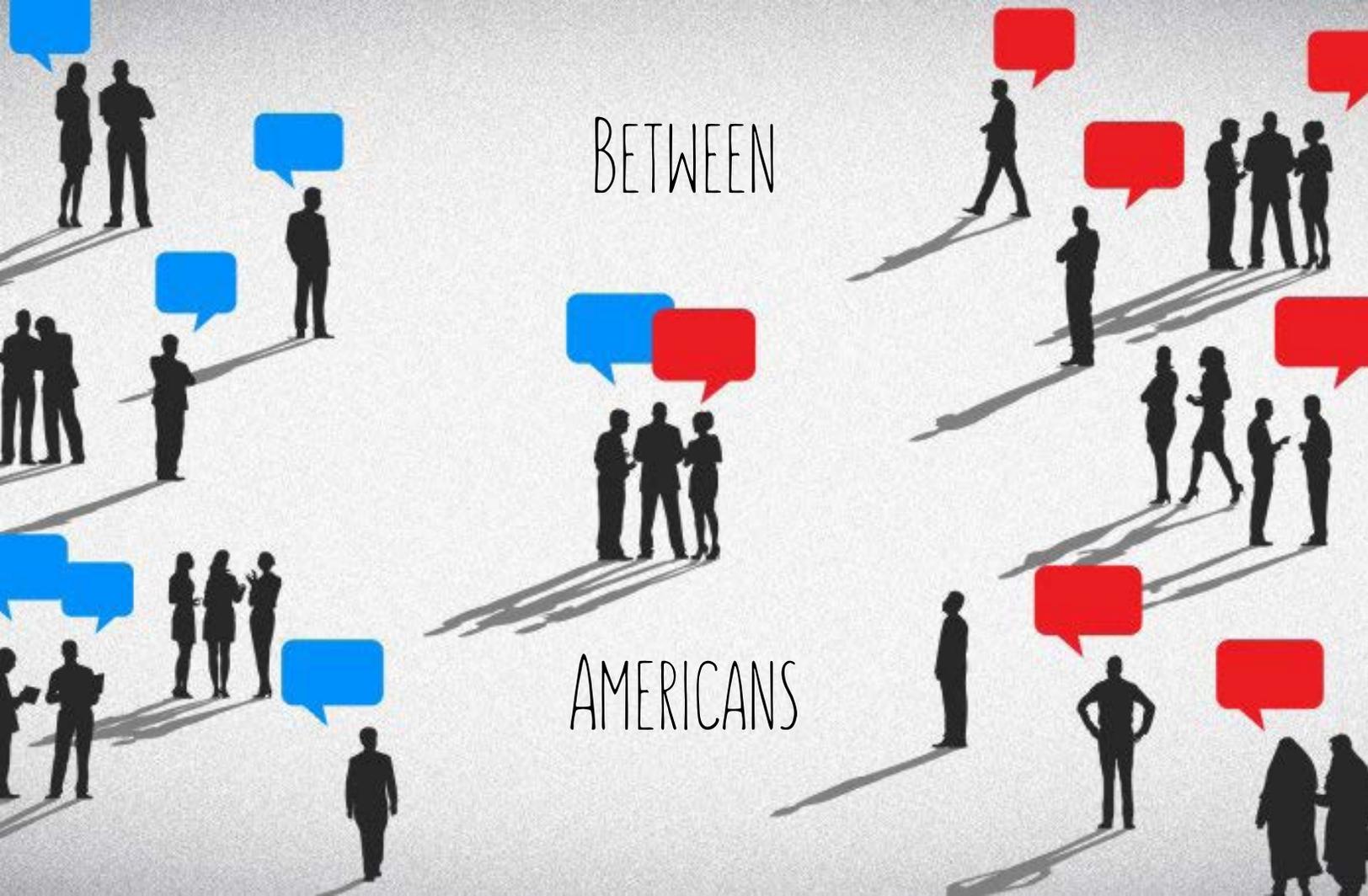
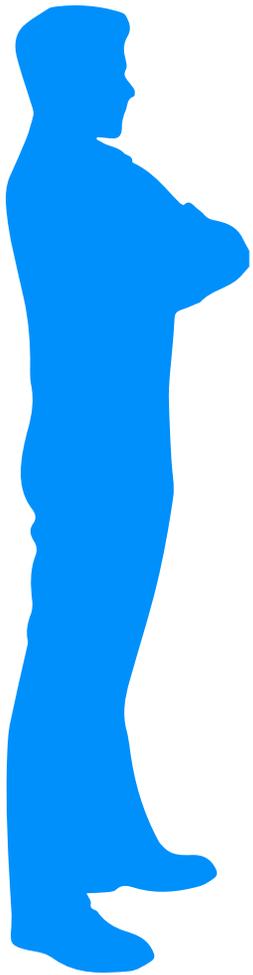


BETWEEN

AMERICANS





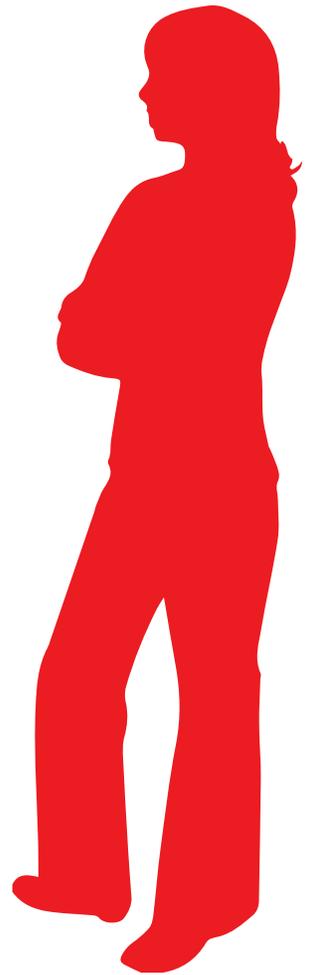
AN EXCHANGE between two cultures.

A SMALL COMMUNITY of strangers
across the political divide with a common desire
to understand and be understood.

A REMINDER of the work left to do to
strengthen our nation.

A LANDMARK commemorating the day our
national narrative changed course.

A STORY of a single year.



I VOTED FOR HILLARY CLINTON. I VOTED FOR DONALD TRUMP.



I don't believe that the Media Elite or Donald Trump or the Alt Right are in charge for the state of our nation.
 Elected officials on all sides have not acted in a way that I would expect of our country.
 These parties in power and those that they don't change the actual feeling of our country.
 I don't believe that the Media Elite or Donald Trump or the Alt Right are in charge for the state of our nation.
 Elected officials on all sides have not acted in a way that I would expect of our country.
 These parties in power and those that they don't change the actual feeling of our country.

We need a tool for catharsis, a breather. To vent, reflect, or to vent energy. But we need to understand that we are not the only ones who feel this way. Our shared concerns will connect us into the true difference that comes to define today.

The more time you spend with others that are different from you in an environment that is mutually beneficial, the more you will understand them. The more you understand them, the less prejudice and implicit bias you will have. This contact is important in the context of our social channels. They are designed to let us insulate ourselves from the people and opinions we would prefer not to see.

Over the last several weeks I have watched dozens of my friends on Facebook de-friend one another. I have seen plenty of self-righteous posts flow across my news feed, along with deeply felt messages of fear, anger and more recently — existential despair. On the other side I see reflections of joy, levity, gratitude and optimism for the future.

We need for catharsis, a breather. To vent, reflect, or to vent energy. But we need to understand that we are not the only ones who feel this way. Our shared concerns will connect us into the true difference that comes to define today.

I don't believe that the Media Elite, Donald Trump or the Alt Right are to blame for the state of our politics. They peddle influence and ideas, but they don't change the actual makeup of our country. Elected officials are still a fairly accurate representation of voters' wishes.

2016

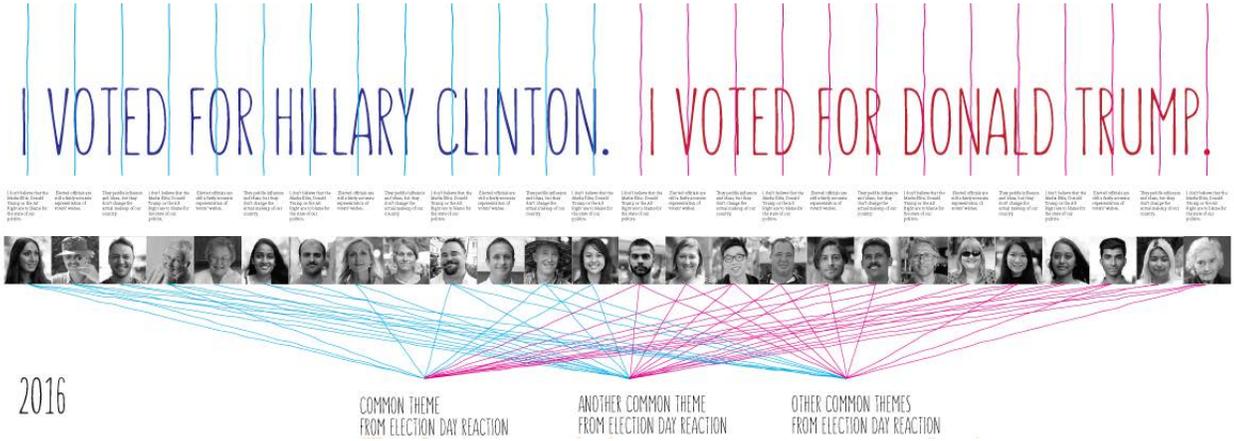
INSTALLATION

on November 8, 2017. Photos of faces line the left wall, looking across the room at the same photos on the right wall. On the floor, a timeline of key national events over the twelve months. Hanging from the ceiling, selections from journal entries throughout the year.

COMMON THEMES FROM ELECTION DAY REACTION
 OTHER COMMON THEMES FROM ELECTION DAY REACTION

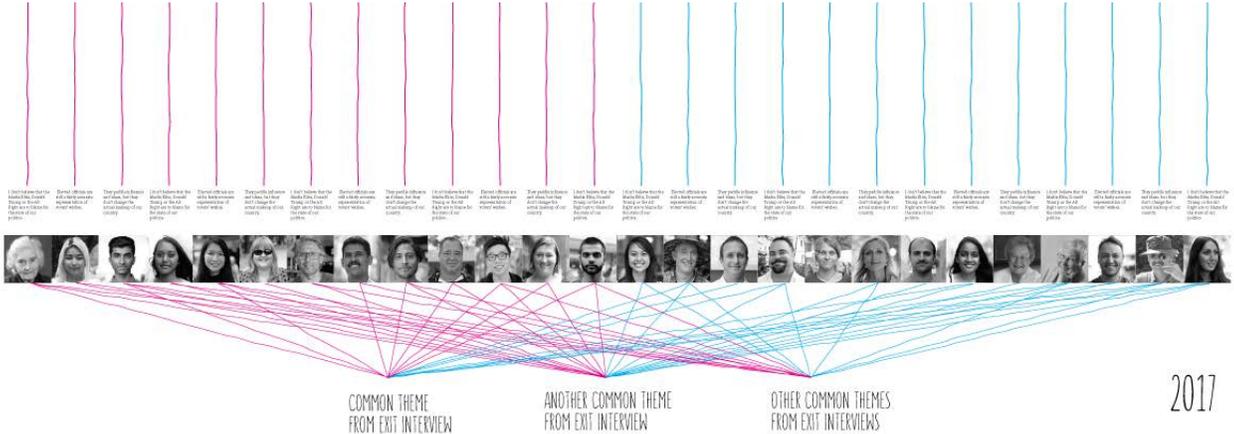
2016

The wall on the left captures our individual raw responses to November 8, 2016. Threads connect common themes.



2017

The wall on the right, one year later, with excerpts from interviews reflecting on experiences over the year.





WEB VERSION

Also launched on November 8, 2017, this will be a wall of faces on the screen. Hover over a face to hear their voice reflecting back on the year of conversations with the opposite side. Click for excerpts from the year's written reflections.

WE'RE LOOKING FOR

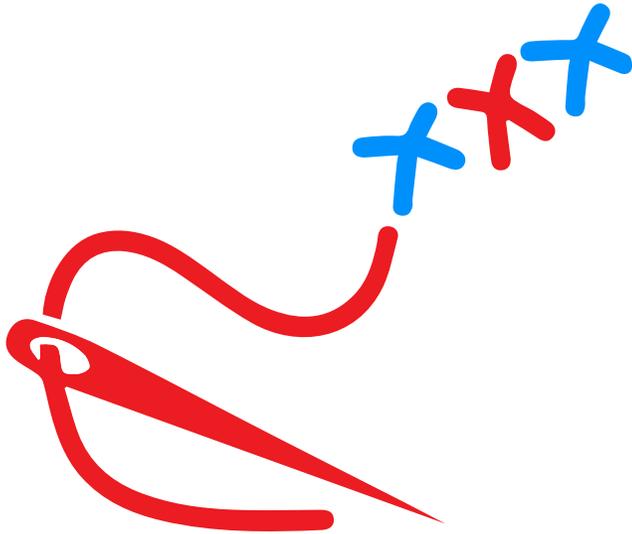
12 Trump and 12 Hillary supporters, many referred through our friends. They hold deep political convictions but are eager to learn from different perspectives. We're seeking people who meet *and* people who break the liberal and conservative stereotypes.

WHY PARTICIPATE?

Because none of us benefits from a divided nation.

Because we'll probably need each other's help decoding the news this year.

And to seek small actions we individually can do to become stronger citizens.



COMMITMENT: 2-4 hrs/month, Dec 2016 – Nov 2017.

- Respond to 2 questions each month (see details next page) with a brief paragraph posted to the private community forum.
- Read others' posts and follow up by phone when something strikes your curiosity.
- List the best times for others to call you to follow up on something you've written.
- In fall 2017, we'll call you for a recorded interview on your experiences over the year. We'll also work with you to select 4-5 excerpted posts that best tell the story of how the year has evolved for you. These are the only pieces that will be made public—the rest of the conversations you have on the forum will stay private, part of the process but not the product.
- General ground rules: (1) Respect each other's privacy. (2) Seek to understand, not to advise.

PRIVACY: We are selecting a community of fellow Americans with common ground, but we also understand that political conversations can get tough and that we're asking you to trust a group of initial strangers.

- The website will be a private blog. Only logged-in members can view posts.
- Phone calls can be made via a central dial-in number with forwarding extensions so your personal phone number is not shared.
- Community members will see each other's profile photo and first name. Real names are preferred, but aliases are fine.
- The public will see nothing of your conversations until November 2017. After that, your photo will be public, with no name or other identifying information. They'll hear an edited interview in your voice, and be able to read excerpts from your community posts, all of which you've had the chance to approve beforehand.

MONTHLY QUESTIONS will focus on individual stories and can include suggestions from the group.

Possible icebreakers: What led you to accept the invitation to join this community? What are your hobbies? What communities do you identify with and what holds them together?

Political questions might include: How did you initially react to Trump's election? Who do you distrust? What experiences or readings have shaped your political view? What about our nation's direction most concerns you?

COMMUNICATION: In addition to responding to the monthly questions, post anytime to the private forum reflecting on a recent event, venting frustrations, floating an idea, whatever comes to you. You can keep posts private until ready to share.

Phone will be the only way to comment directly on each other's posts; we encourage building community through one-on-one conversations.

SIGN UP / QUESTIONS?

If you're interested in joining
or have suggestions, please
contact Bo:

info@intoschism.org

Thanks!

“IT HAS BECOME IMPOSSIBLE FOR
ME TO IGNORE THE FACT THAT
THE WORLD WE ARE CREATING
DOES NOT COME CLOSE TO
FULFILLING ITS PROMISE.”

—PETER BLOCK, FROM
COMMUNITY: THE STRUCTURE OF
BELONGING