



O-1 President's Report

April 9, 2025

- Attended Jan Board meeting
- Attended Communications meeting in Jan
- Began search for new PD committee chair
 - Victor Baeza will take over after Leadership Institute, Robin will fill in until then
- Found members for Bylaws committee
- Started Advocacy committee
 - Found a chair
 - Populated the committee with some members
 - Set up initial work on the charter and a plan for the next 2 years
 - Draft charter is at [Advocacy Committee Charge](#)
 - Attended first committee meeting on April 1
- Attended Leadership Institute Meetings
 - Set up meeting between facilitators and Victor and I for early March
 - Planned and worked through the April webinar and logistics for May event
- Attended Membership Meetings
- Attended Chew and Chat in Feb, lead discussion on Projects and Project Management in March
- Sent letter to SD librarians on behalf of MPLA
- Wrote President's column for newsletter, worked with Rebecca on state news section
- Joined as partner (after board vote via email) with KLC for the Trust Starts Here grant (concept attached at the end of this document)

Naylor Project

- The membership section of the site is working and training, tweaks, and updates have been made to make it work as needed
- Kirk is beginning the process of moving the rest of the MPLA site to the Naylor platform
- Worked on figuring out if we can use Naylor functionality to manage our speaker's bureau site
 - Kirk has some options that we are testing/considering
- Added Communications chair to the backend so that they can send emails to the membership
- Met with Kirk and Sherrie to discuss and implement new mailing list feature for MPLA organization through Naylor Forums and on the issues with the directory missing members - Kirk talked to Naylor and that should be fixed soon!

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Hastings

Trust Starts Here:

Building Public Trust Through Local Action and National Scale

Draft for discussion 3/4/2025

Objective:

What if we could turn the crisis of trust into the very thing that propels us forward? *Trust Starts Here* is a five-year experiment designed to do just that—by reigniting the fragile bonds that connect us to our public institutions. This isn't just about fixing what's broken; it's about creating something new, something more resilient. It's about putting the power to rebuild trust directly in the hands of the people.

This initiative will tap into the power of grassroots action, leadership training, and cross-sector collaboration to create new pathways for engagement in education, government, media, and health. We will start small, working in a handful of regions, but with a bold vision: to build a model that scales, shifting the conversation about trust from an abstract concept to something tangible that can be measured, tested, and replicated.

The Concept:

What does it take to rebuild trust in a society that feels increasingly fragmented? *Trust Starts Here* is designed to answer that question. The idea is simple: Start with small teams in local communities. Then, equip and support them to create and test solutions. These aren't top-down fixes; they are homegrown, community-driven ideas that address the real concerns people have about their institutions.

Over five years, KLC will work with national and local partners to facilitate transformation by giving local leaders the tools to lead from within their own communities, through adaptive leadership principles, clear pathways to action, and access to resources. The goal is to experiment, learn, and expand the results—collecting data and scaling solutions that work best to build trust into a national movement.

An advisory group for the project will include partner representatives from organizations such as the Mountain Plains Library Association, the National Community Leadership Collaborative and other national and regional partners.

Phase 1: Local Action (Years 1-2)

The first phase is about testing ideas, learning from what works, and then sharing those lessons. In partnership, KLC and the National Community Leadership Collaborative (NCLC) will launch pilots in communities with robust Community Leadership Programs (CLPs) in regions that exhibit a broad spectrum of America's most pressing challenges. In these communities, the partners will seed and support meaningful and authentic conversations about what it takes to trust again and what local people can do to put those ideas into action.

Key Components:

- **Listening Tours and Local Feedback:** Through "listening tours," *hosted by local libraries* we'll engage community members to learn about barriers to trust in public institutions and what can work to rebuild or sustain it. This isn't about imposing a top-down agenda; it's about getting direct, on-the-ground feedback from those who feel the lack of trust the most.
- **Local Leadership Training:** We'll start by training the local leaders who are closest to the problem. With KLC's *When Everyone Leads* curriculum, we'll give these leaders the skills to create inclusive, transparent, and trust-building processes within education, media, government, and healthcare sectors.
- **Action Projects, Mini-Grants, and Project Coaching:** These leaders won't just receive training—they'll receive mini-grants and coaching to help bring their ideas to life. Local action projects will focus where community members think they are needed most and can have the most impact on rebuilding trust by making institutions more accessible and transparent. These grants will empower real action, not just talk.
- **Collecting and Sharing Tools and Examples:** To seed project ideas, KLC will share promising ideas across communities and introduce tools such as participatory decision-making processes that we've developed and tested in Kansas and that work to build trust, not because residents are promised transparency, but because they're involved in the process—with school boards, city councils, county commissions, advisory councils, etc.—when important decisions get made.
- **Partners for Amplification:** NCLC will help cultivate local media champions, while StoryCorp will document the stories of success. By sharing these stories, we create feedback loops showing the world what's possible when trust is rebuilt from the ground up.
- _____

Phase 2: Scaling (Years 3-5)

Once we've demonstrated that local projects work, the next step is to scale. The key here is not just to expand the initiative but to ignite a movement. This phase is about taking what we've learned and putting it on a national stage—so the momentum we build locally can ripple out, becoming a nationwide model for trust restoration.

Key Components:

- **National #Listen4Trust Campaign:** We'll take everything we've learned and roll it out nationally. The #Listen4Trust campaign will spread the message of how grassroots efforts are transforming trust in communities. It will invite citizens to take part, showing them that trust isn't a lost cause—it's something that can be rebuilt.
 - **Solutions Journalism:** We'll amplify the most successful projects through storytelling, working with journalism partners to showcase the best practices. These stories will be a guide for other communities looking to rebuild trust and transparency within their own local institutions.
 - **Building Trustworthy Processes with Mini-Grant Funded Projects:** Continuing to fund local projects through mini-grants, we'll empower even more communities to co-create solutions that resonate with their needs and values. As we scale, KLC will have more and more tested examples to share and proliferate.
 - **The School of Public Trust:** We will create a curriculum that teaches trust as a leadership competency, enabling citizens to practice trust-building through real-world, local governance and community decision-making.
-

Partnerships and Strategic Collaboration

This is a big, bold experiment—one that demands collaboration across sectors and organizations. These key partners will play a critical role in ensuring the success of the initiative:

- **NCLC:** As a partner in local leader recruitment, NCLC will connect KLC's leadership training to broader community networks, ensuring that we reach as many people as possible.
 - **StoryCorp:** Together, they will document and amplify success stories, creating a powerful narrative that demonstrates the impact of trust-building on real communities.
 - **Libraries:** Trusted local hubs, libraries will provide access to resources, meeting spaces, and host events that foster engagement. They will serve as key venues for leadership training and participatory events, helping amplify the message of rebuilding trust.
 - **Rotary:** With its global network and deep commitment to service, Rotary will help spread the message of trust-building and fund local projects. They'll also help amplify successful projects and connect them to their worldwide network.
-

Our Experience and Readiness for Success

The Kansas Leadership Center (KLC) has long been at the forefront of developing leadership across communities. With more than a decade of experience in facilitating adaptive leadership training through our *When Everyone Leads* curriculum, we have equipped thousands of local leaders with the skills needed to solve complex problems and build trust. Our approach has been tested in diverse communities, where we have successfully engaged residents in local

governance and decision-making processes, especially within sectors such as education, healthcare, and government.

KLC's extensive history in civic leadership, combined with our proven tools such as participatory decision-making processes, puts us in a unique position to lead this ambitious initiative.

Potential partners, including the **National Community Leadership Collaborative (NCLC)**, **Mountain Plains Library Association (MPLA)** **StoryCorp**, **Rotary**, and a network of **Community Leadership Programs (CLPs)** across the nation, bring complementary expertise in grassroots engagement, leadership development, storytelling, and resource mobilization. These strategic partnerships will not only amplify our efforts but ensure the broad reach and lasting impact of our work.

Furthermore, the *Trust Starts Here* initiative draws upon KLC's years of experience working directly with local communities to rebuild trust and transform public engagement. Our previous success with facilitating authentic community conversations and providing local leaders with actionable resources lays a solid foundation for scaling this work nationally. We have consistently demonstrated our capacity to turn localized solutions into replicable models, and we are poised to take this success to the next level with the **#Listen4Trust campaign** and our proposed **School of Public Trust curriculum**.

We are confident that with the support of our experienced partners and a well-tested model for scaling, *Trust Starts Here* has the potential to redefine the relationship between communities and their public institutions—shifting the narrative around trust from crisis to opportunity, from abstract theory to tangible, measurable action.