

2020 Annual Report

AMERICAN PUBLIC SQUARE AT JEWELL



**AMERICAN
PUBLIC
SQUARE
AT JEWELL'S
MISSION
IS MORE
IMPORTANT
NOW THAN
EVER.**

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**FROM THE DESK OF
AMBASSADOR ALLAN J. KATZ
(RET.), APS FOUNDER & CEO**



American Public Square at Jewell convenes non-like-minded people to improve the tone and quality of civil discourse and to create paths toward actionable common ground. As I contemplate the last year we have lived through together, I believe our mission is more important now than ever.

For all of us, 2020 was a year like no other – issues of race, identity, and social justice filled our headlines only to compete for airtime with heated political rhetoric and a highly polarized Presidential election. This was all, of course, exacerbated by the first global pandemic in more than a century.

American Public Square at Jewell convenes non-like-minded people to improve the tone and quality of civil discourse and create paths toward actionable common ground.”

During it all, the team at American Public Square continued to deliver impactful programs that brought our community together in this incredible year. It has been my honor to continue our work at APS during a time when the need for what we do is at its most critical.

THANK YOU to our Members, Sponsors and Partners for ensuring the continued success and longevity of American Public Square at Jewell both financially, as well as through the contribution of valuable time and engagement.

Kudos as well to our dedicated staff, who has risen to the occasion and continued to deliver on our mission in a way that makes me proud.

We have much left to do to heal our country, but I believe we can get there one step at a time. I hope we can count on your support as we continue that journey together in 2021 and beyond.

**AMBASSADOR ALLAN J. KATZ
FOUNDER, CEO**

**FROM THE DESK OF
CLAIRE BISHOP,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & COO**



For so many of us, 2020 was intended to be a year of clear sightedness, vision, and renewal. In reality, it was anything but. Despite the obvious difficulties and uncertainty that 2020 challenged us with, I am proud to say that American Public Square at Jewell thrived!

Our year started off as any other... we hosted our first Signature Event of the Year, "Gun Laws, Housing & More: State vs. Local Control," on February 25th, and welcomed more than 300 Members and guests to the St. James United Methodist Church. Little did we know then that our lives would soon become much more isolated with the onslaught of COVID-19.

With the support of our Board of Directors, Board of Advisors, Staff and Members, as spring arrived and mask orders were put in place with strong encouragement for non-essential workers to "shelter at home," APS shifted gears.

“2020 was intended to be a year of clear sightedness, vision, and renewal. In reality, it was anything but.”

- We transitioned to an entirely virtual programming model, and throughout the year produced 33 programs exploring major issues the pandemic brought to light, including mental health, education, and race relations.
- We doubled down on our work with students in an expanded Civics Education Initiative that focused on engaging student voices at both the high school and college level, providing the tools and training they need to address key issues in their community using the APS model.
- And finally, we incorporated new program formats into our existing model in order to create programming in new and accessible formats. We proudly launched the "Both Sides" podcast and the "Cocktails & Politics" interview series in April.

In a year like no other, I am able to reflect confidently on how our organization has pivoted to address the needs of our community while remaining steadfast in our focus on the mission that we serve. I thank each of you for being a part of a year that none of us will soon forget.

**CLAIRE BISHOP
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, COO**

2020 AT A GLANCE

638

COMMUNITY MEMBERS

42%
year-over-year
growth

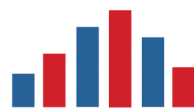
12

CORPORATE MEMBERS

33

OVERALL EVENTS

50K+

LIVE AND ON-DEMAND
VIEWS OF APS PROGRAMSBOTH
SIDES

A PODCAST BY AMERICAN PUBLIC SQUARE AT JEWELL

1

NEW PODCAST
LAUNCHED

37

EPISODES
PRODUCED

15+

ORGANIZATIONS AND
SCHOOLS INVOLVED

260+

LOCAL STUDENTS
ENGAGED IN APS
STUDENT PROGRAMS

1ST

FOUNDER'S
CIVILITY AWARDAwarded to Adam
Hamilton, Church of the
Resurrection

2

NEW SERIES
LAUNCHEDEnabled member
engagement in the new
virtual paradigm

Cocktails & Politics

APS's Student Initiative Presents:



Coffee & Politics



THE APS STORY

In 2005, a coal plant outside Tallahassee triggered an uncharacteristic conflict in the community. One group wanted to build the plant; the other did not. Having successfully opposed the plant, but unwilling to allow his town to fracture based on one challenging issue, then city commissioner, Allan Katz, established The Village Square in partnership with his co-founder, Liz Joyner. The bi-partisan organization began a series of civil conversations, starting with the question of energy and expanding to address a variety of issues facing the community and the country. The Village Square continues in Tallahassee today.

33

**COMMUNITY
EVENTS IN 2020,
DESPITE A GLOBAL
PANDEMIC**

After his time as U.S. Ambassador to Portugal, Katz returned to Kansas City, where he had attended college. First as a distinguished professor at UMKC, and now at William Jewell College, he created American Public Square at Jewell in the same spirit as the original Village Square. American Public Square was launched in Kansas City with its first program in 2014.

The first year resulted in six programs on issues related to criminal justice, immigration, families, and politics. By the end of 2016, APS was producing nearly 20 programs a year. In 2020, despite a global pandemic, APS hosted 33 events on topics covering civic engagement, community, education, faith, healthcare, and beyond.

In those early years, attendees maxed out at around 1,500. With the advantage of live streaming, by the end of 2019, attendance surpassed 40,000. In 2020, participation reached nearly 50,000 viewers. The organization continues to grow as the need for fact-based, civil conversations about local, regional, and national issues remains great in our communities.



“American Public Square and William Jewell College have a shared passion for critical thinking and civil discourse. I am excited that our students have the opportunity to intern, plan and participate in APS-hosted events.”

Dr. Elizabeth MacLeod Walls, President, William Jewell College



APS' ACADEMIC HOME: WILLIAM JEWELL COLLEGE

In alignment with the ideals set forth by American Public Square, APS' academic partner, William Jewell College in Liberty, Missouri, seeks to educate their community to ask reflective questions, apply critical thought, and act with purpose. Together, APS and William Jewell College offer joint programming, deliver educational opportunities, and foster civic engagement.

CIVICS EDUCATION: ENGAGING OUR NEXT GENERATION

As we envision a society where citizens come together civilly to tackle big issues, meaningfully engaging our next generation is an essential component of our work. APS aims to reinforce that being capable of having fact-based, civil conversations with those who see issues differently is a critical skill that forms the basis of a great democracy.

Student-focused programming in 2020 was fueled by a renewed approach that enabled high school and college students, teachers, and administrators to increase their understanding of complex social issues, and to in turn produce programming to educate their communities—a particularly admirable accomplishment for these students and educators who worked in spite of unprecedented disruption from the COVID-19 global pandemic.

“The best part of my APS internship was hearing new ideas and opinions of people regarding current events.”

Luke Dema, The Pembroke Hill School

HIGH SCHOOL

A custom-developed three-part learning series, “Let’s Talk, KC!” launched to 215+ students in six high school classrooms in the fall of 2020. This academic year-long program was designed in collaboration with curriculum experts to build students’ civil discourse capabilities. The learning framework focuses on three key student inquiries.

1

CAN YOU AGREE TO DISAGREE?

- What does it mean to be civil?
- How do people interact in a civil fashion when they do not agree on a topic?
- What should be the rules of engagement for discussion the rest of the year?

2

IS IT TRUE OR IS IT “FAKE NEWS”?

- What is the media and what role does it play in society today?
- What is Fake News and how can you spot it?
- How do I critique sources so I don’t spread fake news?

3

ARE YOU DEBATING OR DELIBERATING?

- What does it mean to deliberate and how is that different from a debate?
- How is deliberation about a wicked topic different from a debate, and why is this important?
- Why is deliberation needed in society today?

What students learn in the fall semester is directly applied to a project-based learning (PBL) experience in the spring semester. All participating classrooms had the opportunity to engage with each other to create their own APS-style program.

THE COST OF COLLEGE

Produced by students of the Paseo Academy of Fine and Performing Arts, Crossroads Preparatory Academy, and the Barstow School.

Overview: College Board shows that the

**PRICE OF
TUITION HAS
INFLATED** **78%** **IN THE
PAST
30 YEARS**

leaving some with crippling loan debt and prospective students with loaded questions about their future. Is cost a barrier for prospective students, not only those coming right out of high school, but for those who want to return as adult learners? How does college readiness influence a prospective student’s ability to make choices about affordability and whether college is right for them?

- The program featured four expert panelists and moderator, **Dr. Rodney Smith**, vice president of access and engagement at William Jewell College.
- **225** program views (virtual) to date

Learn more at americanpublicsquare.org/event/the-cost-of-college.

“Amidst the pandemic school year, this project stood out as a highlight. Working on a program for APS was one of the most thorough research projects our students have ever completed.”

High school educator

For their support of our high school programs, special thanks go to:

- Our student, teacher and administrative partners at Crossroads Preparatory Academy, Lee’s Summit R7, Paseo Academy of Fine and Performing Arts, St. Teresa’s Academy, The Pembroke Hill School, and the Barstow School
- Chris Odam, curriculum consultant
- Emily Wegner, curriculum consultant

“The Student Planning Committee was something that I enjoyed and that was new to me. Seeing behind the scenes was interesting and gave me more knowledge on a topic I did not have much on.”

2020 Student Planning Committee member

COLLEGE

A robust student internship experience and a student-led planning committee served as the focus of APS' 2020 collegiate program—a program that, like many, had to be redesigned in a virtual format ahead of the fall 2020 semester.

- **Internships:** 14 students from five colleges/universities
 - Worked with APS staff to engage in real-world work experiences
 - Participated in the 2020 Student Planning Committee
- **Student Planning Committee:** 22 students from seven colleges/universities.
 - Produced two signature programs and three podcasts
 - Hosted two “Coffee & Politics” events and four live digital coffee breaks

100% OF 2020 INTERNS SAID APS WAS DEDICATED TO THEIR PERSONAL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT.

For their support of our 2020-21 Civic Education programs, special thanks go to:

- Our student participants
- Oppenstein Brothers Foundation
- The W.K. Kellogg Foundation
- The Ulch Family Fund
- The Sherman Family Foundation
- The McDonnell Foundation
- Allison Koelzer, APS student initiative coordinator

2020 SIGNATURE EVENTS, produced by Student Planning Committee

THE FIGHT FOR OUR FUTURE: ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE AND INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITY

Moderator: Bob Grove - Climate Change Council of Greater KC



I GOT CANCELED. WHAT'S NEXT?

Moderator: Alison Koelzer - American Public Square



THE DONNELLY SERIES

In 2020, American Public Square at Jewell and Donnelly College continued their partnership to raise awareness of key topics, including climate change, affordable housing, and immigration policy.

As part of this collaboration, we jointly offered the September 2020 program, “**The Changing Landscape of US Immigration Law and Policy**,” moderated by Msgr. Stuart W. Swetland, president, Donnelly College.

“We are all accountable for what we’ve seen and what we’ve experienced. The question is, what are we going to do about it?”

Qiana Thomason, president and CEO, Health Forward Foundation

APS PROGRAMS

CONFRONTING THE MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS - PART ONE

Spotlighting our nation’s mental health crisis was part the APS annual programming plan at the outset. Yet in May 2020, prior to the program, the murder of George Floyd changed the national narrative overnight.

With an original focus on socioeconomic and trauma, the APS Mental Health Series kicked off in June by pivoting to create space to address the heightened racial tensions and trauma taking place across the nation, particularly impacting African American communities. Coming to the audience with deep expertise, as well as raw emotion, panelists discussed the national reckoning that was developing and the implications of these issues on mental health.

The event was moderated by Jana Calkins, assistant news director – WDAF TV Fox 4 Kansas City. Panelists included:

- Dr. Dennis Carpenter, president and CEO, Aspirational Insights Consulting
- Denise Long, M.S., director of organizational development and applied research, Alive and Well
- Qiana Thomason, president and CEO, Health Forward Foundation

APS MENTAL HEALTH SERIES - PART TWO & THREE

POLITICS AND POLICY

Part Two addressed how the nation’s politics and policies impact community mental health disparately across demographics—age, socioeconomic status, race, gender, sexual orientation, education levels, employment status, and more.

SCHOOL IN THE TIME OF COVID-19

Part Three examined the disruption on students’ education experience caused by COVID-19, particularly focusing on student mental health impacts, short- and long-term. Increased barriers to learning, disconnection from educators, instability in home environments, digital disparities, challenged caregiver support, and more, were discussed in this final program of the series.



SEEKING SOLUTIONS TO GUN VIOLENCE IN MISSOURI

Gun rights and gun violence remain among the more divisive issues facing Americans today. As part of the Missouri Gun Violence Project, a two-year, statewide journalism collaboration investigating the causes and possible solutions to gun violence*, the Kansas City Star team began developing a series on gun violence in Missouri, specifically considering the public health angles.

“There are a lot of root causes to violence here in Kansas City and elsewhere and the most impactful strategies for reducing violence address those root causes.”

Brittany Nieto, program manager—community violence initiative, Giffords Law

As the reporting unfolded, the team at the KC Star reached out to American Public Square at Jewell for a programming partnership. This collaboration would open the door for audience engagement and deeper conversations about the topics featured by the KC Star (published digitally and in print).

The first part of this collaboration kicked off in October 2020 with “Gun Violence in America: Seeking Solutions.” To examine the issue holistically, the first program focused on the Kansas City metro area; the second, hosted in November 2020, centered on Springfield, Missouri; the third program in December 2020 focused on the St. Louis metro area.

The Seeking Solutions series continued into 2021 with additional programs examining how poverty, racial inequality, food and housing insecurity, and other factors contribute to the problem.

* The Missouri Gun Violence Project is supported by the nonprofits Report for America and Missouri Foundation for Health.



Image from KC Star

FACES OF MISSOURI GUN VIOLENCE

Missouri saw deadliest year ever for gun violence in 2020, made worse by pandemic. Learn more about the Seeking Solutions series at www.kansascity.com/news/state/missouri/gun-violence-missouri.

“I hope that you continue to have discussions on topics such as this. There are too few who are willing to have these discussions openly these days. It was a refreshing change.”

Program participant: post-event survey feedback

IS ANTI-RACISM THE ANSWER, OR NO?

When APS program director, Denesha Snell, read an article in The Forward, “A new intelligentsia is pushing back against wokeness,” she knew there was a programming opportunity there for American Public Square at Jewell.

While individuals across the nation were increasingly reconciling their own roles relative to systemic racism and inequality, opinion editor, Batya Ungar-Sargon, spotlighted an “intelligentsia” movement challenging the idea that race be prioritized over everything else to combat racism. In the original piece, Ungar-Sargon quoted Chloe Valdary, founder of Theory of Enchantment, saying, “Racial essentialism is very reductive and actually oppressive. Ironically, it reduces us as individuals to our immutable characteristics, which is precisely what we were supposed to be fighting against.”

This dichotomy set the stage for American Public Square at Jewell’s December program, “Anti-Racism: The Solution or Part of the Problem?” Further, the relationship established between Snell and Ungar-Sargon would pave the way for a more robust partnership in 2021, centered on the common goal of creating content that addresses tough issues in fact-based, non-partisan ways.

Learn more and watch the recording at americanpublicsquare.org/event/anti-racism.



**READ THE ARTICLE
THAT STARTED THE
CONVERSATION**

“A new intelligentsia is pushing back against wokeness” by Batya Ungar-Sargon, published in The Forward, July 20, 2020. forward.com/opinion/451099/a-new-intelligentsia-is-pushing-back-against-wokeness/

FOR THEIR SUPPORT OF OUR 2020 PROGRAMMING, SPECIAL THANKS GO TO:

- **Denesha Snell**, APS program director, for her leadership in creating space to address challenging topics in fact-based, engaging, and civil ways
- **2020 program committee**, for their support in developing a robust program plan
- **Panelists**, whose expertise, experience, and commitment to civility bring unparalleled richness to each program
- **Roving reporters**, who play an instrumental role in engaging the audience and asking the tough questions
- **Fact checkers**, who help maintain the integrity and accuracy of the important information discussed in our programs
- **Our 2020 program panelists**, to learn more about all our esteemed panelists, including those shown below, visit americanpublicsquare.org.

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Ward Katz, Chair
Klassie Alcine
Gary Armstrong
Luke Bobo
John Carney
Debbie Chasteen
Mara Colbert
Ashley Fick
Jenny Garmon
Rebecca James
Shakedra Knight
Michael McShane
Mary Pflanz
Becky Pruett
Jeni Starr
Jennifer Sykes



ADDITIONAL HIGHLIGHTS FROM AMERICAN PUBLIC SQUARE AT JEWELL'S 2020 PROGRAMMING LINE-UP INCLUDE:

- **“Gun Laws, Housing & More: State vs. Local Control”** with Kansas City Mayor Quinton Lucas among the panelists. (February)
- A screening and live discussion of **“UnRepresented,”** an award-winning documentary that “uncover[s] the mechanisms that drive the cycle of corruption in Congress—giving political insiders enormous, unchecked power.” UnRepresented executive producer, Andrew Rodney, participated as a panelist.
- A post-election analysis, **“What the heck just happened?”** which discussed the outcome—or temporary lack thereof—of the 2020 presidential election.

EVENING AT THE SQUARE

VIRTUAL EVENT A GREAT SUCCESS!

APS' annual fundraiser, Evening at the Square, was delivered virtually in 2020. The event opened and closed with musical selections from several talented William Jewell College students. The evening's feature was the founders of The Lincoln Project, a notable group of political strategists who seek to, in their own words, "hold accountable those who would violate their oaths to the Constitution and would put others before Americans" at a time when election-year politics had hit a fevered pitch. Evening at the Square drew approximately 200 guests, more than 50 sponsors, and helped the organization raise over \$100,000 to advance its mission.

“It is in the listening that we learn. When we see walls coming down, we see bridges being built.”

Rev. Adam Hamilton, United Methodist Church of the Resurrection

PLATINUM SPONSORS (\$10,000)

Jean & Tom McDonnell
The McIntosh Foundation

GOLD SPONSORS (\$5,000)

Jennifer & Bud Bacon
Children's Mercy Hospital
Eller
Stacey & William Pratt
Real Media KC
Marny & John Sherman

SILVER SPONSORS (\$2,500)

Sandi & Ed Fried
Dave Johnson
Nancy Cohn & Allan Katz
ej4
The Kansas City Star

KCUR 89.3FM

Regina & Bill Kort
Rebecca & Jim Pruett
Beryl Raff
Paul Russell

Cyprienne Simchowicz
& Jerry White
William Jewell College

BRONZE SPONSORS (\$1,000)

Sarah & Jonathan Baum
Sue McCord Belzer & Irv Belzer
Bert Berkley
Claire & Denton Bishop
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Mary & Tom Bloch
Bonnie & Herb Buchbinder
Rebecca Hall Coulson
Peggy & Terry Dunn
Joe Falk
Don Hinkle

Ellen & Irv Hockaday
Sharon & John Hoffman
Jenny & John Isenberg
Mary & Mark Jorgensen
Drs. Sofia & Shahbaz Khan
Begonya & Jason Klumb
Howard Lubow
MainStream Coalition
Marti & Pat McLarney
Alana Muller & Marc Hammer
Lydia & Eric Muller
Sue Seidler. Nerman
& Lewis Nerman
Lynne & Mark O'Connell
Patty & Jerry Reece
Ann & Bob Regnier
Bill Rubin
Ursula Terrasi
David Westbrook
Wickham James Strategies
& Solutions
Beth & Karl Zobrist



1ST

FOUNDER'S
CIVILITY AWARD

Awarded to Adam
Hamilton, Church of the
Resurrection

Rev. Adam Hamilton recognized with inaugural Founder's Civility Award

To recognize the accomplishments of a remarkable leader who has demonstrated a commitment to bringing together our diverse community to engage in civil, fact-based dialogue, APS was proud to honor Rev. Adam Hamilton, founding pastor of the United Methodist Church of the Resurrection, with its inaugural "Founder's Civility Award." Reverend Hamilton embodies the ideals of the award in every interaction and serves as a model for us all.

Many thanks to Claire Bishop, APS executive director and COO, and Alana Muller, APS community development director, for their work in making this event happen in highly unusual circumstances, and to our generous sponsors of the event.



HOW WE DO IT

THE APS APPROACH

The topics covered during APS programs often elicit strong emotions, whether for panelists or members of the audience. We believe that it is important to create a space where discussions of these issues can address different points of view while ensuring they are substantive, respectful and based on facts. We use “Civility Tools” to help keep things on track even when the dialogue gets challenging. They include:



MODERATED DISCUSSIONS.

APS events are moderated by objective facilitators who ensure panelists are given time to represent their positions on tough but fair questions.



FACT SHEETS.

APS compiles a fact sheet in advance of each panel, which is reviewed beforehand by the panelists and distributed to the audience.



ROVING REPORTER.

Our Roving Reporter, usually a representative from a credible local media outlet, is engaged during the program to gather and curate audience questions.



FACT CHECKERS.

Programs feature real-time fact checkers to confirm the validity of comments made during the program.



CIVILITY BELLS.

The Civility Bell is a symbol for engaging the community in our mission—to improve the tone and quality of civil discourse. These are provided to audience members to ring and “reset” when panelists wade into false, overly dramatic, or hyper-emotional territory.



SO WHAT? NOW WHAT?

At the end of each event, panelists are given the opportunity to make closing statements in the form of answers to these questions. This allows our experts to restate their position on the topic at hand in a way that is actionable for the audience.



NO APPLAUSE.

No applause is allowed during a program except at the beginning and end of the event. This ensures perspective is not swayed one way or another in the midst of the discussion.

VIRTUAL DISCUSSION GROUPS

APS MEMBER EVENTS: VIRTUAL DISCUSSION GROUPS

To offer Members a way to stay engaged and connect with one another “face-to-face” despite the need for pandemic-driven social distancing, APS kicked off a Virtual Discussion Groups series, which ran through May and June, to talk about what it means to be an engaged citizen.

Each session, facilitated by APS Members and Staff, featured intimate, candid discussions based on the writing and lessons delivered by Citizen University founder, Eric Liu. The conversations took on unique meaning in light of COVID-19.

“How to Revive Your Belief in Democracy”

facilitated by Claire Bishop

“Oaths of Commitment”

facilitated by Rebecca James

“The Story of Our Roots”

facilitated by Bryan LeBeau

“Why Ordinary People Need to Understand Power”

facilitated by Alana Muller

“Are We All in this Together?”

facilitated by Denesha Snell

To learn more about the work of Citizen University, visit <https://citizenuniversity.us/>

COCKTAILS & POLITICS

POLITICAL HAPPY HOURS A HIT FOR APS

Originally conceived as a way to connect APS Members with influential political figures to discuss all aspects of politics in the run-up to the 2020 election, “Cocktails & Politics” instead took off in the Spring of 2020 as a recurring virtual Happy Hour open to all. Participants took part in behind-the-scenes banter and analysis with political experts, and enjoyed an APS signature cocktail recipe to boot.

With esteemed guests including Ohio Senator Sherrod Brown, former Congressman Kevin Yoder, and journalist Margaret Talev, these interviews quickly became a popular offering for Members and non-Members alike, with hundreds tuning in to ask questions and learn about a multitude of political topics during a highly political year.

To learn more about all our 2020 guests or to view event recordings, visit: www.americanpublicsquare.org/events.

COCKTAIL RECIPE

COCKTAILS AND
POLITICS' FEATURED
DRINK: THE LOW
HANGING FRUIT

PREPARED BY
IAN WALLA

PRESENTED BY



LEARN MORE ABOUT COCKTAILS
AND POLITICS AND FIND A VIDEO
OF THIS RECIPE AT
WWW.AMERICANPUBLICSQUARE.ORG





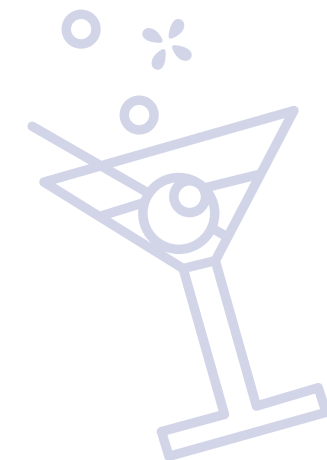
**THE LOW
HANGING FRUIT**

INGREDIENTS

- 1 OZ AMERICAN WHISKEY
- .75OZ FRESH LEMON JUICE
- .5OZ ORANGE CURACAO
- .5OZ POMEGRANATE JUICE
- .5OZ SIMPLE SYRUP
- 2 DASHES ANGOSTURA BITTERS
- 2-3OZ TONIC WATER
- ORANGE PEEL (OPTIONAL FOR GARNISH)

DIRECTIONS

1. COMBINE ALL INGREDIENTS EXCEPT THE TONIC WATER IN A COCKTAIL SHAKER
2. FILL SHAKER WITH ICE, AND SHAKE BRIEFLY
3. STRAIN OVER FRESH ICE IN A TALL GLASS
4. TOP WITH TONIC WATER
5. EXPRESS AN ORANGE PEEL OVER THE FINISHED COCKTAIL AND DROP THE PEEL IN THE DRINK
6. ENJOY!



BOTH SIDES PODCAST

As the APS team considered ways to continue delivering high-quality content in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic disruption, the “Both Sides” podcast was conceived.

APS Founder Allan Katz had long been considering a podcast and felt the circumstances of 2020 created the right time to open this new channel of programming. When Allan was considering who could best represent “the other side” he thought of his good friend, Mike McShane, director of national research, EdChoice and co-chair of APS’ advisory board. Mike and Allan come from different generations and political parties but on their own accord frequently engaged with each other when they were looking to breakdown the news of the day.



“The podcast provides an easy listen for folks and is a great way to participate in the APS community, wherever they might be.”

**Mike McShane, APS Advisory Board Member
and “Both Sides” co-host**

With that, Allan and Mike became the co-hosts of APS’ new podcast, “Both Sides.” The first podcast released in March of 2020 and another **33 podcasts** would be produced across the remainder of the year, a considerable testament of the APS team’s ability to adapt to the challenging dynamics of the COVID environment. Listeners come from around the world and can access the content on three platforms—SoundCloud, Spotify, and Apple Podcast.

Learn more or access the full line-up of podcasts at americanpublicsquare.org/events/atthesquare.



“BOTH SIDES” PODCAST HIGHLIGHTS (2020)

MAY

The politics of wearing a mask

JUNE

Police reform, the Supreme Court and John Bolton

AUGUST

Primary election results and looking ahead to the General

SEPTEMBER

RBG and the future of the SCOTUS

NOVEMBER

The President’s Claim of an Illegitimate Election

DECEMBER

The transition of power and the arrival of a COVID-19 vaccine

For her leadership in the podcast production (and her efforts to keep Allan and Mike on task!), our special thanks go to Allison Koelzer, APS’ student initiative coordinator, and producer of “Both Sides” 2020.

AMERICAN PUBLIC SQUARE MEMBERS

American Public Square at Jewell Members join others who find value in engaging in fact-based, civil conversations about issues important to our community. A Membership directly supports all we do to achieve our mission of improving the tone and quality of public discourse through opportunities like Signature Events, “Both Sides” podcasts, our “Cocktails & Politics” series, and our Civics Education Initiative.

APS Membership grants access to Member-Only APS content, priority registration to all APS Signature Events and other exclusive benefits.

At American Public Square at Jewell, we are honored to include Members in the work of elevating the level and quality of civil discourse in our communities. Together, we can create space for meaningful conversations so that we can disagree, not less, but better. To learn more about becoming a member, visit americanpublicsquare.org/membership.

CORPORATE CIVILITY CHAMPIONS (\$2,500)

Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner
Hallmark Cards
Health Forward Foundation
Husch Blackwell
Lead Bank
Shook, Hardy & Bacon

CORPORATE MOVEMENT LEADERS (\$1,000)

Dentons
ej4
Francis Family Foundation
Heartland Healthcare Providers
Sachs Media Group

CIVILITY CHAMPIONS (\$2,500)

Nancy Cohn & Amb. Allan Katz
Jennifer & John Isenberg
Sue Seidler Nerman
& Lewis Nerman
Paul Russell
Marny & John Sherman

MOVEMENT LEADERS (\$1,000)

Bert Berkley
Mary & Thomas Bloch
Dr. Sam Cullan
& Dr. James Landrum
Hon. Peggy & Terry Dunn
SuEllen Fried
Bill Gautreaux
Mary & Mark Jorgenson
Donna & Ward Katz
Howard Lubow
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Dr. Lee Norman
Patricia Uhlmann
Cyprienne Simchowitz
& Jerry White

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Dan Carpenter
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Robert Curland
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Ginny & Brad Epsten
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“In response to APS’ Coming Together Project, I contacted three opposite-party voters to listen. One refused; however, two were open to the discussion. Though I disagreed with them, they shared compelling reasons for giving their support to their candidate.”

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