

INTERACTIVE KEYNOTE SPEAKER

## championing civility in divisive times

Elevating community leadership to leave people feeling welcomed, respected, and heard.

CHAT WITH MATT

✓ empowering

✓ inclusive

✓ pragmatic

## Disagreement isn't just natural, it's necessary.

Differing knowledge, experience, and motivations inform every human endeavor—and successful leaders are the ones who learn how to transform division and distrust into collaboration and creativity. Matt Lehrman specializes in enlightening local leaders (especially city & town councils, school district boards, and nonprofit boards of directors) in how to weave a tapestry of consensus when addressing even the most complex and sensitive of community challenges.

VIDEO TEASER

"...our members hung on every word." – Michelle Gowdy, Virginia Municipal League  
"... attendees' favorite session of the annual conference." – Karen Rosen, Colorado Municipal League  
"... an incredibly engaging speaker who inspires community leaders to live up to their highest values." – Blake Crosby, North Dakota League of Cities

INSPIRE LEADERS AT YOUR NEXT CONFERENCE

## Interactive Keynote Topics

### A Community of Possibilities: Achievement Beyond Civility

The ultimate responsibility of local government isn't just infrastructure, it's "destructure"—the ongoing process of involving, connecting, and empowering the diversity of its community members. Here's what every town and city leader should understand about their role as a guardian of responsible, courageous, and visionary civic engagement.

[Read more >](#)

### FLAGSHIP KEYNOTE

#### From Conflict to Conversation: Must Disagreement Be Disagreeable?

Amidst deepening division, there's never been a more necessary time for local leaders to learn practical skills by which to tackle complex and sensitive issues in ways that leave community members feeling welcomed, heard, and respected. Inspiring and wholly actionable, Matt Lehrman animates the principle that where people work together courageously, their potential is unlimited.

[Read more >](#)

#### Futurecast: A Collaborative Exercise in Forward-Thinking Leadership

The future is unknowable, but it's incredibly malleable. Let's elevate our focus beyond today's worries and constraints. In a fast-paced, fresh, and 100% interactive exercise, city and town leaders will work together to imagine how the world (and their communities) will be different in the near future - and then inspire each other on ways to lead from positions of responsibility, creativity, civility, and more.

[Read more >](#)

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Matt's photo

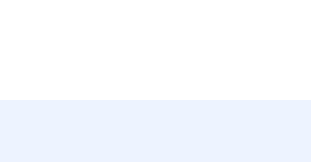
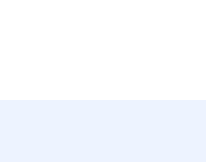
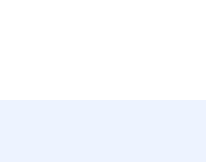
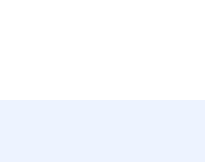
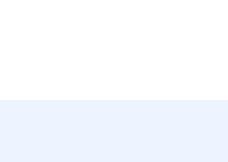
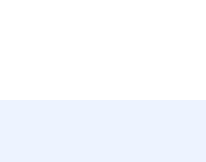
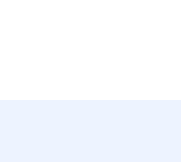
## Need help convening a courageous conversation?

You don't have to do it alone. As a keynote speaker on the topic of civility and as a for-hire facilitator for all sorts of dialogues involving diverse stakeholders, I've helped thousands of local leaders nationwide bring people together to recognize and solve community problems.

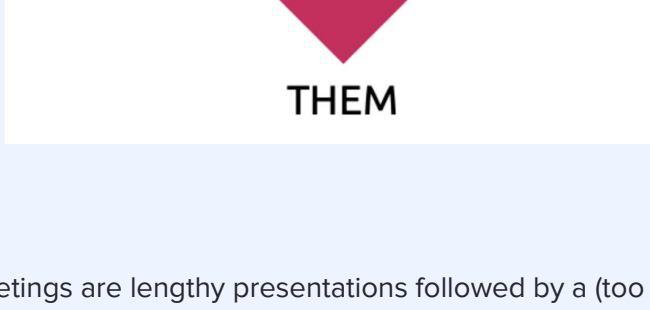
Got a quick question? You're always welcome (without cost or obligation) to get in touch for some advice.

Learn more about Matt's work

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## Matt's Approach to Courageous Conversations



Too often, "outreach" meetings are lengthy presentations followed by a (too short) period of questions & answers. Instead of that us/them (i.e., vertical) structure, Matt shows leaders how to design inclusive (i.e., horizontal) forums that empower community members to engage directly with each other. A "courageous conversation" isn't a debate but rather a community dialogue fueled by mutual respect, creativity, and open-mindedness.

Courageous Conversations must be authentic to your community's values



"To What Values Does Your Community Aspire?" Answers from attendees at Virginia Municipal League's annual conference 10/2/2022.

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## Interested in Inviting Matt to Speak?

### 1. Book a call.

Schedule a free consultation call with Matt to discuss your event's essential purpose and greatest goals.

### 2. Request a proposal.

Invite Matt to offer a specific strategy for an interactive keynote for an added value that your audience will uniquely appreciate.

### 3. Inspire your audience.

In both substance and style, expect your audience to emerge from Matt's presentation feeling connected, energized, and eager to apply what they've learned.

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## See what other associations are saying ...

logo

Michelle Gowdy, Executive Director, Virginia Municipal League

"Over the course of our 2022 Mayors Institute and Annual Conference, Matt presented to our members several times in varying formats. First, he offered "A Courageous Conversation About Civility" to a group of about 50 mayors from across the state. Then he delivered "From Conflict to Conversation" as the keynote speaker on the opening day of our conference which he followed the next day with a panel discussion on the topic. In every instance, our members hung on every word and obviously enjoyed interacting with Matt through his adept use of smartphone real-time feedback and interactive dialogue. His presence at our conference, which included hallway conversations with attendees, joining sessions as an audience member, and willingness to follow-up with individual

The future is unknowable, but it's incredibly malleable.

Get instant access to Matt's free webinar:  
**CONNECTING THROUGH WEBINAR:  
THE 4 TYPES OF PEOPLE YOU NEED TO ENGAGE**

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Let's talk possibilities.

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