

## Common Knowledge

### Successful Community Engagement around Housing

With the goal of creating more community momentum for housing in San Mateo County, four cities were awarded grants from [Home for All](#) and technical assistance from Common Knowledge: Burlingame, Portola Valley, Redwood City and Half Moon Bay. There are PDF summaries from [Burlingame](#) and [Portola Valley](#) about their positive first phase results. In both cases, there has been a significant shift in how both the council and the community view each other, as well as the possibilities for moving forward to accelerate housing decisions.



We helped our partners at Redwood City conduct their first [Housing and Our Future](#) community conversation on April 7th, conducted in Spanish at [Casa Círculo Cultural](#). Their next community conversation will be [tonight](#) at the Redwood City Public Library. We're really enjoying our work with such great partners.

### Free facilitation webinars for libraries and other local agencies

Our colleagues at the California State Library invited us to design and lead two webinars on topics of highest interest for experienced facilitators. We partnered with libraries to share best practices and case stories. The one-hour recordings feature elements from our most popular trainings, plus skilled local leaders who are transforming the role of libraries in their communities.

#### [Facilitating Multi-Dimensional Listening: Helping Groups Identify Common Ground while Acknowledging Differences](#)

Many of us are familiar with the practice of "active listening." This webinar helps experienced facilitators and discussion leaders learn how to help the entire group listen together more skillfully for clues to where there might be common ground while respecting differences that arise.

[Click here to listen.](#)

#### [Facilitating Constructive Contributions: Dealing with Difficult Behaviors](#)

Basic facilitation skills involve keeping a group on topic and on time. But what happens when a participant needs special attention? This webinar identifies common types of disruptive behavior and multiple methods for facilitators to keep the conversation constructive, including meeting design and preparation that helps bring out the best in people.

[Click here to listen.](#)

### Code for America Summit 2018

Interested in the intersection of community and

civic technology? Join Common Knowledge at the Code for America pre-summit workshop on Wednesday **May 30**. We are pleased to be invited back to share our insights about how user-based design is at the heart of effective community engagement.

[See all pre-summit workshops here.](#)

[Register for the main summit here.](#)



*"This workshop drew rave reviews from participants at the last Code for America Summit, and we are delighted to welcome Susan back to offer it to more of our community."*

## Effective Community Engagement Requires User-Based Design

LED BY: Susan Clark, Founder and Director, *Common Knowledge Group*

Knowing when and how to invite community input into government decisions has become an essential skill for civic leaders. This interactive workshop is for those who have worked at the state or local level to increase civic participation and can bring their experiences of what went well and what didn't. We'll unpack differences between "civic culture" and "community culture" to show how to enhance the resident's experience while also building trust. You will learn how local governments are using lean, iterative approaches to design, invite and report community input. Participants will leave with tools they can use right away for more inclusive, informed and sustained engagement.



*This year our featured guest will be Alex Khojikian, Deputy City Manager, Redwood City. Alex is doing pathbreaking work coordinating in-person networks and digital networks.*

---

## Fall 2018 NCCD Conference: Connecting and Strengthening Civic Innovators

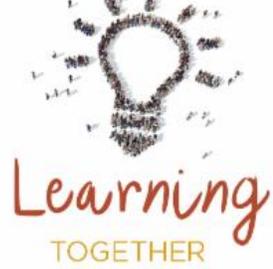
Our country's current political climate has people yearning for a different way to interact, including the ability to listen to one another with more understanding, to work more effectively across differences, and to improve how we make decisions together and engage in our democracy. Many people don't know that there is a robust network already in place, the [National Coalition of Dialogue and Deliberation](#). Common Knowledge Director Susan Clark is an NCDD board member and she invites you to join her November 2-4, 2018 in Denver for [NCDD2018](#). See what NCDD conferences are like at [www.tinyurl.com/ncdd2016vid](http://www.tinyurl.com/ncdd2016vid).

Are you already working in this field? [Call for Session Proposals](#) for NCDD 2018 is now open through May 9<sup>th</sup>. More information is available at [ncdd.org/26191](http://ncdd.org/26191).

---

Sent from your friends at the Common Knowledge Group:  
Susan Stuart Clark, William Cooley, Mony Flores-Bauer and Anna Bevil.

---



Common Knowledge | 415-454-6500 | [info@ckgroup.org](mailto:info@ckgroup.org) | [www.ckgroup.org](http://www.ckgroup.org)

STAY CONNECTED:

