



Thanks to our community of volunteers, supporters, and donors, Convergence was empowered to bring people together across differences to solve critical challenges with impactful convenings, project releases, engaging events, and noteworthy media attention! Join us in reflecting on some of the highlights from this past year. We are filled with gratitude for your support and partnership and look forward to seeing the impact we'll make together in 2024 and beyond.

## January

Hosted  
**Inaugural Convergence Live:  
How Can Online Discourse Change  
to Decrease Toxic Polarization?**



A lively debate between Harvard Fellow and journalist **Heidi Legg** and First Amendment attorney **Ari Cohn**.

Released Discovery Report for  
*Convergence Collaborative on*  
**Digital Discourse for a Thriving Democracy  
and Resilient Communities**



This report lays out the potential solutions to the current challenges within digital discourse that present real-world harms, driving increasing divisiveness, hate, and unreliable information. The Discovery report serves as the foundation for the Collaborative.

## February

Co-Hosted  
***The First Step* Film Screening**

Convergence partnered with The First Step to co-host the theatrical release and a panel discussion of **Van Jones'** film in Washington, DC. The documentary tells a complex story about advancing criminal justice reform and addiction through bridgebuilding across political divides.



## April

Launched The Convergence Collaborative on  
**Supports for Working Families**



Led by **Abby McCloskey**, the Convergence Collaborative on Supports for Working Families held its first convening. This most ideologically and sectorally diverse group addressing family policy in recent decades is dedicated to forming unlikely alliances and forging consensus solutions that enable American families with young children to flourish.

Celebrated  
**14 years of problem-solving and  
bridgebuilding at Convergence!**

Convergence continues to bring our proven collaborative problem-solving methodology to support more national and state-level Collaboratives and expand the Convergence Learning Lab to inspire and equip leaders to apply our methodology to challenges in their communities.



May



Released Discovery Report on  
Civil Service Modernization

This report serves as the foundation for the Convergence Roundtable on Modernizing Civil Service. It identifies the key prospective participants and advisors and outlines the opportunities for collaboration around creating and supporting a federal workforce better able to serve America's needs.

Hosted Virtual  
**Convergence Leadership Council Meeting**

Ed Goetas and Celinda Lake discussed their latest book, A Question of RESPECT: Bringing Us Together in a Deeply Divided Nation. The event also included an engaging dialogue between Dr. Allison Briscoe-Smith and John Gomperts on the challenges and opportunities for integrating bridging and national service.



June



Hosted Convergence Live:  
**Can Philanthropy Bridge America's Divides?**

In this Convergence Live conversation, Kathleen Enright and Chris Stackaruk discussed past successes and the need for a smarter, more inclusive, and impactful approach in using philanthropy to bridge America's growing divides.

Convergence and Starts With Us launched  
**Citizen Solutions Initiative**

This initiative unites diverse citizens to find common ground and co-create state-level consensus proposals on issues like gun safety, women's health, and criminal justice reform. The project engages with the public to help produce a broad representation of the majority view and use the proposals to encourage leaders to make consensus-based change.



August



Released  
**No Greater Mission. No Greater Means.**  
**The Imperative for Integrating Bridging and National Service**

The paper calls on national service organizations to embrace civic bridgebuilding in its next chapter to meet supporters' expectations.

Released the Blueprint for Action for  
***the Convergence Collaborative on Pathways to Better Jobs***

This report includes solutions and novel tools to better connect low- and moderate-income workers with appropriate opportunities to grow their skills and to navigate on- and off-ramps that will build economic mobility and financial security for their future.



October



Hosted Virtual  
**Convergence Leadership Council Meeting**

**Anita Chandramohan** facilitated a conversation with **Deeneaus “D” Polk, Jenna Shrove, and Scott Fast** to discuss the recently released Pathways Blueprint for Action. Council Members also received a sneak peek into Convergence Founder **Rob Fersh** and Interim CEO **Mariah Levison’s** forthcoming book, ***From Conflict to Convergence: Coming Together to Solve Tough Problems***.

Co-Convended the Roundtable

**“Bridging Divides in Corporate America and Beyond:  
Empowering Business Leaders to Transcend Division”**

Convergence partnered with Interfaith America to host leaders from over 25 companies at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. The event sought to explore the effects of toxic polarization on business and equip leaders with the tools they need to foster more productive, civil, and innovative corporate environments in a deeply divided America.



December



Released Blueprint for Action for the ***Convergence Collaborative on Digital Discourse for a Thriving Democracy and Resilient Communities***

This Blueprint provides actionable, consensus solutions that foster agency, resilience, connectedness, and well-being in our democracy and communities without violating free speech, civil, or human rights. It was built by a diverse group of leaders and those personally impacted by digital harms who participated in the multi-stage, year-long convening.

Secured a feature for

***The Convergence Collaborative on Supports for Working Families in The New York Times, ‘Couples Therapy,’ but for Politics***

In a December 13 op-ed piece, **Jessica Grose** wrote an optimistic piece about Convergence’s methodology and the policies that this project aims to impact.



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**Thanks for being part of Convergence.**

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