

Effective Citizenship: The Leadership Role of Older Adults Host a SAGE Citizen Project Gathering

Perhaps much in the news shocks you and makes you feel like our communities are more polarized, and less able to solve long-term challenges. You can take action. We invite you to host a SAGE Citizen Project gathering where guests share ideas, insights, and opportunities for constructive engagement.

What does SAGE do?

SAGE is a nonprofit organization that helps older adults remain civically engaged. We are concerned about community challenges, and we know older adults have energy, experience, and resources to make a difference for today and tomorrow.

What takes place at the event, who should come?

You can bring this conversation to your group or business. We are happy to co-facilitate with you.

We will begin with a presentation about emerging trends that impact our democracy, such as growing distrust of local governments, and contempt for people with different views. Guests share ideas about how to promote better discussions that bring people together across differences. Young adults are welcome to attend and share their views.

During the event, guests will also have an opportunity to raise issues in the community they feel have not been fully discussed, and to share thoughts about what is getting in the way and ideas for moving forward. Good topics may include exchanging views on events or long-term issues such as in education or the economy. This conversation is brief and not meant to change hearts and minds, but to spark interest in meeting again to discuss working on specific projects.

What else should I know?

Each conversation has its own energy and pace, and the format can be adapted to your needs and interests. Our goal is for guests to feel comfortable sharing their views in a respectful and supportive atmosphere. These events are led by SAGE facilitators and occur over a 2-hour program.

SAGE will not ask for money at the gathering. All we will ask is that guests share one concrete action they plan to take to bring people together across differences. We also share information about our mission and ask guests to complete a short questionnaire to help us improve our programming.

How can I learn more?

Contact SAGE: [Hello@WeAreSage.org](mailto>Hello@WeAreSage.org) • 971-717-6570 • Visit WeAreSage.org/CitizenProject



How can I help as a host?

- Host a gathering for 6-30 people in your home, office, community center, or place of worship (SAGE can cover costs of venue and refreshments up to \$250). We can also host an event online.
- Help us identify invitees, including those with different views and backgrounds (SAGE can send invitations and handle RSVPs, or you can do so).
- Introduce facilitator, relax, have fun.
- Let SAGE know if your group wants to meet again and, if so, how we might help promote a project led by your group (e.g., offer connections, resources, volunteers).