

## **Christopher T. Gates**

Chris Gates is a thought leader in the fields of democratic theory and practice and political and civic engagement. For the past three decades he has been a leading voice for strengthening democratic processes and structures and developing new approaches to both engagement and decision-making. Gates has been mentored by innovative reformers like John Gardner, Henry Cisneros, Bill Bradley, Terry Sanford and William Winter, and shares their commitment to building a nation of engaged, informed and empowered citizens.

Gates is the Executive Director of PACE, Philanthropy for Active Civic Engagement. PACE is an affinity group of the Council on Foundations and serves as a learning collaborative of American foundations that fund work in the fields of civic engagement, service and democratic practice. In this role Gates works within the philanthropic community to encourage conversation about how to strengthen democratic practice, with a particular emphasis on the role that information and social media can play in empowering citizens to become more engaged. Gates also speaks and teaches extensively around the country on the broad topics of civic engagement and democratic theory.

He previously served for eleven years as President of the National Civic League (NCL), America's oldest good government organization, founded in 1894 by Theodore Roosevelt. NCL helped create the field of public administration and was the originator of the council-manager form of local government. While at NCL he also served as the Co-Director of the United States Healthy Communities Initiative and Co-Director of the Alliance for National Renewal.

Gates is an elected Fellow of the National Academy of Public Administration and serves on the boards of Public Agenda, a public opinion research and public engagement organization founded by Dan Yankelovich and Cy Vance in 1975, and Mobilize.org, a non-profit organization that empowers and invests in Millennials to create solutions to social problems. Gates is also a member of the editorial board of Public Administration Review (PAR), a scholarly journal serving both academics and practitioners published by the American Society for Public Administration.

He has previously served on the boards of the Council for the Advancement of Citizenship, the California Center for Civic Renewal and INDEPENDENT SECTOR. He also served as co-chair of the Saguaro Seminar, a research project based at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government working to find ways to build social capital in America.

Despite an intensive travel schedule, Gates is also very involved in his home communities of Denver, Colorado and Camden, Maine. In Colorado he is the founder and Chair Emeritus of the Colorado Institute for Leadership Training and a regular instructor in leadership training programs throughout the state. In Maine he is an advisor to several non-profit organizations and local governments.

Gates received his Master of Public Administration degree from the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University where he studied the interaction between the public, private and non-profit sectors, and an honors degree in economics from the University of Colorado. He also studied political economics at the University of East Anglia in Norwich, England. Gates was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Law degree by Elizabethtown College in 2006.