

**Strengthening Democracy and Improving Our Communities Across All Levels of Government:  
The United States Experience**

**Wed, May 29, 2024 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. EST**

## Meeting Overview

### Agenda:

The agenda for the session is as follows:

1:00 PM - 1:10 PM	Welcome and Introductory Remarks
1:10 PM - 2:30 PM	U.S. State, Local, Tribal and Territorial Perspectives
2:30 PM - 2:45 PM	The U.S. Experience at the Federal Level
2:45 PM - 2:55 PM	The U.S. Experience at the Global Level
2:55 PM - 3:00 PM	Closing Remarks

### Welcome and Introductory Remarks:

- **Daniel York**, Director, U.S. Open Government Secretariat, U.S. General Services Administration
  - Welcome, and overview of the session structure as well as Zoom features for this event.
- **Jennifer Lewis**, Senior Advisor for Open Government, The White House, Office of Science and Technology Policy
  - Overview of the White House's goals to harness science, technology, and innovation.
  - Emphasis on President Biden's vision for inclusive democracy and public engagement.
  - Open Government Partnership (OGP):
    - History and purpose of OGP, established in 2011 by President Obama and leaders from other nations.
    - Expansion of OGP to include 75 member countries and over 150 local governments.
    - Core values: transparency, participation, and engagement to reinforce trust in democracies.
  - Event Flow:
    - Overview of the presentations from local leaders and federal representatives.

### U.S. State, Local, Tribal and Territorial Perspectives:

- **Moderator: Jennifer Lewis**, Senior Advisor for Open Government, The White House, Office of Science and Technology Policy

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- **Daniel Culotta**, Chief Innovation Officer, City of Austin, Texas
  - City of Austin’s OGP Initiatives
  - Austin’s participation as one of the first local members of OGP
  - Overview of the first and second action plans, focusing on homelessness, equity assessment tools, and public meetings
  - Collaboration with civil society partners
  - Planning for the third action plan with a focus on anticipatory and strategic foresight elements.
- **Amber Jackson**, Chief Equity Officer, City of Little Rock, Arkansas
  - Introduction as Chief Equity Officer and acknowledgment of partnership with the Arkansas Center for Research in Economics (ACRE)
  - Data Standards and Policies:
    - Address collection aligned with national standards, demographic standards, and equity considerations
    - Creation of a Freedom of Information Act request log and a capital improvements dashboard
  - Anti-Corruption and Integrity:
    - Launch of the Rockfolio, including the Rock Review (public report card) and the City Wallet (tracking ARPA spending and contracts)
  - Inclusion and Digital Governance:
    - Launch of a minority business enterprise map and AI-based access strategy for non-English speakers.
- **Betsy MacLean**, Chief Policy & Innovation Officer, New York City Mayor’s Office of Policy & Planning, New York
  - Establishment of the Mayor’s Office of Engagement to center community engagement
  - Goals to maximize and improve the quality of community engagement and coordinate efforts across agencies
  - Types of Engagement:
    - Various engagement methods from sharing information to shared decision-making
  - Community Data and Metrics:
    - Focus on both quantitative and qualitative data to inform policies and measure the impact of engagement efforts.
- **Paula Starr**, Chief Information Officer, Cherokee Nation
  - Introduction as Chief Information Officer and overview of the Cherokee Nation
  - Gadugi Portal:
    - Implementation of a citizen access portal to deliver digital services and gather community feedback

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- Use of the portal to engage citizens in decisions about funding and services
- Community Projects:
  - Examples of community-driven projects like the Angel Project and Gadugi Portal (volunteer program).
- Questions and Answer Themes for SLTT Panel
  - Identifying Areas for Open Government Approaches:
    - **Daniel Culotta** (City of Austin):
      - Initial focus on homelessness and equity assessment tools
      - Shift to a more collaborative approach involving multiple city departments and civil society
    - **Amber Jackson** (City of Little Rock):
      - Prioritized data standards and policies to enhance transparency
      - Focus on right to information and fiscal openness
    - **Betsy MacLean** (City of New York):
      - Centered community engagement as a core function of government
      - Leveraged quantitative and qualitative data to inform and measure engagement
    - **Paula Starr** (Cherokee Nation):
      - Focused on digital engagement through the Gadugi Portal
      - Used community feedback to prioritize and fund projects
  - Impact of Open Government Approaches:
    - **Daniel Culotta** (City of Austin):
      - Use of advisory panels and resident involvement in budget allocations
      - Emphasis on long-term engagements for significant impact
    - **Amber Jackson** (City of Little Rock):
      - Highlighted improvements in accessibility of public information
      - Success in creating a transparent and interactive governance model
    - **Betsy MacLean** (City of New York):
      - Enhanced coordination and effectiveness of community engagement
      - Improved policy development through community data and metrics
    - **Paula Starr** (Cherokee Nation):

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- Effective use of the Gadugi Portal for community-driven initiatives
- Stronger community relations and better-informed decision-making
- Cross-Pollination of Ideas:
  - **Paula Starr** (Cherokee Nation):
    - Inspired by Little Rock’s AI and minority business enterprise map
    - Plans to implement similar initiatives for Cherokee vendors.

### The U.S. Experience at the Federal Level:

- **Shaibya Dalal**, Federal Equity and Engagement Lead, White House, Office of Management and Budget
  - Development of a government-wide framework for public participation and community engagement (PPCE)
  - Public feedback mechanisms including RFIs, online forms, and listening sessions
  - Next steps include drafting the framework, public comment, and creating user-friendly reference tools.
- **Bobby Talebian**, Director, Office of Information Policy, Department of Justice
  - Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)’s role in promoting open government and democracy
  - Government-wide initiatives to improve FOIA processes, including developing common standards and enhancing proactive disclosures
  - Overview of FOIA commitments in national action plans and efforts to standardize FOIA technology.
- **Phil Lam**, Beneficial Ownership Operations and Innovation Chief, Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN), Department of the Treasury
  - Discussion on the implementation of the Corporate Transparency Act (CTA)
  - Establishment of a registry to track the actual owners of businesses to prevent illicit activities
  - Public comment process and feedback mechanisms to improve the implementation of the CTA
  - Current status of the registry and ongoing efforts to enhance transparency and feedback.

### The U.S. Experience at the Global Level:

- **Jennifer Lewis**, Senior Advisor for Open Government, The White House, Office of Science and Technology Policy

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- U.S. Elected in 2023 to a three-year term on the OGP Steering Committee
- Collaboration among USAID, the Department of State, and GSA to promote transparency and accountability globally
- Promotion of OGP as a tool for U.S. foreign and national policy priorities
- State Department and USAID Initiatives:
  - State Department’s international engagement on OGP priorities
  - USAID’s support at both global and country levels to advance commitments in democracy and community engagement
- Encouragement to Participants:
  - Importance of global learning and participation in Open Gov events worldwide
- Recognition of GSA and the U.S. Open Government Secretariat’s contributions
- **Daniel York**, Director, U.S. Open Government Secretariat, U.S. General Services Administration
  - Management of domestic aspects of OGP participation
  - Facilitation of national action plans and Federal Advisory Committee
  - Encouragement to check event materials and follow up on ongoing initiatives.

**Closing Remarks:**

- **Daniel York**, Director, U.S. Open Government Secretariat, U.S. General Services Administration
  - Thanks to all participants and panelists
  - Accessing event materials and ongoing efforts to promote open government can be found here:  
<https://open.usa.gov/national-action-plan/5/schedule-of-open-govt-public-meetings/>
  - Brief mention of future events and initiatives planned by the U.S. Open Government Secretariat.
- **Jennifer Lewis**, Senior Advisor for Open Government, The White House, Office of Science and Technology
  - Acknowledgement of the diverse and impactful work shared by local and federal representatives
  - Emphasis on the importance of collaboration at all levels of government and the ongoing commitment to open government principles
  - Overview of the U.S. participation in the Open Government Partnership (OGP) and the role of the U.S. Open Government Secretariat
  - Encouragement to follow the U.S. Open Government Secretariat for updates and future initiatives

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Full Attendee List:

Virtual:

<b>First and Last Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>
Arfa Alam	Partnership for Public Service
Adrienne Ruth	U.S. General Services Administration
Ashley Washington	League of Women Voters of Dallas
Amber Jackson	City of Little Rock, AR
Anna Kovarick	Deloitte
Alexander Howard	N/A
Alexandra Shankster	U.S. Dept of Education
Alice Siempelkamp	Pandemic Response Accountability Committee
Allison merchant	Open Government Partnership
Amit Sharma	Innova8 LLC
Ana DeFrates	Austin City Gov
Anna Bantug- Herrera	The Asia Foundation
Antoine McGrath	Internet Archive
Apryl Jackson	City of Little Rock, AR
Arthur Brunson	U.S. General Services Administration
Alex Sileo	The Pew Charitable Trusts
Avis Ryan	U.S. General Services Administration
Christophe Xavier ayizoa meke	Investor
Barry Moehring	Benton County, AR
Ben Peterson	U.S. General Services Administration
Bentley Hensel	CivicActions
Blair Glencorse	Accountability Lab
Betsy MacLean	New York City Gov
Bobby Talebian	U.S. Dept of Justice
Carlos Delgado	Clear Impact
Caroline Beleson	U.S. General Services Administration
Charlotte Lee	Granicus
Cheri Freedman	Oregon State Gov

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<b>First and Last Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>
Christopher Raleigh	The Center for Election Science
Chris Khoury	Deloitte
Courtney Anderson	U.S. General Services Administration
Dana Inzinna	U.S. Dept of Interior
Daniel Culotta	Austin City Gov
Daniel Pullen	SAIC
David Shive	U.S. General Services Administration
Denice Ross	White House Office of Science and Technology Policy
Deyanira Murga	Security NextGen
Dominic Sale	REI Systems
David Robins	International Budget Partnership
Eddie Hartwig	Service Design Collective
Evan Lewitus	University of Maryland, Program for Public Consultation
Elise Jordan	United Commercial Advisors
Elizabeth Eisenhauer	Westat
Elizabeth Waites	N/A
Emily Joseph	U.S. Dept of Interior
Eric Gordon	Emerson College
Eva Pereira	City of Los Angeles, CA
Faith Williams	Project on Government Oversight
Connor griffin	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Tambra Dunams	U.S. Dept of Health and Human Services
Ingrida Kerusauskaite	AiM Sustain Ltd
Delores Kimbrough	Kimbrough Consulting
Isabel M Luciano	N/A
Jacquelyn Sommer	N/A
Jaime Mercado	Open Government Partnership
Janice Luong	Project on Government Oversight
Jeanine Key	Pandemic Response Accountability Committee
Jennifer Lewis	White House Office of Science and Technology Policy
Jennifer Cercon	U.S. General Services Administration
Remy DeCausemaker	U.S. Dept of Commerce
Jesse Bernstein	N/A

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Jennifer Goode	U.S. Dept of Commerce
Jeff Myers	REI Systems
Jed Herrmann	Office of Management and Budget
Josh Lerner	People Powered
JP Thomas	Voice of the People
Josh Racette	The Foundation for the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award
Jason R Baron	University of Maryland, Program for Public Consultation
John Shelp	PenTeleData
Julianne Torres	US Navy
Justin Magruder	SAIC
Kaliya Young	Identity Woman
Kara Lampasone	U.S. Dept of Health and Human Services
Karthik Pallan	N/A
Katherine Feiring	U.S. Dept of Interior
Katherine Anthony	American Oversight
Kathryn Newcomer	George Washington University
Kayla Lester	Department of Treasury
Kenneth Simmons	Ohio State Gov
LaShonda C. Henderson	U.S. Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
Laura Szakmary	U.S. General Services Administration
Laxmi Pallan	N/A
Lindsay Steel	U.S. Dept of Justice
Lisa Mavrogianis	Department of Veterans Affairs
Lorelei Kelly	Georgetown McCourt School
Lowell Christy	Forum on Democracy
Lauren Price	City of Houston, TX
Luke Fretwell	ProudCity
Madeline Sullivan	U.S. General Services Administration
Madhavan Pallan	N/A
Mark Bittner	Department of Treasury
Mark Forman	Dynamic Integrated Services Consulting
Matthew Burrell	U.S. General Services Administration
Manda Cravey	Sebastian County, AR



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<b>First and Last Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>
Marjan Ehsassi	Federation for Innovation in Democracy - North America
Michael Donovan	The Pennsylvania State University
Michele Friend	George Washington University
Michell Argus	John Jay College of Criminal Justice
Mike Gifford	CivicActions
Mika'il Petin	States Newsroom
Nathan Osburn	U.S. General Services Administration
Nick Wittenberg	Armedia
Natalie Ortiz	Congressional Research Service
Nicole Strickland	Azimuth Corporation
Joyce Ajayi	Arkansas Center for Research in Economics (ACRE)
Omar Saeb	U.S. General Services Administration
Pamela Wright	U.S. National Archives and Records Administration
Paula Starr	Cherokee Nation
Paulraj Pallan	N/A
Phil Lam	Department of Treasury
Patience Landford	U.S. Agency for International Development
Paul Pietsch	Partnership for Public Service
Renee Brock	U.S. Agency for International Development
Rilee Bennett	Virginia State Gov
Ryan Mulvey	Americans for Prosperity Foundation
Richard N. Knowles	N/A
Rosaella Branson	Cook County IL Gov
Ryan Wold	U.S. General Services Administration
Shannon Arvizu	U.S. Department of Commerce
Stephen Buckley	Int'l. Assn. for Public Participation (U.S.)
Shaibya Dalal	Office of Management and Budget
Shelley Metzenbaum	N/A
David Smith	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Suzanne Piotrowski	Rutgers University Newark, School of Public Affairs and Administration
Miranda Spivack	Independent journalist, author, The New Press
Tania Jarosewich	National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Taylor Swift	POPVOX Foundation

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<b>First and Last Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>
TIm Flanagan	Solano County, CA
Dr. Dwight Sanders	Federal Reserve Board
Vanessa Sloane	Office of Management and Budget
Varsha Maheshwari	IBM
Victor Udoewa	U.S. Dept of Health and Human Services
Yvette Gibson	U.S. General Services Administration