

## **Chuck Collins, author of *Born on Third Base***

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### **Programs, Talks & Initial Book Response**

Responding to Extreme Inequality \* Race and Class Advantage \*  
Social Change Philanthropy \* Racial Wealth Divide \* Tax Policy Reform\*

Chuck Collins a storyteller, researcher, agitator and campaigner based at the Institute for Policy Studies where he co-edits [Inequality.org](http://Inequality.org). For over two decades, he has worked to shift the stuck national debate about wealth inequality, racial wealth divisions, and taxation. His newest book examines inequality and privilege: *Born on Third Base: A One Percenter Makes the Case for Tackling Inequality, Bringing Wealth Home, and Committing to the Common Good* (Chelsea Green, 2016).

He is coauthor of the August 2016 report, [Ever Growing Gap](#), about the racial wealth divide. He is co-author of several books including, with Bill Gates Sr., *Wealth and Our Commonwealth: Why American Should Tax Accumulated Fortunes*. He is co-author with Mary Wright of *The Moral Measure of the Economy* (Orbis 2008), about Christian ethics and economic life. In 2012, he wrote *99 to 1: How Wealth Inequality is Wrecking the World and What We Can Do About It*.

Collins is cofounder of Wealth for the Common Good which merged in 2015 with the [Patriotic Millionaires](#), an effort to organize members of the 1 percent to advocate for fair tax policy, living wages, and campaign finance reform.

### **Public Speaking and Communications**

Since the publication of *Born on Third Base* at end of September 2016...

- 40 interviews including NPR “[Marketplace](#),” and Thom Hartman.
- 15 public talks including keynote address at White Privilege Symposium (New England) and Hope College Critical Issues Symposium (Michigan).
- Bookstore events including Book Culture (New York City), Politics and Prose (Washington, DC), Literati (Ann Arbor), Prairie Lights (Iowa City).
- Op-Eds and Commentaries in the [Los Angeles Times](#), US News & World Report, Common Dreams, and other outlets.

- Book Excerpts featured in [The Nation](#), Evonomics, and
- Book Reviews in Resilience.org (by Rob Hopkins) and The American Prospect (by Peter Dreier)

See Regularly Updated Public Events Calendar with locations [HERE](#):

Available to talk about:

- Extreme Inequality & Democracy
- Changing the Stories that Underlay Inequality
- Inequality and Race & Class Advantage
- Leveraging White and Wealth Privilege to Reduce Inequality  
{See fuller descriptions below}

***Born on Third Base: A One Percenter Makes the Case for Tackling Inequality, Bringing Wealth Home, and Committing to the Common Good* (Chelsea Green, October, 2016)**

See: <http://www.chelseagreen.com/born-on-third-base>

With the heart of an agitator and the soul of a storyteller, inequality expert Chuck Collins upends our assumptions about America’s deep wealth divide—one that, for the first time in recent history, locks the nation’s youth into a future defined by their class and wealth at birth; limits our ability to address crises like climate change; and creates a world that no one, not even the rich, will ultimately want to live in. In *Born on Third Base*, Collins calls for an end to class war, busts the myths that define our views of rich and poor, and offers bold new solutions for bridging the economic divide and re-engaging the wealthy in rebuilding communities for a resilient future.

## **ORGANIZING AND HOSTING EVENTS**

See Existing Events Calendar [HERE](#):

We are seeking organizations to host forums and book events starting November 2016 and through 2017. The author and Chelsea Green Publishing are eager to work with lecture series, colleges, community organizations and congregations to host events. As part of our “shoestring book tour,” it is helpful to have an academic institution or organization cover basic travel expenses for a program. From there we can build a variety of events for different audiences. See organizing and media outreach

tools [HERE](#). And contact Annie if you're interested in scheduling an event at [office@classism.org](mailto:office@classism.org)

## **TALK AND PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS**

### **BORN ON THIRD BASE**

#### **ENGAGING WEALTH AND POWER TO REVERSE INEQUALITY**

With the heart of an agitator and the soul of a storyteller, inequality expert Chuck Collins upends our assumptions about America's deep wealth divide—one that, for the first time in recent history, locks the nation's youth into a future defined by their class and wealth at birth; limits our ability to address crises like climate change; and creates a world that no one, not even the rich, will ultimately want to live in. In *Born on Third Base*, Collins busts the myths that define our views of rich and poor, and offers bold new solutions for bridging the economic divide and re-engaging the wealthy in rebuilding communities for a resilient future.

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#### **Other program and workshop frames:**

#### **COMING HOME: Understanding Race & Class Privilege in the Movement to Reverse Extreme Inequality**

The extreme inequalities of income, wealth and opportunity are supported by both public policies and stories. These stories of meritocracy and deservedness, and the mythology of wealth creation, often justify inaction and inattention to the growing divide around us. This workshop explores the current class and racial economic inequalities, the driving causes, and ways to disrupt the narratives that justify them.

#### **CHANGING THE STORY- FIXING THE FUTURE: Understanding the Stories that Perpetuate Inequality and Hold Us Back**

We are living between two worlds. There is the world we have always known, but realize now has deep system flaws like extreme inequality, climate change, and global instability. And there is the future world, one that we can have a hand in shaping. What are the stories and narratives that hold the old system in place? And what are the possibilities for

transforming the future? Can we create a new narrative and new ways of engaging socially, economically, and politically? And how can we leverage our own personal gifts to aid this changemaking process?

### **INEQUALITY MATTERS: How Wealth Inequality is Wrecking the World and What We Can Do About It**

We're living through a period of extreme inequality, where the gap between rich and poor is at its greatest level since the Gilded Age a century ago. But our national conversation about how to address this challenge is equally polarized. Why is inequality growing? Why does it matter? What is the impact on business climate and economy? What can we do about it? Chuck Collins will discuss the impact of inequality on all that we cherish –and the path forward to economy that works for everyone.

### **THE RACIAL ECONOMIC DIVIDE: The Stories and Policies that Perpetuate It**

What is the current picture of the racial wealth divide and its future trajectory? How do we explain the historical forces contributing to these trends and talk about them with others? Behind the statistics are powerful myths of deservedness, meritocracy and private wealth creation. How do we disrupt these myths and narratives –and tell true stories about how the legacy of racism and advantage? What are concrete ways we can change the stories and policies that hold these inequalities in place?

#### ***Praise for “Born on Third Base”***

“I have never read a story remotely like the one Chuck Collins has to tell. Born to the one percent, he grew an outsized conscience and gave up his inherited wealth for a life of fighting the vicious inequality that is destroying our country. Somewhere along the way, he came to understand that the rich can be part of the solution instead of the problem and started organizing them to join in the struggle for a fair economy. The result is an electrifying challenge to the affluent as well as the one percent. —**Barbara Ehrenreich, author of *Nickel and Dimed***

“A call to action for America's wealthy and a warning shot across the bows of their yachts if they fail to act, *Born on Third Base* offers a clear and compelling case for why the privileged and powerful must act to reverse widening inequality of income, wealth, and political power in America.” — **Robert B. Reich, former US Secretary of Labor**

“*Born on Third Base* explodes the myth of the self-made man, but it also celebrates true achievement in the classic American sense. . . .Collins has thought seriously about what it means to be a citizen, and to be a patriot. . . . This book would give Ayn Rand nightmares.” —**Nick Hanauer, coauthor of *The True Patriot***

“Sobering and inspiring, Chuck Collins has written a Declaration of Interdependence. A must read for anyone on third base who has forgotten that they’re part of a team.” — **Peter Buffett, copresident, NoVo Foundation**

“What Collins does even better than describing the challenge is outlining significant and specific solutions. . . . Wherever readers fall on the economic scale, this is a worthwhile book to read, digest, and share.”

—***Publishers Weekly***