

Susan Silberberg



Engaging audiences with reflections and shared stories of our journeys through life, of the real and metaphorical kind.

Susan Silberberg has spent over 30 years writing and speaking about the importance of beauty and arts and culture in our lives, how to nurture strong communities, and what contributes to vibrant public spaces.

Most recently, Susan's writing and speaking has focused on life reflections and the journeys we take of the real and metaphorical kind, as well as the benefits of slowing down and noticing the world around us. Her most recent work, about the impetus for her 14,000 mile road trip, was published in Hagerty Drivers Club Magazine in the **March 2024 issue**.

Susan balances her writing life with occasional advising to municipal, non-profit, and private clients on issues of community collaboration, arts and culture, and economic development through her firm **CivicMoxie**.

SusanSilberberg.com



[@OnceinaBlueCar](https://www.instagram.com/OnceinaBlueCar)



onceinabluecar@gmail.com



Speaking Topics

My talks are dynamic and interactive and include visuals. My typical talking time is 30-50 minutes, with time included for audience interaction and questions, but these can also be shorter. My speaking ranges from keynote addresses, to small group panel discussions. Group size ranges from 20 to hundreds.

The Blessings of a Flat Tire: Travel Lessons for our Everyday Lives

The best travel offers us new experiences shows us alternate ways to “be” in the world. A flat tire on a Sunday morning in West Virginia is the starting point for Susan’s talk on the ways travel rewards us by bringing new people and opportunities into our lives. Susan’s stories of unexpected road trip moments demonstrate the ways new journeys can upend assumptions and test our mettle. We don’t travel all the time but those travel lessons can inform our everyday lives, opening new worlds and moments of joyful wonder to us wherever we are. No passport required.

One Key Please: The Best and the Worst of Traveling Solo

From the ease of meeting new people during the journey to the benefits of using that last solo open reservation for tours. There are many benefits to traveling solo. There is a downside though. The U.S. tourist industry is designed for couples and group travel. From hotel rooms to single supplements on tours, to the tables offered at high-end restaurants, solo travelers are often at a disadvantage. How to get the best from solo travel while avoiding the worst? Want to travel solo but is something holding you back? Join Susan for tips on making your next solo trip a success.

Once in a Blue Car: Reflections from an Epic Road Trip

What does a road trip of epic proportions look like? From the first glimmer of an idea, to the planning (or not), to the numbers (oil changes, fill ups, MPG, hotel rooms, average daily miles....), to the highlights and lowlights. Including how driving a 53-year-old-car changed the standard script. Join Susan as she takes her audience on a virtual Once in a Blue Car journey including the life lessons she learned through 14,000 miles on the road.

Dead Bugs: The Usefulness and Need for Beauty in our Lives

We travel to places that are walkable, that are beautiful, that offer culture and good food and vibrant public spaces. At home, why do we think we can’t have these things? When Susan entered Wall, SD on her road trip, she was struck by the contrast between the beauty of Badlands National Park, and the surrounding area that lacked public places, good signage, and pleasant spaces. How do we get the kinds of communities we want and deserve? Are they destined to exist only in our traveling lives? Leaning on her three decades of professional planning work, Susan walks through the assumptions that have governed the design and growth of our communities for almost a century and how we can pivot to create the communities, neighborhoods, and public spaces we crave and deserve.