



**Sent: May 7, 2009**

**Subject: New Guide on Funding and Fostering Local Democracy**

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The Deliberative Democracy Consortium and PACE (Philanthropy for Civic Engagement) just released a guide that will help funders and other leaders better understand our field and how to support it. "*Funding and Fostering Local Democracy: What Philanthropy Should Know About the Emerging Field of Deliberation and Democratic Governance*" can be downloaded for [www.deliberative-democracy.net](http://www.deliberative-democracy.net).

The strategies described in the guide-and the stories of how communities have used them to break policy deadlock, reduce tension and galvanize volunteerism-can help funders, public officials and community activists better understand the possibilities, and limitations, of various approaches to working with the public.

"Perhaps the most significant-and overlooked-recent development in the health of local democracy is the shift in citizen expectations, capacities and attitudes toward government," argues Matt Leighninger, the director of the Deliberative Democracy Consortium and the author of this guide. "This guide illustrates how this shift is affecting public officials, foundations and nonprofit organizations, and how it has provoked a new generation of efforts to make local politics and local governance more participatory, deliberative and productive."

At the "[No Better Time](#)" conference in July, Chris will be one of the leaders of a learning exchange on "What have foundations learned about the field, and what do they want to know?" Also helping to lead that session will be Stuart Comstock-Gay of the Vermont Community Foundation, Dick Ober of the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation, and John Esterle of the Whitman Institute (who is also the chair of the board for PACE).