Kettering Foundation-Urban Project-Student Worker Assignment

Supervisor:
Support from metro regional administrator, Patrick Proden

Hourly Rate:
$11.00, TBD

Hours per week:
Up to 15 hours per week

Timeframe:
January through fall, 2017

Duty Station:
Metro region, in community, OSU Extension Service Education Center, Beaverton, OR

Duties and Responsibilities:

Timeline: January to October 1 as core time (into later fall for additional follow-up).

Project Description:

1) Urban Issue Guide Project:
Dovetailing from research efforts with the Kettering Foundation and the exciting infusion of cultural engagement tools and creative place making, this concept seeks to leverage the “Rural Community Issue Guide” project as complimentary, companion research. Utilizing the interest and commitment of the Cooperative Extension in deliberation, we seek to learn what ‘community’ means in urban America. The project is poised to advance efforts in building an arc of continued research focused on urban.

In collaboration with internal and external partners, the concept is to create a NIFI-style issue guide about urban community development by, with and for urban citizens and residents. A conceptualized working title for the issue guide is: “Urban Communities Reimagined”. As part of a longer arc of work surrounding this concept tool, we commit to supporting a series of public deliberations using the finished guide. In this exercise, we also may incorporate similar deliberative and creative/engaged products from other efforts through a state team or two-three urban area focus from around the U.S.

Duties and Responsibilities:

- Building from work with the rural issues guide, begin to assemble ideas and community connections to launch a similar ‘urban issues’ project beginning October 1, 2016.
- Assist staff and community in answering the question, what ‘community’ means in urban America?
- Identify communities, neighborhoods and urban constituencies in the metro region (Multnomah and Washington Counties) where concerns gathering activities can be initiated.
- Initiate structured process where community concerns are gathered, i.e. get out and talk to people in community, ride the max, walk the streets of the metro, ask specific survey questions, document and report findings.
- Participate in national Kettering Foundation project team webinars as scheduled.
- As opportunity avails, participate in Kettering Foundation national activities in Dayton, Ohio.
• Work with the RA to cultivate partnership opportunities through the Western Center for Metropolitan Extension and Research including cities and states in the west such as Anchorage, AK, Denver Co, Seattle, WA in analyzing concern gathering data from respective communities and in the engagement of ‘deliberative forums’
• Conduct literature review; convene partner organizations to engage in data collection at regional/local levels using cultural engagement tools and traditional surveys and focus groups.
• Complement and encourage creative and inclusive community organizing efforts in urban places
• Though collective efforts, produce useful knowledge through a participatory action research project testing the use of cultural tools for more inclusive participation in framing and deliberation.
• Assist from an OSU, western region perspective in the engagement at the national and regional partner level in designing and participating in the framing process.
• Assist in the collaboration of the writing, testing, and revision of the issue guide based on partner organizations’ findings, literature search, and survey/focus group information.
• Contribute to the report to Kettering Foundation and other partners documenting successes, challenges, and outcomes of framing process. Share findings with arts and urban development networks.
• Engage partners in series of community deliberations using the finished issue guide.
• Convene urban and rural partners, communities and citizens in concern gathering sessions and further deliberative dialogues utilizing the “Rural and urban” Issue Guides as companions drawing similarities and differences between the two.
• Coordinate with local community leaders, institutions (schools, community and cultural centers etc.) to assist in hosting ‘Forum’ events.
• Identify participants who will commit to Forum engagement utilizing OSU, school, community and other partner networks and other newly represented audiences to engage in a Forum event.
• Identify participants from the arts community and experts in the use of cultural engagement tools as part of Forum events, coordinate with participants on roles and responsibilities during Forums.
• Working with the RA, manage Forum logistics at each of the sites including invitations to participants, room use, snacks, other infrastructural needs to ensure success with Forum activities.
• Make observations and assess what worked well with the Forums and what could be improved upon to address priority needs of community.
• Assist in any follow-up, reflection activities in communities and where potential opportunities exist for OSU in the future.
• Work with OSU staff on creating stories, news articles and other data points for share with metro region newsletter, EESC and with other team members as part of the project.