

A photograph of the Savannah skyline at dusk. The sky is a mix of orange, yellow, and blue. In the foreground, a white riverboat with red and yellow lights is on the water. The background features several buildings, including a tall white building with many lit windows and a building with a large yellow dome. The water reflects the lights from the buildings and the boat.

CIVICLAB

TALENT HUBS & THE NATIONAL TALENT NETWORK

THE NATIONAL CONVENING AGENDA PREVIEW

DECEMBER 2-5, 2025
SAVANNAH, GEORGIA



TALENT LIVES **HERE.**

CivicLab is hosting the National Convening of Talent Hubs and the National Talent Network on **December 2-5, 2025** at the **Hyatt Regency Hotel in Savannah, GA.**

Every other year, we convene **one of the largest gatherings of local, regional, and state-level cross-sector partnerships focused on postsecondary education.** The event provides a unique opportunity for leaders across the United States to connect with each other, learn from exemplary partnerships, and hear from national leaders on ways to improve postsecondary ecosystems.

This year's convening will feature:

- Pre-day institutes focused on regional systems-building and designing community-wide measurement systems.
- Keynote speakers presenting the latest research and national exemplars for postsecondary and employer partnerships.
- A unique “Hard Lessons” breakout session featuring intimate conversations about learning from failure.
- Featured presentations focused on the intersectionality of challenges inhibiting postsecondary attainment, including housing, mental health, food insecurity, and transportation.



Agenda

Tuesday, December 2

Pre-Day Institutes, 10am-4pm

- **Building Collaborative Measurement Plans**, presented by Pranav Kothari of Revolution Impact
- **The Think and Feel of Social Change**, presented by CivicLab team, led by Jack Hess

Welcome Reception, 4:30-6:30pm

- Sponsored by Michigan College Access Network (MCAN)
- All are welcome to attend!

Wednesday, December 3

Day 1, 8am-4:00pm

- **Mainstage Presentations**
 - Featuring Dr. Andre Perry of the Center for Community Uplift at the Brookings Institution
- **Breakout Sessions**
 - Getting It Done
 - Hard Lessons

Reception, 4:30-6:30pm

- Sponsored by Shasta College Attainment and Innovation Lab for Equity (SCALE)

Thursday, December 4

Day 2, 8am-4:00pm

- **Mainstage Presentations**
 - Featuring Eureka People of Housing Kent
- **Breakout Sessions**
 - Features and Partners
 - Design Labs

Friday, December 5

Day 3, 8am-12pm

- **Mainstage Presentations:**
 - Featuring *Becoming the Best: Talent Hub Designation Framework*, presented by Dakota Pawlicki and Tessa LeSage
- **Closing Remarks**

Sponsors

The National Convening is made possible by our generous sponsors:



Featured Speakers



Andre Perry
The Brookings Institution



Eureka People
Housing Kent



Pranav Kothari
Revolution Impact



Amanda Fuchs Miller
Seventh Street Strategies



Jenni Murphy
California State University



Scott Jenkins
Trillium Insights

Highlights include:

Dr. Andre Perry: Join us for a thought-provoking 30-minute talk and engaging fireside chat with Professor Andre M. Perry, author of *Black Power Scorecard*. Drawing from his groundbreaking research, Andre will explore the critical factors that foster thriving Black communities—beyond just democratic freedoms. He will delve into how access to property, education, health, and economic opportunities serve as the foundation for social and economic power. He will share insights from his book on how communities can implement strategic, data-driven approaches to elevate wellbeing and influence. He'll also discuss practical strategies for prioritizing investments—like increasing homeownership and supporting Black-owned businesses—that can lead to lasting empowerment. The conversation will emphasize that real progress requires targeted actions based on measurable indicators, helping communities set clear priorities to close the racial gap.

Eureka People: In this dynamic mainstage session, Eureka People will share key insights into how to use community engagement, data, communication, policy, and advocacy to reimagine systems that work for everyone. Informed by her years of experience in housing stability and her role as President of Housing Kent, Eureka will discuss what it takes to dissolve homelessness, increase affordable housing, and eliminate the shocking racial disparities in the housing system. Eureka will underscore the value of raising the voices of people with lived experience from anywhere on the housing continuum, ensuring systems change efforts reflect the lived experience of those most impacted by the housing crisis.

Pre-Day Institutes

All attendees are encouraged to attend one of two optional pre-day institutes. These pre-day institutes take place on Tuesday, December 2 from 12:30p – 4:00p and provide attendees a deep-dive opportunity on specific topics.

Pre-day institutes are offered as a discounted add-on to the registration cost – \$75 by the early bird deadline; \$100 after the early bird deadline.

Institute 1: Building Collaborative Measurement Plans

Collective impact partnerships and similar collaboratives are often organized around a set of cradle-to-career outcomes that, by and large, have referenceable measurement approaches. As the field has evolved, however, measuring outcomes such as social mobility and overall performance of the collaborative have become more needed and more challenging. This pre-day session will create space for collaboratives to learn how partnerships in multiple geographies have made progress on these challenges and provide time for facilitated measurement planning for your collaborative. The session will also build in time for peer learning so that all are benefiting from the time together. (Note that those registering for the session will receive a brief survey before the session to help cater the content to your needs.) This session will be presented by Pranav Kothari of Revolution Impact.

Institute 2: The Think and Feel of Social Change

How do we make what's invisible visible? How do we shift from merely understanding social problems to feeling the need for change, and then acting on it?

In this immersive workshop, we explore how transformative social change begins not only with data and analysis but with the experiences that move hearts and change minds. Participants will learn to use striking images to make systems visible and show meaningful differences. Then, we'll go further: designing engaging experiences that invite people to interact with those systems in ways that create awareness, dialogue, disruption, and, ultimately, possibility.

Through real-world examples that span the breadth of data analysis, design, and the visual arts, you'll learn to:

- Illuminate the hidden forces shaping your community
- Design powerful visualizations and maps that provoke understanding
- Craft interactive experiences that shift perspective and awaken new responses
- Move from detached analysis to embodied engagement and participation

This workshop is ideal for community leaders, backbone organizations, collective impact initiatives, policymakers, and anyone working to make change in complex systems. By the end, you'll leave with a toolkit of methods that reveal reality, foster participation, and build microcosms of what a better world can feel like. Because sometimes, as the film director Stanley Kubrick once said, "The truth of the thing is not so much in the think of it, but in the feel of it." This session is provided by the team at CivicLab, led by President and co-founder Jack Hess.

Breakout Sessions

Getting It Done

The real power in gathering a large network of leaders and practitioners is the opportunity to “rob and duplicate” tools, processes, resources, and frameworks from other successful partnerships. These breakout sessions focus entirely on the use of data tools, collaborative processes, equity frameworks, and other tangible tools that can be immediately used upon returning home.

Hard Lessons

Partnerships across the United States are testing new ways of working...and not all of them work out. These sessions are all about sharing the hard lessons learned by practitioners and leaders working in the space of talent, collaboration, and systems change.

Design Labs

Design labs introduce tools, frameworks, and other resources, giving people an opportunity to interact with new materials that may aid their efforts. A portion of these sessions are dedicated to giving attendees time to use a tool, learn from one another, and explore its application to their own work.

Partnership Features and National Partners

These sessions give partnerships and national partners an opportunity to feature work in action. Features include successful programs, work in progress, completed research, and opportunities for attendees to engage in national programs.

Speakers include:



Register Today

Thanks in part to generous sponsorship, CivicLab is pleased to provide reduced registration costs to make the convening an affordable opportunity for all who wish to attend.

Early bird registration closes on September 26, 2025, so register today!

Categories	Early Bird	Regular
Talent Hub	\$550	\$650
National Talent Network	\$550	\$650
Attendee	\$650	\$750
Optional Pre-Day Institutes – Add on	\$75	\$100

Categories and Cost

Talent Hubs and partnerships in the National Talent Network receive subsidized registration costs. If you are unsure if you are part of a Talent Hub or the National Talent Network, contact Megan Langdon at mlangdon@civiclab.org.

Discounts are available for:

- Organizations and partnerships bringing five or more attendees
- Presenters who are not members of a Talent Hub or the National Talent Network
- National convening sponsors
- Members of CivicLab's Systemness Leadership Academy

Contact Megan Langdon for a discount code if you are within an eligible group.

COMPLETE YOUR REGISTRATION TODAY

