

BIG THINKERS. OPEN MINDS. REAL DIALOGUE.

The Connecticut Forum
2026-2027 Season Sponsorship Opportunities

ENGAGE EMPLOYEES | NETWORK LOCALLY | SUPPORT YOUTH

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More Than an Event. A Shared Civic Experience.

Each Forum begins with anticipation in a full theater as audiences gather with a sense of curiosity about the ideas that will unfold on stage. When the lights dim, remarkable voices — authors, artists, scientists, journalists, and cultural leaders — enter into thoughtful conversation guided by a skilled moderator.

The Result is Something
Dynamic and Unpredictable.

Forum conversations are unscripted, lively, and often surprising. Humor mixes with insight. Big questions lead to deeper understanding. Audience members leave with new perspectives and ideas that continue long after the evening ends.

In an era of quick takes and social media soundbites, The Forum offers something rare:

Time and space for real conversation.

It is this spirit of intellectual curiosity and openness that has made The Forum a beloved tradition for thousands of audience members for more than three decades!

Smart Conversations. Remarkable Voices.

An Unforgettable 35th Season.

Our 2026–2027 season brings together some of today's most influential voices for a bold and timely series of conversations exploring the forces shaping our world — from culture and comedy, to artificial intelligence, the economy, the future of work, journalism, and humanitarian action. This milestone season promises thought-provoking dialogue, fresh perspectives, and unforgettable moments on stage. Featuring acclaimed journalists, cultural commentators, global leaders, and thought leaders, The Connecticut Forum's 35th season invites audiences to engage deeply with the ideas defining our time — and the conversations shaping what comes next.

**TUE
OCT 6
2026**

**An Evening With
Trevor Noah**

**FRI
NOV 20
2026**

**A Conversation on
The Economy, Money & Power
Featuring Andrew Ross Sorkin**

**WED
MAR 3
2027**

**The Future of Journalism
Featuring Chris Hayes**

**THU
APR 29
2027**

**Saving the World
Humanitarian Action in a Changing World
Featuring Samantha Power**

Additional speakers to be announced.



A Community Of Curious Minds.

Our season subscribers include a powerhouse of advanced-degree professionals whose average household income tops six figures. They mix fresh energy with long-standing loyalty — newcomers sit side-by-side with members of 15-plus years — and 70% make Forum nights a destination, filling Hartford's restaurants before taking their seats in the theater. The Forum is a built-in network of thought leaders ready to connect with your brand.

Meet The Forum's Core Audience: Accomplished | Affluent | Engaged



45%



Of Forum subscribers have a graduate degree, while 35% have an undergraduate degree and 18% have a doctoral or professional degree!

50%



Of Forum subscribers have an annual household income of \$100-\$250K and 30% earn more than \$250K a year.

70%



Of Forum subscribers prefer to attend Forums in-person. And 20% ALWAYS dine out in Hartford on Forum nights.

The Ripple Effect of Conversation.

Over
40K



Individuals connect across The Forum's vibrant online community.

Over
10K



Minds are enlightened and energized throughout one Forum Season.

More than
350



Youth are enriched throughout one Forum Season.

More than
700K



Viewers inspired annually from streaming past and present Forum content on YouTube.

Each season, The Connecticut Forum sparks a statewide ripple of curiosity and connection —

enriching 350+ high school students through Youth PreViews programming, engaging 10,000+ audience members at live events, and building on a 34-year legacy of more than 450 brilliant, funny, and visionary thinkers who challenge assumptions and ignite dialogue.

Beyond the stage, our YouTube channel extends the conversation, reaching 700,000+ viewers each year through streaming highlights from past and present Forums.

Aligning Your Brand With Conversations That Matter.

Corporate partners play a vital role in bringing The Forum experience to life. By sponsoring The Forum season, companies align their brand with an institution known for credibility, thought leadership, and meaningful civic engagement.

Partnerships offer unique opportunities to:

CONNECT

WITH A HIGHLY
ENGAGED AUDIENCE

Forum attendees are thoughtful, curious individuals who value culture, learning, and community leadership.

ENGAGE

IN A PREMIUM
CULTURAL EXPERIENCE

Sponsors enjoy special access to The Forum through hospitality opportunities, behind-the-scenes engagement, and connections with speakers and fellow business leaders.

DEMONSTRATE

COMMUNITY
LEADERSHIP

Supporting The Forum signals a commitment to strengthening civic dialogue and cultural life in our region.

ACCESS

VIP NETWORKING
OPPORTUNITIES

Placing your executives alongside decision-makers from across Connecticut at exclusive receptions.

AMPLIFY

BRAND
VISIBILITY

Sponsors receive recognition across Forum programs, digital channels, and event experiences — reaching audiences in the theater and beyond.

**MOST IMPORTANTLY, SPONSORS BECOME PART OF A
COMMUNITY THAT IS COMMITTED TO CIVIC ENGAGEMENT
AND CONTINUOUS LEARNING.**

Engage With Connecticut Youth.

Central to The Connecticut Forum's Mission has been the engagement and enrichment of youth, particularly young people from the urban core and historically marginalized communities. At each Forum, local middle and high schoolers are invited to meet the evening's speakers, where they raise the issues and questions that are important to them.

Known as Youth PreViews,

Forum speakers often reflect that their conversations with young people are among the highlights of their visits. The students also meet with volunteers to prepare for their visits with Forum speakers and they convene with their peers afterward over dinner, to consider what they have learned.



WE INVITE SPONSORS TO SUPPORT YOUTH PREVIEWS, ENABLING THE FORUM TO PROVIDE YOUTH THESE SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCES AS WELL AS MEALS DURING THEIR VISITS.

Season Sponsorship Level

SEASON PRESENTING

**Total Investment
\$50,000**

EVENT ACCESS + NETWORKING & RELATIONSHIP BUILDING

- 20 Forum Tickets
- 20 Champions Reception Invitations
- Premium Front Orchestra Seating at Presenting Forum
- Visit Backstage & Meet Speakers at Presenting Forum
- Executive Appearance & Welcome from Stage

BRAND VISIBILITY & RECOGNITION

- Recognition of Sponsor on Front Cover of the Forum Playbill
- Prominent Recognition in Forum Social Media
- Logo Recognition on Forum Stage
- Logo Recognition in Forum Promotional Materials
- Logo Recognition on Forum Theater Signage at The Bushnell

AUDIENCE & CUSTOMER ENGAGEMENT

- Full Page Color Ad Inside Front Cover for Presenting Forum
- Recognition of Sponsor on Front Cover of Forum Playbill
- Full Page Color Ad in All Season Playbills

EMPLOYEE EXPERIENCE ENHANCEMENTS

- 20% Discount for Sponsor Employees on Forum Season Subscriptions
- Community & Social Impact Topics
- Tailored Season-long Employee Engagement Program

Season Sponsorship Level

LIFETIME VISIONARY

**Total Investment
\$35,000**

EVENT ACCESS + NETWORKING & RELATIONSHIP BUILDING

- 16 Forum Tickets
- 16 Champions Reception Invitations
- Premium Front Orchestra Seating at Season Forums

BRAND VISIBILITY & RECOGNITION

- Prominent Recognition in Forum Social Media
- Logo Recognition on Forum Stage
- Recognition in Forum Promotional Materials
- Logo Recognition on Forum Theater Signage at The Bushnell

AUDIENCE & CUSTOMER ENGAGEMENT

- Full Page Color Ad in All Season Playbills

EMPLOYEE EXPERIENCE ENHANCEMENTS

- 20% Discount for Sponsor Employees on Forum Season Subscriptions
- Community & Social Impact Topics
- Tailored Season-long Employee Engagement Program

Season Sponsorship Level

YOUTH PREVIEWS

Total Investment
\$25,000

EVENT ACCESS + NETWORKING & RELATIONSHIP BUILDING

- 12 student tickets for each Forum
- 12 invitations to Youth PreViews for each Forum
- 4 Forum Tickets
- 4 Champions Reception Invitations
- Orchestra Seating at Season Forums

BRAND VISIBILITY & RECOGNITION

- Recognition on Forum Stage
- Recognition in Forum Promotional Materials
- Recognition on Forum Theater Signage at The Bushnell

AUDIENCE & CUSTOMER ENGAGEMENT

- Half Page Color Ad in All Season Playbills

EMPLOYEE EXPERIENCE ENHANCEMENTS

- 20% Discount for Sponsor Employees on Forum Season Subscriptions
- Community & Social Impact Topics

Season Sponsorship Level

PREMIER

Total Investment
\$20,000

EVENT ACCESS + NETWORKING & RELATIONSHIP BUILDING

- 10 Forum Tickets
- 10 Champions Reception Invitations
- Orchestra Seating at Season Forums

BRAND VISIBILITY & RECOGNITION

- Recognition on Forum Stage
- Recognition in Forum Promotional Materials
- Recognition on Forum Theater Signage at The Bushnell

AUDIENCE & CUSTOMER ENGAGEMENT

- Half Page Color Ad in All Season Playbills

EMPLOYEE EXPERIENCE ENHANCEMENTS

- 20% Discount for Sponsor Employees on Forum Season Subscriptions
- Community & Social Impact Topics

Season Sponsorship Level

CHARTER

Total Investment
\$15,000

EVENT ACCESS + NETWORKING & RELATIONSHIP BUILDING

- 8 Forum Tickets
- 8 Champions Reception Invitations
- Orchestra Seating at Season Forums

BRAND VISIBILITY & RECOGNITION

- Recognition on Forum Stage
- Recognition in Forum Promotional Materials
- Recognition on Forum Theater Signage at The Bushnell

AUDIENCE & CUSTOMER ENGAGEMENT

- Half Page Color Ad in All Season Playbills

EMPLOYEE EXPERIENCE ENHANCEMENTS

- 20% Discount for Sponsor Employees on Forum Season Subscriptions
- Community & Social Impact Topics

Season Sponsorship Level

SUSTAINING

Total Investment
\$8,500

EVENT ACCESS + NETWORKING & RELATIONSHIP BUILDING

- 4 Forum Tickets
- 4 Champions Reception Invitations
- Orchestra Seating at Season Forums

BRAND VISIBILITY & RECOGNITION

- Recognition on Forum Stage
- Recognition in Forum Promotional Materials
- Recognition on Forum Theater Signage at The Bushnell

AUDIENCE & CUSTOMER ENGAGEMENT

- Quarter Page Color Ad in All Season Playbills

EMPLOYEE EXPERIENCE ENHANCEMENTS

- 20% Discount for Sponsor Employees on Forum Season Subscriptions
- Community & Social Impact Topics

One Night Only

PRESENTING HOST

**Total Investment
\$25,000 – \$50,000**

EVENT ACCESS + NETWORKING & RELATIONSHIP BUILDING

- 20 Forum Tickets for Chosen Forum
- 20 Champions Reception Invitations for Chosen Forum
- Premier Front Orchestra Seating at Chosen Forum
- Visit Backstage & Meet Speakers at Presenting Forum
- Executive Appearance & Welcome from Stage

BRAND VISIBILITY & RECOGNITION

- Recognition of Sponsor on Cover of Chosen Forum Playbill
- Recognition on Forum Stage at Chosen Forum
- Recognition in Chosen Forum Promotional Materials
- Recognition on Forum Theater Signage

AUDIENCE & CUSTOMER ENGAGEMENT

- Full Page Color Ad in Chosen Forum Playbill

EMPLOYEE EXPERIENCE ENHANCEMENTS

- 20% Discount for Sponsor Employees on Forum Season Subscriptions
- Community & Social Impact Topics

Partnership Opportunities:

BEYOND THE FORUM

At The Connecticut Forum, the dialogue doesn't end when the stage lights dim. Through special initiatives and community partnerships, The Forum brings its mission of curiosity, connection, and civic dialogue to audiences across the region throughout the year. These programs offer companies meaningful opportunities to support the next generation of thinkers and expand access to important conversations beyond our mainstage events.

Sponsorship Level

YOUTH FORUM CHAMPION

Total Investment | \$30,000

Build the next generation of thoughtful leaders.

The Youth Forum Champion Partner supports a year-round initiative designed to equip high school students across the region with the skills to engage in respectful civil dialogue, think critically, and navigate complex issues with confidence and empathy.

Through monthly programs during the academic year, students from diverse schools, backgrounds, and lived experiences come together to explore ideas, exchange perspectives, and practice the art of constructive conversation — preparing them for active participation in civic life.

Sponsorship Level

FORUM ENCORE! COMMUNITY PARTNER

Total Investment | \$20,000

Extend the conversation. Deepen community impact.

The Forum Encore Community Partner is a mission-aligned opportunity to bring the ideas from The Connecticut Forum mainstage directly into communities across the state. Your support helps to underwrite these thoughtfully curated programs, conversations, panels, book discussions, screenings, and workshops. Forum Encores! create accessible entry points for deeper learning, local connection, and civic dialogue.

As a Community Partner, your company plays a leading role in ensuring these conversations reach broader, more diverse audiences — transforming a single evening into sustained community engagement.

Sponsorship Benefits

YOUTH FORUM CHAMPION

Total Investment
\$30,000

Build the next generation of thoughtful leaders.

YOUR IMPACT

- **Connect Students Across Differences**

Convene high school students from across the region to engage with peers they might not otherwise meet — fostering understanding across communities, identities, and perspectives.

- **Build Essential Life Skills**

Develop students' abilities in communication, critical thinking, ethical decisionmaking, and collaborative problem-solving.

- **Create a Consistent Learning Journey**

Support monthly, cohort-based programming throughout the school year, enabling students to build trust, deepen relationships, and grow over time.

- **Bridge Classroom Learning with Real-World Dialogue**

Connect Youth Forum participants to mainstage Forum topics, speakers, and ideas through curated experiences like Youth PreViews and facilitated discussions.

- **Expand Access & Equity**

Ensure participation for students from underrepresented and underserved communities through free program access and transportation support.

STUDENT EXPERIENCE

- Participate in monthly interactive sessions (in-person and/or virtual).
- Engage in facilitated discussions on timely and relevant topics.
- Learn frameworks for civil discourse and constructive disagreement.
- Collaborate in small-group dialogues and peer exchanges.
- Attend select Connecticut Forum events and Youth PreViews.
- Build a network of peers and mentors across the state.
- Take part in mentorship opportunities with corporate partners, offering exposure to a range of industries and career pathways.
- Engage in career exploration and networking sessions, including small-group conversations with professionals, workplace insights, and real-world applications of dialogue and leadership skills.
- Build a statewide peer network alongside connections to professionals and mentors who can support their future pathways.

Sponsorship Benefits

YOUTH FORUM CHAMPION

Total Investment
\$30,000

Build the next generation of thoughtful leaders.

EVENT ACCESS + NETWORKING & RELATIONSHIP BUILDING

- 20 student tickets for each Forum
- 6 Forum tickets to each Forum during 2026-27 Season
- 6 Invitations to each Champions Reception
- Orchestra Seating at Season Forums

BRAND VISIBILITY & RECOGNITION

- Recognition as Youth Forum Champion across all Youth Forum materials
- Logo placement on:
 - Program materials and student communications
 - CTForum.org Youth Forum pages
 - Digital promotions and email campaigns
- Verbal recognition at Youth Forum gatherings and related events

AUDIENCE & CUSTOMER ENGAGEMENT

- Half Page Color Ad in All Season Playbills

ENGAGEMENT & ACCESS

- Opportunity to welcome students at a session or share brief remarks
- Invitation for representatives to attend a Youth Forum session or showcase event
- Participation in a Program Development Session to help shape themes and outcomes

EMPLOYEE & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- Opportunities for employees to serve as guest speakers, mentors, or facilitators
- Meaningful volunteer engagement aligned with workforce development and community impact goals
- Alignment with a high-impact, nonpartisan initiative focused on youth leadership and civic engagement
- Demonstrated commitment to developing the future workforce and informed citizens of Connecticut
- 20% Discount for Sponsor Employees on Forum Season Subscriptions
- Community & Social Impact Topics

Sponsorship Benefits

FORUM ENCORE! COMMUNITY PARTNER

Total Investment
\$20,000

Extend the conversation. Deepen community impact.

YOUR IMPACT

- **Expand Access Across Connecticut**
Support free, community-based programming in libraries, schools, and partner organizations statewide.
- **Localize Big Ideas**
Help translate mainstage conversations into meaningful, Connecticut-focused dialogue with local experts and community voices.
- **Strengthen Civic Engagement**
Foster spaces where residents can explore complex issues, share perspectives, and build understanding.
- **Advance Equity in Access**
Ensure that cost is never a barrier to participation in thoughtful, high-quality public discourse.

EVENT ACCESS + NETWORKING & RELATIONSHIP BUILDING

- 4 Forum tickets to each Forum during 2026-27 Season
- 4 Invitations to each Champions Reception
- Orchestra Seating at Season Forums

BRAND VISIBILITY & RECOGNITION

- Recognition as Forum Encore! Community Partner across all Encore! programs
- Verbal recognition at Encore! events
- Logo placement on:
 - Event materials and signage
 - CTForum.org Encore! pages
 - Digital promotions and email campaigns

AUDIENCE & CUSTOMER ENGAGEMENT

- Half Page Color Ad in All Season Playbills

EMPLOYEE & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- Volunteer Opportunities
- 20% Discount for Sponsor Employees on Forum Season Subscriptions
- Community & Social Impact Topics