

POLARIZATION
IGNORANCE
DISCRIMINATION
FEAR
EXCLUSION
INSULARITY
RACISM
SEXISM
CLASSISM
ISLAMOPHOBIA
HOMOPHOBIA
ECONOMIC DISPARITIES
EDUCATION GAPS
RESIGNATION

< CHALLENGES HERE IN PITTSBURGH (AND ELSEWHERE)

PEOPLE IN PITTSBURGH FORGING “A COMMUNITY OF WE” >

As part of our exploration into creating “a community of we,” this issue of h magazine includes perspectives from leaders of different organizations and initiatives that The Heinz Endowments has supported over the years. In the following pages, these individuals identify challenges they believe exist in the Pittsburgh region, describe what is needed to establish “a community of we,” and then explain how their groups or programs are helping to make the concept a reality. While the phrase itself is just one way to emphasize the need for unity and civility in our society, the various perspectives highlight the communal responsibility for grounding lofty ideals in actual life experiences. Among the comments are recommendations for how each of us can do our part in our various networks and spheres of influence to bridge the gaps that divide us and to counter negative narratives about our region. The problems are real, but there are reasons to be hopeful for the future. They include the commitment of thoughtful and creative individuals and organizations willing to lead the pursuit for mutual respect, honest conversations and social justice, which are critical to moving forward.