

Talk to the City

Press Kit

Overview

[Talk to the City \(T3C\)](#) is an open-source AI platform developed by the AI Objectives Institute that reimagines how communities, institutions, and decision-makers gather and act on public input. Unlike traditional polls that flatten nuance, or focus groups that capture only a few voices, T3C makes it possible to engage diverse groups at scale while preserving the richness of individual perspectives. Through conversational AI surveys delivered on familiar platforms like WhatsApp, participants are guided through structured dialogues that lower barriers to response and increase engagement. T3C then distills these conversations into interactive reports that highlight themes, reveal consensus and disagreement, and link every insight back to real participant quotes—ensuring transparency, accuracy, and trust. Already used by more than **100 organizations** to engage over **10,000 participants**, T3C is proving how public voices can directly shape collective agendas.

Key Features

- **Collect voices at scale** – Surveys, interviews, transcripts, or WhatsApp conversations.
- **AI-powered analysis** – Large language models (LLMs) identify themes and distill complex input.
- **Grounded in real voices** – Every insight links back to participant quotes.
- **Interactive reporting** – Explore results online, from high-level themes to individual voices.

What Makes T3C Different

- **Scale + depth together** – Reach thousands without losing nuance.
- **Trustworthy by design** – Findings are anchored in real participants' words, not AI hallucinations.
- **Open-source + public interest** – Transparent, accessible, and adaptable technology.
- **Proven in practice** – Governments, unions, and advocacy groups already turning voices into action.

Proven Impact

- **Taiwan** – Partnered with the Ministry of Digital Affairs to analyze public input on AI policy, same-sex marriage, and 2024 election platforms. Taiwan now hosts its own T3C instance, expanding to national institutions.
- **Chatham House** – Collaborated on the *Recursive Public* project, engaging 1,000+ participants worldwide on AI governance, funded by OpenAI's Democratic Inputs grant.

- **Tokyo Elections** – Engaged 1,000 residents to identify policy priorities, informing the 2024 gubernatorial race and helping a third-party candidate secure unprecedented voter support.
- **Australia** – Supported the Young Women’s Alliance in analyzing 85+ interviews on gender-based violence, producing findings that shaped legislation passed by the New South Wales Legislative Council.

Testimonials

“Ten years ago, the vTaiwan scope was limited, because stakeholder groups needed to adapt to the technology at the time. Today, this is being bridged with the advent of language models that can adapt to their needs. Back in 2014, it was impossible with the capacity of g0v contributors to interview a mini public of people and aggregate their ideas while preserving the full nuance. But now, with Talk to the City’s help, that cost has been reduced to essentially zero. It’s broad-listening and it can change the nature of this recursive public..”

– **Audrey Tang**, former Digital Minister of Taiwan, co-author of Plurality.net

“Talk to the City’s analysis was crucial in identifying gender-specific challenges . . . Having the data organized under specific themes, then being able to go through the interviewees actual statements, was powerful.”

– **Rizina Yadav**, Young Women's Alliance

Illustrative Case Studies

- **Heal Michigan** - This T3C generated report summarizes insights from twelve video interviews conducted by the AI Objectives Institute and Silent Cry, highlighting the challenges faced by formerly incarcerated individuals in Michigan. [Final report](#)
- **AI Assembly Workshop** - The Taiwan AI Assembly hosted four deliberative democracy workshops and three expert forums on topics ranging from language model governance to AI in education and public administration, gathering over 2,000 opinions from 400 participants; these discussions were analyzed with T3C to generate structured, interactive summaries for public review. [Final Report](#)
- **Amplifying youth voices in conflict zones: AI for inclusive dialogue in Yemen** - In Yemen, T3C was deployed by CMI - Martti Ahtisaari Peace Foundation to support inclusive dialogue in a politically sensitive and fragmented environment. Integrated with its customized survey tool, T3C enabled youth across 18 governorates with a 94% response rate to safely share their views on political participation and peacebuilding through voice and text responses in Yemeni Arabic. [Final Report](#)
- **Tokyo Gubernatorial Election**: T3C was used during the 2024 Tokyo gubernatorial election to synthesize input from 1,000 residents, identifying key policy priorities and helping an independent candidate achieve a record vote share. [Final Report](#)
- **Amplifying Youth Voices in Australia** - Using T3C, the Young Women’s Alliance transformed a nationwide study on gender-based violence into a landmark, policy-shaping initiative—synthesizing 85 in-depth video interviews into verifiable, theme-based insights that directly informed recommendations later recognized by the New South Wales Legislative Council. [Final Report](#)

About AI Objectives Institute

The AI Objectives Institute (AOI) is dedicated to maximizing the benefits of large-scale systems, including AI, markets, and bureaucracies, to advance humanity's interests. Founded by the late internet pioneer Dr. Peter Eckersley, AOI is a non-profit research lab working to

ensure that both AI and future economic and democratic governance systems are built and deployed with genuine human objectives at their core, enabled by broad public input, free markets and scalable cooperation.

Contact and Media Inquires

Adam Schumacher, Program Director, Talk to the City

Email: adam@aiobjectives.org

Website: talktothe.city

Demo Video: Watch the T3C demo

AOI website: ai.objectives.institute

Funders

- Plurality Institute
- Future of Life Institute
- Ministry of Digital Affairs - Taiwan
- metaGov
- Google.org
- Friedrich Naumann Foundation

Media Coverage, Publications, and Recognition

- Good Ancestor Foundation, ["Talk to the City" Achieves Milestone](#)
- WIRED, [A Privacy Hero's Final Wish: An Institute to Redirect AI's Future](#)
- IE University, [AI4Democracy Series 1: Using AI to Inform Policymaking](#)
- Ministry of Digital Affairs – Taiwan, [Conversation with AI Objectives Institute](#)
- CMI – Martti Ahtisaari Peace Foundation (CMI) , [Amplifying youth voices in conflict zones: AI for inclusive dialogue in Yemen](#)
- AOI - Heal Michigan Case Study, [Using Talk to the City to Give People a Voice, a Case Study in Michigan](#)
- Protocol Labs, [Scaling Deliberations Beyond Outcomes](#)
- Foresight Institute, [Scaling Deliberation @ Intelligent Cooperation Workshop](#)
- Future Polis, [Meet Your AI Politician of the Future](#)
- Japanese Journal, ["Opinions Right After Polls Closed: Voices on X about the 2024 Lower House Election"](#)
- Jigsaw, [Facilitation in the AI Era](#)
- Deepgov, [AI for Democratic Capital Allocation and Governance](#)
- Deb Roy, Lawrence Lessig, Audrey Tang, [Conversation Networks](#)
- CMI 25th Anniversary panel, [CMI x Finnish Tech, Innovating for Peace](#)