AI TownSquare: Special Onboarding Report

1. What Is AI TownSquare?

AI TownSquare's mission is to bridge the gap between AI advancement and societal readiness.

It provides a structured, facilitated dialogue format that allows decision-makers, experts, and citizens to engage meaningfully on the most pressing questions of the AI era.

This is not a panel, pitch, or passive webinar.
It is a one-hour civic protocol designed to generate trustworthy insight, produce public value, and inform institutional readiness.

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2. What Makes AI TownSquare Unique?

Feature	Why It Matters
First-Principles Learning	Experts closest to the technology are tasked with building arguments from foundational principles, not buzzwords.
Holistic, Cross-Sector Insight	Participants are curated from diverse sectors—healthcare, governance, finance, tech—so the dialogue reflects broader societal impact.
Limited to 25–50 Participants	Each session is deliberately small to foster deep engagement and meaningful connection.
Grounded in Ethics & Human Agency	Every topic is framed to prioritize the preservation of human agency and societal wellbeing.
Designed for Practical Decisions	The outcome is actionable insight, not abstract theory—designed to directly inform real-world choices.

3. Format & Protocol: How It Works

🔁 *Consistent Format, Global Reach*

- Runs in rotating cities and topics
- Same 7-phase protocol every time
- Produces a Civic Insight Brief within 48 hours

🕰 *Session Breakdown*

- 60 minutes total
- 25 curated participants
- One structured dialogue
- Insights published within 48 hours

📋 *The 7-Phase Protocol*

AI TOWNSQUARE STRUCTURE

1. **Prime** – Introduce the theme and intention
2. **Frame** – Pose the core question
3. **Complicate** – Add nuance or risk factors
4. **Position** – Host models perspective-taking
5. **Breakout** – Small group exploration
6. **Shareback** – Group insights presented
7. **Synthesize & Capture** – Extract themes into brief

   "The protocol is the product." It works across topics, geographies, and hosts.

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4. Roles & Responsibilities

AI TownSquare_Hosts

- Set up the venue or virtual environment
- Frame the question and guide the flow
- Ensure breakout groups are well-moderated
- Contribute to synthesis and publish review

AI TownSquare_Participants

- Are not passive: they share, reflect, and synthesize
- Come from cross-sector backgrounds

- Their words and insights are included in the Civic Brief

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5. Why It Matters

AI TownSquare is part of a broader **civic operating system** with feedback loops that connect dialogue → insight → policy change.

The Societal Readiness Index (SRI)

- Measures readiness across **six pillars**:
  - Governance (25%)
  - Citizen Empowerment (20%)
  - Ethics (20%)
  - Economic Adaptability (15%)
  - Infrastructure (10%)
  - Foresight (10%)

The Readiness Gap Clock

- Tracks time since last verified improvement in AI readiness
- Sessions can help **reset the clock** by generating credible policy-shaping insight

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6. Venue, Format & Logistics

Venue Requirements

- Space for **25–50 people**
- Chairs arranged in a **circle or horseshoe**
- Basic audio + screen or monitor
- Stable internet connection for livestream or recording
- Total time needed: **120 mins** (30 setup + 60 session + 30 wrap)

Host Support Provided

- Full script and guide for all 7 phases
- Custom prompts based on topic
- Briefing call before the session
- Transcript editing and Civic Brief drafting
- Post-session distribution and credit

7. First Year Focus Areas

AI TownSquare events rotate topics, but in Year 1, special focus is placed on:

- **Healthcare**
- **Finance & Banking**
- **Government & Governance**
- **Education**

Each event will explore **AI's real-world implications** in these domains.

8. Sample Messaging for Hosts or Participants

Host Invitation:

> "Lead a civic dialogue on AI. No stage. No slides. Just your thinking, your clarity, and your ability to guide a meaningful conversation that shapes public understanding."

Participant Invitation:

> "You're not an audience. You're a contributor. Join 24 others in a focused one-hour session that will be published and shared with institutions shaping the future of AI policy."

9. Links & Access Points

- *Domain*: aitownsquare.org

- White Paper: Towards Societal Readiness:
  https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/9buxtdrdy2zbysictukb4/White-Paper-Towards-Societal-Readiness-1.pdf?rlkey=zec1mxalnetg1dlw2ejyv9jzw&st=aytrvcj8&dl=0

- Towards Societal Readiness Manifesto:
  https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/p368vzrjmui4nou8jd88y/Towards-Societal-Readiness-Manifesto.pdf?rlkey=97baorwy3he3axhb3cpv6920l&st=3rflm8hw&dl=0

- *Societal Readiness Vs Other AI Readiness Indices:*
  https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/7jjsechf880trmlz66qrx/SRI_Comparative_Index_Summary-1.pdf?rlkey=g7bdjb2z82bahkili6y8rn3o6&st=xmrjegpr&dl=0