

Call for Proposals:

DECODE

**Where literacy and
social progress intersect.**



What is the DECODE

Decode is an interactive conference for educators, literacy professionals, engaged philanthropists, and civic decision-makers. Through peer-to-peer networking, hands-on workshops, interactive panel discussions, and access to new resources and field experts, we will:

- Breakdown the complex barriers to literacy acquisition
- Strategize literacy-based solutions to urgent social challenges
- Analyze the literacy landscape to inform decisions and action



Application and Event Timeline

- ▶ **Application Opens:** March 9, 2020
- ▶ **Application Deadline:** April 17, 2020
- ▶ **Notification of Decisions:** June 1, 2020
- ▶ **Presenter Materials Due:** July 31, 2020
- ▶ **State of Literacy Symposium:** October 1 & 2, 2020

Theme

Literacy and Civic Engagement:

How do the tools of literacy empower us to engage in and contribute to our community and political life in Chicago?

Format

Day 1: Keynote by Idris Goodwin and Kevin Coval followed by a cocktail reception at the Newberry Library

Day 2: Interactive Panels, Community Networking, and Invigorating Workshops at the Literacenter

Primary Audiences

Day 1

- Literacy Educators and Professionals
- Foundation Program Officers
- Civic Decision Makers

Day 2

- Elementary, Secondary, and Higher Education Professionals
- Staff Members of nonprofit community organizations
- College Students interested in education, civic life, and social justice

Conference Day 2 Schedule

Time	Events & Sessions	Engagement Opportunities
8:30am - 9:00am	Registration opens	
9:00am - 9:30am	Open Remarks and Performances	
9:45am - 10:45am	Session 1	Lightning Ignite Talks
11:00am - 12:00pm	Session 2	Roundtable Discussions
12:00pm - 1:00pm	Lunch (provided)	Networking Area
1:00pm - 2:00pm	Session 3	Lightning Ignite Talks
2:15pm - 3:15pm	Session 4	Roundtable Discussions
3:30pm - 4:00pm	Wrap up and Raffle	

Learning Threads and Session Topics

Thread 1: **YOUTH and LITERACY**

1. **Tomorrow's Citizens** - Focus on creating opportunities through literacy that empower young people to become civically engaged individuals
2. **Social Emotional Learning** - Focus on literacy as a catalyst for civic engagement, empathy, and understanding across differences in the early childhood space.
3. **Equity in Literacy Education** - Focus on the literacy achievement gap and the accessibility of resources for bolstering literacy instruction in neighborhood schools.
4. **Critical Thinking and Media Literacy** - Focus on the education and resources necessary for media/news literacy, digital inclusion, and critical thinking development.

Thread 2: **COMMUNITY and LITERACY**

1. **Neighborhood Identity and Building Community** - Focus on the importance of neighborhood-based literacy projects and their ability to create a sense of community and neighborhood identity
2. **Literacy and Returning Citizens** - Focus on the returning citizen experience including their needs and the services available to them
3. **Ensuring Equitable Access to Civic Life** - Focus on voting access, navigating the court system, and other civic opportunities for individuals living with low literacy.
4. **Role of Libraries in Civic Life** - Focus on literacy programs offered at the libraries and the sense of community/identity that comes with utilizing the local library and technology.

Session Formats

Interactive Presentation Formats (60 min)

1. P- Cubed Format:

Present - 20 minute presentation by expert

Panel - 15 minute discussion by 3-4 experts on impact of speaker's presentation and topic

Ponder - 15 minute audience small group discussions
(leaves 10 minutes for share outs)

2. Interactive Poll Session:

A moderator with 3-4 panelists. Panelists prepare answers to questions ahead of time. Then, using a platform like Slido, audience members answer the questions first via online poll and the panelists respond incorporating the 3rd voice of the audience in the discussion.

3. Hands-on Workshop:

Highly-interactive demonstration or experiential learning that provides attendees with specific new skills/tools for their educational practice.

Engagement Opportunities (7 -10 min)

1. Lightning Ignite Talks

Presenters get 20 slides, which automatically advance every 20 seconds. The result is a fast and fun presentation which lasts just under 7 minutes. The purpose of these short talks are to spark an idea,, share a quick case study, pose a thought provoking question to contemplate, or share a quick skill, piece of knowledge, or tool for advocacy.

2. Other

If you want to use a format not listed here for an interactive session (60 min) or an engagement opportunity (7 -10 min), we would love to hear your idea. Keep in mind that the goal is to engage your audience and have them learn something new.

Learning Objectives for Proposals

- Each presentation should clearly defined learning objectives that align with either the *Youth and Literacy* or *Community and Literacy* learning threads AND address one of the session topics listed in slide 8.
- Each presentation should outline what participants will:
 - Know (facts, definitions) as a result of the session
 - Understand (concepts, “big ideas) as a result of the session
 - Do (processes, skills) during the session - *for hands-on workshops only*

Goals for Event

- To gain and share knowledge around youth and community intersections with literacy and civic engagement
- To learn new strategies that apply to work as an educator, literacy practitioner, or engaged citizen that can improve literacy outcomes
- To inspire our community to take action with newfound knowledge, skills, and connections

For questions or inquiries, contact
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