

Symposium Agenda

Dispute Resolution Institute

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**AN INTENTIONAL CONVERSATION ABOUT
Public Engagement and Decision-Making:
Moving from Dysfunction and Polarization to Dialogue and Understanding**

Agenda

- Thursday, October 22** **James J. Hill House, 240 Summit Avenue, St. Paul**
6:00 - 8:00 p.m. **Welcome Reception**
- Friday, October 23** **Hamline University, Kay Fredericks Room, 3rd Floor of Klas Center**
- 8:00 am** **Registration and Continental Breakfast**
- 8:30 am** **Welcome**
Dr. Fayneese Miller, President Hamline University
Sharon Press, Dispute Resolution Institute Director and Professor, Hamline University School of Law
- 9:00 am - Noon** **Session One: Setting the Context**
Moderator: Ken Fox, Dispute Resolution Institute Senior Fellow and Professor, Hamline University School of Business
- In this context setting session, we will collectively develop the questions and themes which contribute to making “public engagement” dysfunctional and/or polarizing. Through both large and small group work, we will sharpen and deepen our understanding of these themes in order to fully understand the dimensions of the challenges we face.*
- Questions we will explore include:*
- *What do you see as the biggest/deepest challenges related to public engagement?*
 - *If you could tackle one challenge related to public engagement, what would it be? ... and why?*

Theme Leaders:

Hector Garcia, Executive Director, Minnesota Council on Latino Affairs

Kevin Lindsey, Commissioner, Minnesota Department of Human Rights

Roger Moe, Lobbyist and former majority leader of the Minnesota Senate

Gail Rosenblum, Columnist, Star Tribune

Robert Stains, Senior Vice President for Training, the Public Conversations Project

Rashad Turner, Lead Organizer, Black Lives Matter, Saint Paul

Noon - 1:30 pm

Lunch

Hamline University, Kay Fredericks Room, 3rd Floor of Klas Center

1:30 pm - 5:00 pm

Session Two: Rethinking Public Engagement: What We Have Learned and What We Can Do Better

Moderator: Sharon Press

In this session, we will use the issues raised in session one to identify productive and non-productive public engagement processes and activities. Through large and small group work we will explore what we can learn from these experiences and what work still remains to be done.

Questions we will explore include:

- *What does it mean to be heard?*
- *How do we achieve “real” as opposed to “show” engagement?*
- *What is the place and process for building trust before, during and after a process of public engagement?*
- *How do we most effectively impact decision-makers?*
- *Is there a role for “intentional disruption?” What advice do we have for public officials about “intentional disruption?” How do we ensure voice for those who are disenfranchised?*
- *How can dialogue for the purpose of deepening understanding intentionally inform decision-making processes?*

- *How can we create a culture that is so inviting that people want to contribute and want to return?*
- *If there were no constraints, what would the “ideal” public engagement process look like?*

Theme Leaders:

Lisa Blomgren Amsler, Keller Runden Professor of Public Service, School of Public and Environmental Affairs, Indiana University

Toni Carter, Commissioner, Ramsey County

Tadd Johnson, Professor and Chair of the American Indian Studies Department, University of Minnesota Duluth

Colleen Landkamer, Minnesota State Director, USDA Rural Development

David Matz, Professor, Department of Conflict Resolution, Human Security, and Global Governance; McCormack Graduate School, University of Massachusetts Boston

Kathy Quick, Assistant Professor, Public and Nonprofit Leadership, Humphrey School, University of Minnesota

Wyman Spano, Professor, Metropolitan State University

5:00 pm – 8:00 pm **Reception and Dinner with Directed Table Conversations**
Anderson Center Room 112

Saturday, October 24 **Hamline University, Anderson Center Room 112**
(Underground parking entrance at the southwest corner of the building off Englewood Ave.)

9:00 am – 9:15 am **Welcome**
Dean Marie Failing, Hamline University School of Law

9:15 am - Noon

Session Three: Where Do We Go From Here?

Moderator: Jim Coben, Dispute Resolution Institute Senior Fellow and Professor, Hamline University School of Law

In this session, we turn our focus to the future. Collectively, we will explore where we want to invest our energy to impact public engagement and decision-making going forward.

Theme Leaders

Annamarie Gutsch, Center for American Indian and Minority Health, University of Minnesota Duluth

Sia Her, Executive Director, Council on Asian Pacific Minnesotans

George Latimer, Professor Emeritus, Macalester College; former Hamline Law Dean and St. Paul Mayor

Kristine Martin, Vice President, Wilder Center for Communities

Bernie Mayer, Professor of Conflict Resolution, Werner Institute, Creighton University School of Law

Edward McDonald, Executive Director, Council on Black Minnesotans

Jaime Tincher, Chief of Staff, Office of Governor Mark Dayton

Noon

Symposium concludes

This Symposium is offered in cooperation with the Minnesota Office of Collaboration and Dispute Resolution and the Hamline Law Review