

2022 Research Grantee Dialogue

Embracing the Diversity of Civic Engagement: Opportunities for National Service

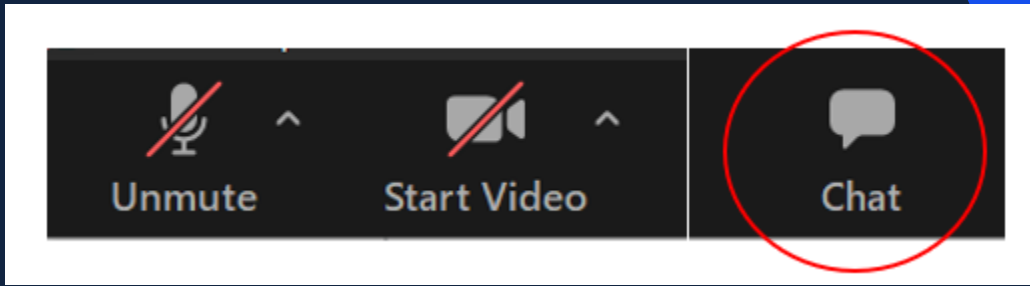
Wednesday, May 18, 2022

2022 Research Grantee Dialogue:
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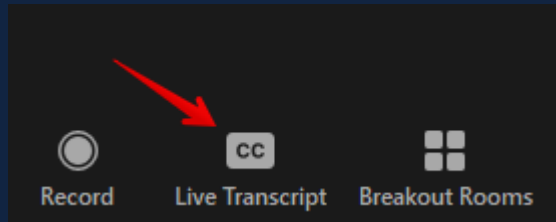
Katy MHussey-Sloniker, BA, MSW, LGSW,
Learning Officer,
AmeriCorps Office of Research and Evaluation



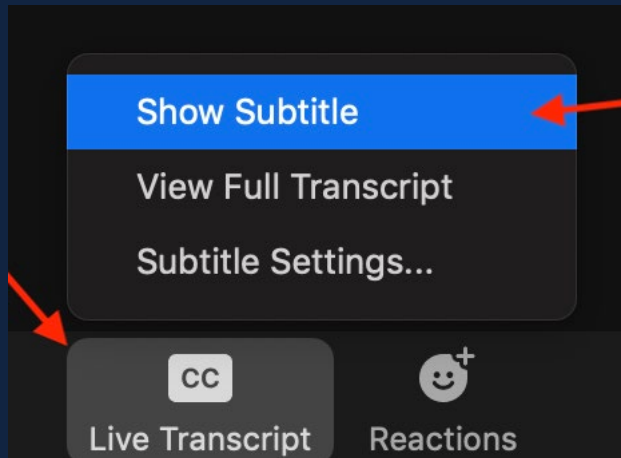
Welcome!



Please be advised that all lines have been muted to avoid background noises and to allow for greater engagement.



Please use the chat feature to submit any questions throughout the presentations. Select Everyone when submitting your questions. We will read your questions for you.



2022 Research Grantee Dialogue:
Embracing the Diversity of Civic Engagement

Fostering Civic Participation for Refugee Communities

May 18, 2022

Fostering Civic Participation for Refugee Communities

Panel Moderator

Andrea Robles, Ph.D.,
*Research and Evaluation Manager,
AmeriCorps Office of Research
and Evaluation*



2022 Research Grantee Dialogue:
Embracing the Diversity of Civic Engagement

PARTICIPATORY RESEARCH

at



Fostering Civic Participation for Refugee Communities

Panel Moderators



**Emily McDonald,
Ph.D.**

*Research Analyst
AmeriCorps Office of
Research and
Evaluation*



**Victoria Narine,
Ph.D.**

*Research Analyst
AmeriCorps Office of
Research and
Evaluation*

Fostering Civic Participation for Refugee Communities

Setting the Stage: Refugees in the United States

Bryan Wright, Ph.D.

Director

Cincinnati Compass



Fostering Civic Participation for Refugee Communities



Refugee Experiences in Cincinnati Ohio

CARE: Cincinnati – Civic Action for Refugee Empowerment



Anjali Dutt, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor

*University of Cincinnati,
Department of
Psychology*

2018 Grantee



**Bryan Wright,
Ph.D.**

*Executive Director
Cincinnati Compass
2018 Grantee*

Refugee Experiences in Cincinnati Ohio

CARE: Cincinnati – Civic Action for Refugee Empowerment

Description of Study

Since 2018 our team has worked together using an iterative community based participatory research process to support refugee integration and civic participation in Cincinnati, Ohio

Cincinnati has over 25,000 refugees, however, there is minimal infrastructure to support immigrant and refugee integration.

Our goal has been to identify barriers to participation and wellbeing experienced by refugees and use this information to create actions and inform policymakers to enhance refugee experiences.



Refugee Experiences in Cincinnati Ohio

CARE: Cincinnati – Civic Action for Refugee Empowerment

Study Design

Phase I:

Survey 291 local refugees to learn about how life is experienced by members of local refugee communities

Phase II:

Follow up focus groups to gain deeper insight into the meaning behind survey findings

Phase III:

Actions – using the findings from our study to create actions in response to identified concerns



Refugee Experiences in Cincinnati Ohio

CARE: Cincinnati – Civic Action for Refugee Empowerment

Grantee Program Accomplishments

Findings from phases of research pointed to lack of understanding of how to navigate life in Cincinnati as among the most pressing concerns, as well as a strong desire but uncertainty in how to engage in local civic life. In response we collaboratively developed the following actions:

1. “How to live in Cincinnati” videos
2. Refugee and Immigrant Civic Leadership Program
3. COVID survey



Fostering Civic Participation for Refugee Communities

Lub Zej Zog Project: HMoob language & culture reclamation

Jenna Cushing-Leubner, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor

*University of Wisconsin: Whitewater, Curriculum & Instruction
Lub Zej Zog*

2018 Grantee



Pang Yang, M.Ed.

*Community Partner Lead, Hmong Heritage Language
Teacher (Osseo Public Schools, MN),
Executive Director MN Zej Zog*

Lub Zej Zog

2018 Grantee



Fostering Civic Participation for Refugee Communities

Lub Zej Zog Project: HMoob language & culture reclamation

HMong community-driven educational transformation

- HMong language and cultural knowledge loss
 - Structural barriers to HMong heritage language and ethnic studies programs (school-based)
-
- Refusal of language and knowledge system loss
 - Commitment to HMong futures
 - Driven by community knowledge holders
 - Intergenerational education as theory of change



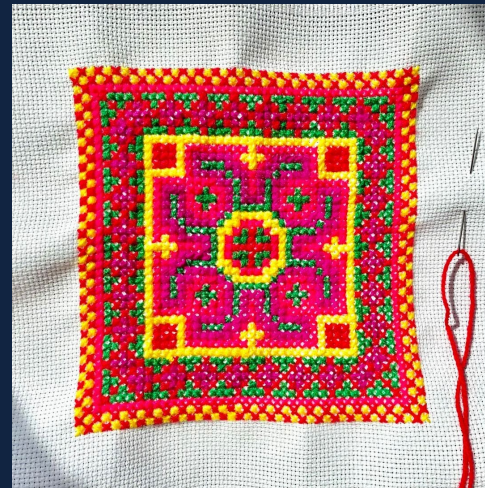
Fostering Civic Participation for Refugee Communities

Lub Zej Zog Project: HMoob language & culture reclamation

Study Design

Participatory Design Research as Garden for community-driven educational change

- Multiple interconnected projects
- Lead community researchers
- Community design research teams
- Community aims
 - Curriculum
 - Materials
 - Professional development
 - Program growth & stability
 - Teacher leadership
- Scholarship aims



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Lub Zej Zog Project: HMoob language & culture reclamation

Symbiotic Findings/Action

Phase 1: curriculum & materials

Phase 2: language, literacy, culture standards; mental health; ethnic studies and Moob hab Ntsuab curriculum/PD

Phase 3: program stability and growth

- est. MN Zej Zog
- Hmong teacher licensing
- networked new program development
- teacher and community leadership expansion
- youth educator mentorship
- growing the field of HMong educational scholars



Fostering Civic Participation for Refugee Communities

Reflections: Turning Research to Action



**Jacqueline
Dulude**

*Recruitment & Outreach
Manager*

*AmeriCorps Office of
External Affairs*



Jacob Sgambati

Deputy Director

*AmeriCorps National
Civilian Community Corps
(NCCC)*



Sonali Nijhawan

Director

*AmeriCorps State and
National*

Fostering Civic Participation for Refugee Communities

Panelist Discussion and Q&A



Emily McDonald, Ph.D.

*Research Analyst,
AmeriCorps Office of Research
and Evaluation*



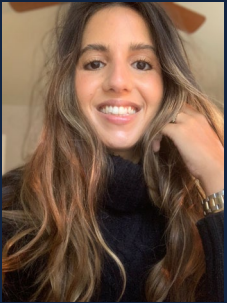
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Jacqueline Dulude

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2022 Research Grantee Dialogue:
Embracing the Diversity of Civic Engagement

Mary Hyde, Ph.D.

Director,

AmeriCorps Office of Research and Evaluation



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Closing Remarks

Katy Hussey-Sloniker, MBA, MSW, LGSW,

Learning Officer,

AmeriCorps Office of Research and Evaluation

