder interviews,
draft prize design,
preparation and
In-person convening
total Costs:**

\$275,000

**Decision and
Commitment 3/4 Day
total Costs:**

\$30,000

**Post-Session Wrap Up
Costs:**

\$12,500

**Administrative costs,
staff travel, legal,
fundraising, research
and data management &
analytics:**

\$25,000

Not included: Participant travel or honoraria.



FOUNDATIONAL FUTURES SUMMIT

**A Democracy Innovation Summit
Developing the Innovation Prize and Grants**

HATCH

