JOURNALISM THAT MATTERS
IN A WORLD GONE MAD

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The stories that we tell ourselves shape the way we see the world. And that shapes our behavior. Journalists are cultural storytellers. The stories they’re telling us aren’t serving us well.

*What can I do?*

August 10, 1999
What would it take to have a national conversation about the future of journalism?

Listen. Connect. Trust. How do we elevate engagement for communities to thrive?
How do you change a social system?

LISTEN AND EXPERIMENT

2005 Journalism that matters for the 21st century

2008 Journalists & technologists

2010, 2011 Journalists of color

2011 Journalists & librarians

2012 Incorporated as nonprofit

2014 engagementhub.org

2015, 2017 Journalists and community connectors of all sorts
What are we learning?

REFLECT AND EVOLVE
While staying true to the call

2008

2015

A Communications Ecosystem
for a thriving Civic Sphere of Engagement
Participants stretched, refreshed, and inspired to pursue innovations

New and often unlikely partnerships form

Breakthrough initiatives are underway

A community of engaged journalism innovators exists

A culture of engaged journalism is growing

PERSIST

When in doubt, keep going

From spitting in the wind...

To spreading seeds
How can journalism contribute to civil discourse?

Journalism matters most when it is of, by, and for the people.
HOW DO SOCIAL SYSTEMS CHANGE?

Emergence: Complexity in action

Adapted from Peggy Holman, Engaging Emergence: Turning Upheaval into Opportunity, 2010
DESIGN FOR EMERGENCE

Create a container
holding compassion and curiosity
- Focus through generative questions
- Invite diversity
- Welcome who and what comes

Engage
- Support authentic expression
- Encourage connection

Seek meaning
Reflect on emerging coherence
Listen for generative images

Adapted from Peggy Holman, Complexity, Self-organization, and Emergence in Dialogic Organization Development, 2015