

# Bridging Our Digital Divide

A steel arch bridge spans a river, with a sunset or sunrise visible through the bridge's opening. The scene is framed by dark, rocky cliffs on either side. The water in the foreground is calm, reflecting the light from the sky. The overall mood is serene and hopeful.

**Community  
Forum**



## **Results Summary**

- **175 Participants, 200 Total Attendees**
- **2/3's from San Jose; 50 from East SJ**
- **Attendees estimated to be 60+% Latino**
  
- **23 Small Groups, 2 Spanish-speaking**
- **12 stories videotaped by Presenter.com**
- **250 prospective volunteers**
  
- **Sunday Mercury News article**



## Sponsors

- Silicon Valley Civic Action Network
- Joint Venture: Silicon Valley Network
- David and Lucile Packard Foundation
- State Senator John Vasconcellos
- La Raza Roundtable
- Irvine Foundation
- OneDemocracy.com
- Lifeguard
- Presenter.com
- Mexican Heritage Plaza



## Premise

- Much “leadership” focus
  - Government
  - Business
  - Media
- Data alone can be sterile
- Need to hear from the “other side”
- Kickoff for SV-CAN; Support DD Panel



# 1. Personal Stories

- *Technology Access*
  - “It’s a luxury”
- *Fear of Technology*
- *Why of Technology*
- *Generational Gap*
- *Basic Education*
- *Non-technical Careers*
- *Aspiration Gap*
- *Inadequate Equipment*
- *Economics/Income!!!*
- *Language Barriers*
- *Know & Know-nots*
- Personal Exchange
- Documentation
- Tape recording
- Video recording
- Web-casting
- Internet Survey
- Public Testimony
- Shadowing
- Real Examples



## 2. Causes of the Divide

- Economics
  - *Priorities (necessities vs. luxuries, time)*
  - *Cost of new technologies & training*
- The New Generation Gap
- Lack of Understanding (even fear) of Technology and Its Benefits
- Language Barriers
- Educational Quality and Achievement



## 3. Bridging Our Divide

- Regional Partnership & Strategy
- Direct Individual Involvement
- Targeted Technology Access & Training
- Education Funding & Support (teachers)
- Economic Equity & Understanding



## 4. Next Steps

- Engage at least 10 others with questions
- Endorse Silicon Valley 2010
- Sign-ups
  - *Speakers Bureau*
  - *Workplace Based Engagement*
  - *Mentoring & Shadowing*
- Upcoming Events
  - *May 3 Rainbow/Push Coalition Conference*