2024 at CONVERGENCE

Solving Pr blems. Sparking Hope.

Thanks to you, throughout 2024 Convergence furthered our mission of bringing people together across divides to tackle critical challenges. Join us in celebrating highlights from 2024, which were made possible through the invaluable support from the Convergence Community, including you. We are deeply grateful for our community and excited about the impact we'll create together in 2025 and beyond.

Media Highlights

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Vox



Winter

Kick-started Partnership to Build New Online Learning Curriculum Driving Mission Expansion

Convergence Compass, an online course, was conceived in partnership with **Constructive Dialogue Institute (CDI)** and **UC Berkeley's Greater Good Science Center** (GGSC) thanks to generous support from the **New Pluralists Collaborative**. The course aims to inspire and equip leaders to bring our time-tested, evidence-based collaborative problem-solving methodology to bear on issues in their communities and organizations, enabling Convergence to scale our efforts at an unprecedented rate. The final curriculum will be released this spring.



Launched Partnership with NACo to Bring Convergence Approaches to Local Leaders

Through a robust first-of-its-kind partnership with the **National Association of Counties (NACo)**, Convergence provided training at conferences and created a **toolkit** to equip county leaders with resources to overcome division and foster collaboration.

Released Convergence Collaborative on Supports for Working Families **Blueprint for Action**

Convergence convened one of the most ideologically diverse groups ever assembled to address family policy, bringing together leaders from across sectors and political perspectives to develop consensus recommendations for supporting the flourishing of low-to-moderate-income families with young children. Led by **Abby McCloskey**, this effort resulted in a Blueprint for Action, released alongside a bipartisan <u>event</u> at the U.S. Senate, hosted by **Senators Kirsten Gillibrand and Bill Cassidy**. The event garnered <u>positive national media attention</u>, highlighting the collaborative solutions emerging from this groundbreaking effort.



Cohosted a Bridging Divides in Corporate America **Leadership Development Series**

As part of the Convergence Learning Lab and in partnership with **Interfaith America**, Convergence held its first-ever training series for business leaders exploring the detrimental effects of toxic polarization on business and how leaders can meet the very real challenges of this moment for their companies and the country.



Appointed Mariah Levison as CEO and President of Convergence

After several months as Interim CEO and formerly Convergence's Chief Programs Officer, Mariah Levison, seasoned consensus-builder, was <u>appointed</u> into the role of CEO and President by the Convergence Board, leading Convergence into a new chapter.

Spring

Conducted Learning Lab workshops to bring our tools and approaches to philanthropy and civic leaders

As part of our efforts to normalize and scale our methodology, Convergence conducted several workshops to bring tools and approaches to leaders at various conferences, including the **Council on Foundations** and **Civic Learning Week National Forum**.







Brought Convergence Community Together In-Person for the Leadership Council & Friends Meeting

Leadership Council Members and Friends have been meeting online for 4 years and finally got together in Washington, D.C. for a day of connecting and collaborating.

Brookings Institution hosts Convergence Collaborative Participants and Directors

Convergence Collaborative on Supports for Working Families Participants and Director spoke at a **panel discussion** on how the Collaborative reached consensus on family policy and what it means for the future of family flourishing. This was followed by a conversation with participants and Convergence Board Members on the Convergence process of finding common ground and coming to a consensus.







Convened Citizen Solutions Session on abortion in Wisconsin in collaboration with Builders

Together with **Builders**, Convergence convened difficult yet productive sessions on abortion. Guided by our process, the diverse group's consensus solutions were opened up for public weigh-in to capture the will of Wisconsin's population to inform policy changes. <u>*Citizen Solutions*</u> was featured on <u>PBS</u> and <u>NPR</u>. Summer



Convergence Leaders Rob Fersh and Mariah Levison release their book *From Conflict to Convergence: Coming Together to Solve Tough Problems*

Mariah and Rob released their <u>new book</u> and began their tour with a virtual celebration, followed by an in-person celebration at the **Urban League in St. Louis**. Since the launch, they've headlined 10 events across 6 cities. They were also featured on several podcasts and articles. You can find all the media coverage on the Convergence <u>website newsroom</u>!

Convergence featured in Builders Documentary on Guns in Tennessee that premiered at Nashville Film Festival

Builders, who lead our collaborative project, *Citizen Solutions*, captured and produced <u>a documentary</u> following the group's journey to consensus on gun safety in Tennessee.



Launched project on Child Care in Kentucky in partnership with Kentucky Chamber of Commerce

Following the success of the <u>Convergence Collaborative on Supports for Working</u> <u>Families</u>, together with the Kentucky Chamber, Convergence launched a Collaborative spanning the entire political spectrum to build consensus and a shared vision to increase access to high-quality child care in support of Kentucky's children, families, and economy.

Fall

Launched Convergence Corner: LinkedIn blog revamped

To share stories and voices behind our work and to better connect with our audience, Convergence refreshed our LinkedIn blog, now entitled **Convergence Corner: Where Ideas and Perspectives Meet.**



Conflict *to* Convergence

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Released Convergence Collaborative on Social Factors of Health **Blueprint for Action**

Convergence brought together health and service sector leaders to shape policies that strengthen local efforts and partnerships addressing social drivers of individual and community health. Their consensus led to a Blueprint for Action, unveiled in a widely attended <u>webinar</u> that engaged colleagues across the field.

Captured Opportunities for American Cohesion in 10 Important Beliefs Most Americans Agree on



This **gift to our community**, highlighting the shared beliefs that still unite Americans, was also published in **Deseret News**.

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CONVERGENCE



THANK YOU FOR BEING PART OF CONVERGENCE!

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