

Call for Submissions from Community-Based Practitioners: *Participatory Approaches to Strengthening Democratic Institutions*

For this special issue of the *eJournal of Public Affairs*, the editors seek submissions from community practitioners exploring collaborative, participatory approaches to strengthening democracy. This special issue will integrate lessons learned from community-based practice into what is known in the academic literature. These submissions may take multiple forms, from articles to descriptive essays and multimedia formats. (*See Submission Topics and Details below for more information.*)

About the Special Issue

The erosion of democratic norms and institutions in the United States has potentially had a devastating effect on people's perceptions of democracy as an ideal form of government. Civic engagement practitioner-scholar Nadinne Cruz has argued that only a very small portion of the knowledge and experience necessary to address most issues facing local communities will be found within universities, or received from expert scholars.

Participatory processes are those in which researchers and community members collaborate to equitably address community issues. To realize the power of community-driven processes for addressing public issues, local residents, community leaders, and scholars must have opportunities to practice collaborative, participatory approaches to lifting up community knowledge and leveraging scholarly research to advance systemic change.

Often, conversations and debates about community-driven decision making and developing young civic leaders are separated by distinct academic fields of study. This special issue of the *eJournal of Public Affairs* aims to foster a new conversation that includes the voices and experiences of community-based practitioners and scholars.

Submission Topics and Details

Submissions that focus on equity- and trauma-informed approaches are especially encouraged. Submission topics could include, but are not limited to:

- coalition-building and movement-building
- student civic education/engagement initiatives
- youth leadership development and civic engagement
- community based participatory research (CBPR)
- deliberative dialogue and action
- participatory budgeting
- deliberative polling
- participatory approaches to policy advocacy
- deliberative forums

Submission Topics and Details, Continued

Pieces examining student civic education/engagement initiatives sponsored by K-16 education institutions, as well as youth civic leadership development initiatives, have a place in this special issue as well. Submissions including community partners and/or students and youth as co-authors will also be welcome. In addition to articles, the editors will also consider for publication reports, [descriptive essays](#), [videos](#), interviews, photo essays, and [multimedia](#) pieces that showcase innovative or exemplary projects that speak to the theme of the special issue.

Deadline to Submit

March 15, 2022 (earlier submissions appreciated). The target publication date for this issue of the eJournal is November 2022 .

All submissions must follow the format outlined on the *eJournal* website. Visit <http://www.ejournalofpublicaffairs.org/submityourmaterial/> for information about submitting articles/research. Visit <http://www.ejournalofpublicaffairs.org/tell-your-story-submission/> for information about submitting essays, videos, multimedia pieces, etc.

For more information, visit eJournal.missouristate.edu or e-mail eJournalPA@MissouriState.edu.

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