



## Doing Democracy: Civic Education & Engagement at the Public Library

April 27-28, 2018 | Chapel Hill Public Library | Meeting Room B

*Libraries level the playing field as great democratic institutions, serving people of every age, income level, location, ethnicity, or physical ability, and providing the full range of information resources needed to live, learn, govern, and work. [They] are places for community engagement, a platform for great minds to come together. ~American Library Association*

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### Friday, April 27 | Chapel Hill Public Library | Meeting Room B

10:30 – 11:00 Registration

11:00 – 11:45 **Welcome and Introductions**

[Christie Norris](#) | Director, Carolina K-12 at Carolina Public Humanities

11:45 – 12:15 **Pick Up Lunch**

12:15 – 12:45 **Public Libraries, Public Good**

*Susan Brown, Director | Chapel Hill Public Library*

While profit-minded city administrators might target a public library for budget cuts, or argue that universal Internet makes libraries obsolete, others would argue that libraries are essential to a community and its prosperity. Chapel Hill Public Library Director Susan Brown will welcome us and discuss how public libraries are actually a uniquely important institution for democracy.

12:45 – 1:00 Break

1:00 – 2:15 **Civil Discourse (in Uncivil Times)**

[Dr. Brian Gibbs](#) | Assistant Professor, School of Education at UNC-Chapel Hill

In a time when politics and society seem more polarized than ever, many dedicated teachers choose to “play it safe” and avoid controversial issues in the classroom. In actuality, curricula and teaching based on controversial issues is crucial at this time. Dr. Gibbs will lead us in considering how public spaces such as schools and libraries have the potential to be powerful sites for democratic education, in which the purposeful inclusion of controversial issues, when implemented in structured and responsible ways, exemplifies what makes communities democratic and builds the skills and dispositions that students will need to live in and improve such communities.

2:15 – 2:30 Break

*This program is a collaboration of the [Chapel Hill Public Library](#) and [Carolina K-12 at UNC-Chapel Hill](#), with assistance from [Engaging Local Government Leaders](#). Funding is provided by the [NC City & County Managers Association](#) and from the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) as administered by the State Library of North Carolina, a division of the N.C. Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (IMLS grant number LS-00-17-0034-17).*

- 2:30 – 3:30     **Module Exploration: Participating in a Civil Conversation**  
 In this participatory session, we will look at specific lessons and activities for successfully addressing controversial issues in the classroom in safe and responsible ways. Teachers will learn about and participate in the Civil Conversation Model, which engages students in a close reading and analysis of a text that presents two sides of an issue. Students then participate in a structured, evidence-based small-group discussion about the issue, closing with a reflection on their participation in the conversation that emphasizes their reaching their own informed conclusions and common ground.
- 3:30 – 3:45     Break
- 3:45 – 4:15     **Baptism By Fire: A Day in the Life of a Newly Elected Council Member**  
[Dr. Rachel Schaevitz](#) | *Member of Chapel Hill Town Council & Postdoctoral Fellow in the Public Humanities at UNC-Chapel Hill*  
 Despite a schedule already filled with a full time job at UNC-Chapel Hill and family commitments as a mom of two, Dr. Rachel Schaevitz decided to run for Chapel Hill Town Council in 2017 in the hopes of contributing to her community in a real and practical way. Three months after winning and being sworn in, what’s it like actually serving on Town Council? Rachel will share her personal experiences in “doing democracy” and answer your questions about the reality of local government service.
- 4:15 – 5:30     **Module Exploration: City Council Simulation**  
 In this experiential activity, we will explore the role of city councils, the responsibilities of council members, and the relevance of council decisions to individual citizens by assuming the roles of city council members or special interest groups and participating in a mock city council simulation in which library funding is debated.
- 5:30 – 6:45     **Dinner and Keynote: “Doing Democracy” at the NC General Assembly**  
[Representative Graig Meyer](#) | *NC House of Representatives, District 50*  
 Representative Graig Meyer has served in the North Carolina House of Representatives since 2013, serving constituents in portions of Orange and Durham Counties. As one of only two trained social workers currently in the General Assembly, Rep. Meyer approaches legislation with an eye towards protecting those who are marginalized, vulnerable and oppressed. Prior to becoming a legislator, Rep. Meyer spent sixteen years working in North Carolina’s public schools. We are honored to learn from his experiences “doing democracy” at the state level.

**Saturday, April 28 | Chapel Hill Public Library | Meeting Room B**

- 9:00 – 9:30     Breakfast
- 9:30 – 10:15   **Tour of the Chapel Hill Public Library**  
 On April 10th, 2013, the Chapel Hill Public Library opened the doors of a newly renovated, silver LEED certified building that was a decade in the making. We believe in the transformative power of the public library. With a mission of “Sparking Curiosity, Inspiring Learning, and Creating Connections,” the library seeks to make a difference in the lives of its users and to make the community a better place through learning, sharing, and collaborating.
- 10:15 – 10:30   Break

- 10:30 – 11:00 **Local Government: Why You (and your Students) Should Care**  
[Roger Stancil](#) | *Town Manager for Chapel Hill*  
From budgeting and reporting to hiring and firing, a town manager is in many ways at the heart of local government as he or she is responsible for carrying out the council's policies and running city/town government. Chapel Hill's Town Manager Roger Stancil will share his thoughts on the importance of local government to each individual and answer your questions about his role and duties.
- 11:00 – Noon **Module Exploration:**  
Through role plays, we will explore some of the services provided by counties and municipalities.
- Noon – 12:40 Lunch
- 12:40 – 2:00 **Rotating Interviews with Local Government Officials**  
Ever wondered what a day in the life of an employee at animal services is actual like? Or how the Board of Elections works to prevent voter fraud? In "speed-dating" format, you'll have the opportunity to meet and grill several local government officials, the folks on the ground "doing democracy" every single day. Interviewees include:
- Bob Marotto, Director Orange County Animal Services
  - Chris Roberts, Manager of Engineering and Infrastructure, Town of Chapel Hill Public Works
  - Rachel Raper, Director, Orange County Board of Elections
  - Matt Sullivan, Chief of the Chapel Hill Fire Department
- 2:00 – 2:15 Break
- 2:15 – 3:00 **"Doing Democracy" Curriculum Review**
- 3:00 – 3:30 **Closing & Evaluations**

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