

# Community Forum

February 23, 2019 – The Renaissance Hotel – 9 AM- 4 PM

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Murray & Agnes  
**Seasongood**

Good Government Foundation

## The Power of Organizing – Finding your Community’s Voice

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### 9:00 – 9:45 | Introduction and Keynote – *Organizing in our Democracy*

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Karen Hobert Flynn - President, Common Cause of the United States

### 9:50 – 10:45 | Prominent organizers illustrate roadblocks to community problem solving

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FC Cincinnati, the cancellation of the local Women’s March, and media treatment of community concerns illustrate divisions that organizers need to overcome. So are racial, health, and economic divides. Panel members – moderated by Liz Blume and including the Partnering Center, Peaslee, Air, Inc. and the Sierra Club -- identify the basic tools needed for communities to assure their needs are addressed and the steps to avoid being blindsided by outside decisions.

### 10:45 – 11:00 | Break

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### 11:00 – 12:00 | Breakout Sessions – What issues bring you here?

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Participants divide into four smaller groups to discuss each community’s largest civic concerns from political reform, to the environment, to development control, to racism and poverty, to inside or intra community conflicts. Teams from Common Cause, Women’s City Club, Sierra Club, CUFA, Invest in Neighborhoods, and the City of Cincinnati will facilitate the discussions.

### 12:00 – 1:15 | Luncheon Speaker: “Why Organize?”

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Experienced organizers will help you tackle this basic question. After the talk, facilitators will summarize what was learned during 11:00 am breakout sessions.

### 1:15 – 2:00 | Current Organizing Efforts

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A panel from the Bold New Democracy, Common Cause, Communities United for Action, and the Homeless Coalition will share their community efforts and potential solutions to prevent communities from being blindsided, e.g. coalition building, grassroots organizing, and Community Benefits Agreements

### 2:05 – 2:45 | Media Panel: “The Media and Your Communities’ Needs”

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Jeff Blevins, UC Chair of Journalism, best social media practices to get social justice and an editor from the local print media

### 2:45 – 3:30 | Wrap-up: “Where do we go from here?”

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Foundation representatives Dave Altman and Michael Coffey will discuss grant making to facilitate community problem solving, grant-seeking, and follow-up workshops