



Sent: February 27, 2009

Subject: Items Worth Noting & Discussing

Many interesting articles and initiatives appeared on our radar this week and we wanted to pass them along:

1. [Forward Together](#). The Listening Post Project at Johns Hopkins University is organizing the [Forward Together Declaration](#): Empowering America's Citizen Sector for the Change We Need. The declaration reads, "As concerned leaders in the nonprofit, or citizen, sector, we have come together in this time of national crisis to renew our commitment to serve as partners in public service in addressing the challenges our nation faces. We invite our colleagues in the nonprofit sector, in organized philanthropy, in government, in the business world, and in academia, to join us in this effort so that together we can use the present crisis as an occasion to rededicate our nation to the principles of joint responsibility and concerted action that have long been the source of our strength." We encourage you to read the full declaration, sign it if you agree with it, and pass it along to your networks and colleagues.

2. [Summer Institute of Civic Studies](#). The Jonathan M. Tisch College of Citizenship and Public Service at Tufts University is offering a two-week intensive Summer Institute of Civic Studies this summer. The Institute is aimed mainly at PhD students from all disciplines and universities. Those who planned it (a diverse group of scholars from around the country) share certain philosophical commitments, which are summarized in this [framing statement](#). The core instructors will be Stephen Elkin and Karol Soltan from the University of Maryland, and Peter Levine from Tufts University.

3. [Stimulus House Parties](#). [Common Sense of California](#)'s Executive Director Pete Peterson raises some important questions about the recent "stimulus house parties" that were organized by what many knew as the Obama campaign. Writing in [City Journal](#), Peterson says, "These "stimulus house parties" followed a model that the Obama campaign developed to solicit volunteers and donations. Their structure suggests that the campaign will never end-and, unfortunately, that serious public engagement with important national issues will rarely occur."

If you have read something of interest that you think we should share, please send it to [us](#).