

Dear Senior Fellows and Friends,

We had a fascinating look at an expanding incubator of leadership in local government on February 7th, when we learned about [City Hall Fellows](#) from Founder & Executive Director Bethany Rubin Henderson. As Henderson expresses on the web site, she believes that “one talented, passionate individual working inside government can change an agency, and that many working together can change a community.”

Steve Cannizzaro, founder of [The North Star Company](#), took away the following:

Bethany Rubin Henderson’s description of City Hall Fellows --- its mission, approach, format, and results --- reminded us of several things. First, a great need --- no matter how seemingly dismal or insurmountable --- is a great opportunity for real and lasting change. Second, an inspired vision coupled with a clear, executable strategy, is compelling. It attracts attention, curiosity, and interest and ultimately resources and support. Third, leadership --- clear-thinking, confident, energetic, innovative, articulate, and unflagging --- is at the vanguard of change. Fourth, we --- and the teams we build --- must be lean, nimble, creative, and adaptable to overcome the inertia of the status quo those entrenched in it.

The attention in the room sharpened as we experienced vicariously the travails and accomplishments of the Fellows – and immediately recognized the terrain. The stories are on the site in the Fellows’ own words. Henderson, who literally knocked on doors before finding cities, such as San Francisco, that were willing to go first, also has built a team that is ready to scale the vision up to country size. As Steve notes, it’s a flexible vision – a necessity, since each city’s governance, power structure, and budget situation is different. Many of the challenges our country is facing will require solutions that can only work if they involve local leaders as full partners, often as originators. City Hall Fellows is increasing that kind of capacity.

Participant affiliations were as follows:

ARPA* Consultant (*Advanced Research Program Analysis)
American Society for Training and Development, DC Chapter
City Hall Fellows
Consultant, IT Workforce Issues
Department of Education
Department of Health and Human Services
Department of Homeland Security
Excellence in Government Senior Fellows Board
Gartner Inc.
Kahler Communications, Inc.
Public Leadership Education Network
Storyteller – Voices in the Glen
The Mind to Lead

The North Star Company

A generous spirit of learning and collegiality was fostered and enjoyed by all. Please consider joining us in the future.

Kitty Wooley