

Network for Global Civic Engagement MSU RCAH Fall 2021 Call for Community Proposals

The Network for Global Civic Engagement (NGCE) is a university-wide teaching and research collaboration founded by the Residential College in the Arts and Humanities (RCAH). With a particular interest in global civic engagement in the U.S. and abroad, it provides resources and activities in communities engaging with MSU. The Network's focus on global civic engagement provides a practical perspective integrating space, place, ways of knowing, and outcomes across diasporic, indigenous, migrant, and settler communities. Global is not the geographic opposite of local nor is it synonymous with an international level of engagement. The Network's mission is to develop sustained relationships through radical reciprocity, collaboration, and investment – and to address community engagement issues and implications in a global context.

Global Reach: The NGCE provides administrative support and intellectual expertise connecting civic engagement activities involving MSU faculty and students near, far and across the globe.

Global Knowledge: The NGCE's conception of civic engagement includes a form of co-generative experiential knowledge creation and dissemination that focuses and depends on multiple perspectives, histories, and understandings about root causes – enhancing our ability to define and solve difficult problems collaboratively, reciprocally and sustainably.

Global Peace and Human Security: The NGCE's overarching goal is to foster global peace and human security based upon mutual respect, independence and cultural diversity.

Call for Projects

Through the generosity of Michigan State University Federal Credit Union, RCAH and participating MSU colleges and major administrative units, the NGCE will award five to ten, \$5,000-10,000 Global Civic Engagement Project Grants to support community-based research and practice in global civic engagement in the context of sustained, radically reciprocal, co-generative community-university partnerships.

Projects initiated, developed and directed by communities, that exemplify and extend MSU's land grant promise, and respond to the challenges of co-constructing a "post-pandemic" university in which *all worlds fit* will be prioritized.¹ These projects should demonstrate equitable inclusion – understood in the U.S. historical context of unearned white privilege and white supremacy as root causes of inequity, injustice, disenfranchisement and marginalization in the academy and its relationships with local and global communities. The Network and its primary sponsor, RCAH, have begun to clarify *radical reciprocity* as a form of engagement with communities as experts and co-producers of knowledge. Radical, "or forming the root," means getting to the systemic roots of oppressive and exclusionary practices. Network projects, then, should demonstrate global practices that go well-beyond the traditional land grant practice of seeking out and including communities and their knowledges. Network projects should instead intentionally center marginalized and/or grassroots community structures, power, knowledges and practices towards incorporating the "many worlds" in which MSU inhabits and engages into one pluriversal university.²

¹ Marcos, Subcomandante Insurgente. (1996). *Fourth Declaration of the Lacandon Jungle*. Chiapas, Mexico: Ejecito Zapatista de Liberacion Nacional. Retrieved from <https://radiozapatista.org/?p=20287&lang=en>.

² See Boidin, C., Cohen, J., & Grosfoguel, R. (2012). Introduction: From University to Pluriversity: A Decolonial Approach to the Present Crisis of Western Universities. Pp. 1-6 in [Decolonizing the University: Practicing Pluriversity](#): Special Issue of *Human Architecture: Journal of the Sociology of Self-Knowledge*, X:1, 1-6.

Therefore, the key question for project proposals as RCAH and the NGCE reconcile community engagement and their land grant responsibilities during a period of extreme global inequality during transitions related to a global pandemic:

How do communities and universities (re)imagine global, equitable, sustained and radically reciprocal partnerships that co-generate systemic change for all?

The practical answer can vary – from multidirectional and intergenerational community-university projects and programs that permeate traditional university-community boundaries to innovative models and capacities for virtual and remote collaboration and recognition (i.e. community-university student credit and certification) to investments in local community leadership and long term community-university project sustainability. Project ideas that prioritize both knowledge and lived experience (as story or in other forms) to build, amplify and sustain equitable power-sharing and mutual understanding are welcome. Projects should clearly reframe and redirect traditional university-community relationships *from faculty or student-led to community at their core*. They should also clearly identify how communities will engage, negotiate with and (co-)lead the work of the university. To generate ideas, applicants should review the Global Engagement Transition Framework prior to submission (attached). Finally, project awardees and their university affiliates should participate in network activities, share project and partnership materials and outcomes in a variety of ways (on the NGCE website and in network meetings at minimum) and, most importantly, contribute to a new and growing understanding of MSU's land grant commitment to sustainable, radically reciprocal, and equitably inclusive community-university relationships.

In collaboration with faculty, (under)graduate student or other university partners, communities should lead the completion of the following application and submit it electronically it to Vincent Delgado, Network coordinating director, by email attachment (delgado1@msu.edu). Applications will be considered on a rolling basis according to availability of funds. Technical assistance is available in preparing the application. Don't hesitate to contact Vincent Delgado for more information.

**Network for Global Civic Engagement
Michigan State University
Academic Year 2021 - 2022 Proposal Application**

Name: _____

Community Organization: _____

Community Organization Address: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____ Alt: _____

Name of university partner (student, faculty or administrator): _____

University Partner Address: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____ Alt: _____

College: _____

Department or Administrative Unit: _____

A. Project Description

Describe your proposed project, your community role and your university partner relationship. How does it innovate sustained, reciprocal global civic engagement? How will your project exemplify, amplify and extend MSU's land grant promise by responding to the challenges of equitable inclusion to help co-construct a "post-pandemic" university in which *all worlds fit*? How will you synthesize, translate and express what you have learned to members of the network and others?

B. Needs, Objectives, Outcomes, and Impacts

After assessing and clarifying community assets, capacity and needs, state the opportunities your project represents. What sustainable community and university impacts are designed into the project? What is the relationship between the project's impact(s), outcomes, outputs and activities?

C. Communities

Describe the global and university co-generative communities (size, geographic location, structure, missions) whose opportunities you are developing – and their relationship to one another. These should include the applicant and their MSU partner(s) (faculty, administrators, students, or other university contributors) as well as other community partners. How will you ensure co-generative participation throughout the project? How will you ensure project knowledge production and dissemination is multi-directional? What is your relationship, if any, to RCAH?

D. Timeline and Milestones

Provide a short timeline for your project. Include the milestones you will use to gauge progress towards objectives, outcomes, and impacts?

E. Budget

What is the budget for your project, including specific costs such as travel, supplies and services, technology and others? What other sources for funding are you seeking or have you secured? How will your university partner support the project's financial administration?

F. Dissemination

Sharing co-created explicit and tacit knowledge – as well as local innovation and learning – is critical to the work of the NGCE. Please outline how you will share new ideas and experiences in community-university engagement, radical reciprocity, and MSU's land-grant promise across the network, the university and elsewhere. Applicants are encouraged to consider multiple and creative modes of expression, digital and other forms of media, as well as contemporary dissemination techniques for research and artistic practice.

Please also submit the following:

- Letters of support from university partner Dean, Chair or Program Director
- Resume, curriculum vitae and or other biographical material for project leaders