

## **Tentative Agenda**

*(as of July 24, 2017)*

The Aspen Institute Communications and Society Program, in partnership with the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, have established the Knight Commission on Trust, Media and American Democracy. Currently, trust in the major institutions of American democracy has fallen to troubling lows amid a rapidly changing information ecosystem. Without trust, democracy cannot function. It is, therefore, the Commission's charge to examine the causes and consequences of a collapse in trust in democratic institutions, with a focus on trust in the media, journalism and the information ecosystem. In addition, the Commission seeks to identify the perennial and emerging values and social obligations that should guide those who produce, distribute and consume news and information to ensure a functioning democracy. To accomplish this, the August 2017 workshop will provide Commissioners and participants an opportunity for thoughtful discussion guided by a set of issue-driven white papers and readings.

### **Wednesday, August 9, 2017**

4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.                      *Check in at Aspen Meadows*

6:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.                      **Opening Cocktail Reception, Group dinner and Introductions**  
*Located on the Merrill Patio at the Aspen Meadows Reception Center*

### **Thursday, August 10, 2017**

7:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.                      *Breakfast at the Aspen Meadows Restaurant*

8:45 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.                      **Session I. Democracy and Trust**  
*All workshop sessions will be held in the Lauder Seminar Room*

This opening session explores these questions: What is the role of trust in democratic institutions? Why has trust in democratic institutions declined over the years, and why is it worrying?

10:15 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.                      *Break & Group Photo*

10:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.                      **Session II. Science, Technologies and Institutions of Trust**  
This session builds first from a scientific understanding of trust, and moves on to its implications. Participants will discuss features of trust ranging from the physiological to the psychological. Then, how do digital technologies relate to the growing mistrust of democratic institutions?

12:15 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.                      *Lunch*

**1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.                      Session III. Media and Trust**

The tradition of journalism has long served the public by providing citizens with information necessary to sustain a self-governing democratic society. Now, journalism faces a reckoning. Over the past decade, the “fourth estate” has been decimated by economic and technological changes. More pressing, journalism suffers from a growing distrust by readers across the ideological spectrum. This session will discuss the current media landscape, explore issues related the deterioration of trust in the industry and respond to the question: *What would bring trust to the American media?*

3:00 p.m.                                      *Participant Free Time*

5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.                      *Optional: McCloskey Speaker Series, “Becoming an Ally to the President,” featuring Thomas J. Barrack, Jr., Executive Chairman, Colony NorthStar and Chairman, Presidential Inaugural Committee; and Walter Isaacson, President and CEO, The Aspen Institute*

**For complimentary tickets, please email Kristine Gloria at [Kristine.Gloria@aspeninstitute.org](mailto:Kristine.Gloria@aspeninstitute.org)**

**6:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.**

**Cocktail Reception and Group Dinner**

*Vans will depart from the Aspen Meadows reception building at 6:15 p.m.*

*Aspen Kitchen*

*515 E Hopkins Ave #200*

*Aspen, CO 81611*

*(970) 300-4525*

**Friday, August 11, 2017**

7:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.

*Breakfast at the Aspen Meadows Restaurant*

**8:45 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.**

**Session IV. Moving Forward I**

The final two sessions will look at the future direction for the Knight Commission on Trust, Media and American Democracy. What questions loom largest as the Commission undertakes its work ahead? How should it chart its course ahead?

10:15 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

*Break*

**10:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.**

**Session V. Moving Forward II**

12:00 p.m.

*Lunch and Adjourn*