

# Civic Engagement as a Catalyst for Community Change: 2021 Research Grantee Dialogue

Tuesday, June 8, 2021 – Thursday, June 10, 2021

Welcome

**Mary Hyde, Ph.D.**

*Director,*

*Office of Research and Evaluation*



Civic Engagement as a Catalyst for Community  
Change: 2021 Research Grantee Dialogue

# Civic Engagement and Racial Equity

June 08, 2021

# Civic Engagement and Racial Equity *Panel Moderator*

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



# Civic Engagement and Racial Equity

Carleton College's Community Conversations project

**Anita Chikkatur, Ph.D.**

*Associate Professor,  
Carleton College  
2018 Grantee*

**Brian Coleman, MBA**

*Equity and Career  
Coordinator,  
Faribault High School*

**Emily Oliver, MFA**

*Associate Director  
Carleton Center for  
Community and Civic  
Engagement*



# Civic Engagement and Racial Equity

## Grantee Program Accomplishments

- 3-year grant
- Collaboration between Faribault Public Schools, Somali Community Resettlement Services, Community without Borders & Carleton College
- **Faribault, MN:** 23,000 residents; half of school district currently students of color
- **Main research question:** Why are students of color not graduating high school as the same rate as their peers?
- **Grant funded multiple community research teams:** Somali and Latinx parents; Somali and Latinx youth; white teachers
- Today's focus is on the Year 3 youth participatory action research team in Faribault High School



# Civic Engagement and Racial Equity

Grantee Program Accomplishments

**YPAR team:** Four Latinx students, four Somali students

9 to 12th graders

Weekly meetings with Brian

**Research question:** What were students' experiences of distance learning this year?

**Research method:** short interviews with 40 students; currently in the process of analyzing their interview data

**Research dissemination plan:** videos in English, Spanish and Somali about their process and findings

Facilitated by Brian Coleman



# Civic Engagement and Racial Equity

Refugee Civic Engagement

**Anjali Dutt, Ph.D.**  
*Assistant Professor*  
*University of Cincinnati,*  
*Department of Psychology*  
*2018 Grantee*



# Refugee Civic Engagement

## Grantee Program Accomplishments

All of our research has been conducted in a collaborative participatory manner with 12 members of local refugee communities. Throughout the grant period we have conducted two surveys and held focus groups to learn about the experiences of refugees in the region. Our first survey focused on civic life and goals of refugees in the region, and the second focused on how refugees were impacted by Covid-19.





# Refugee Civic Engagement

## Grantee Program Accomplishments

The findings from our research catalyzed three actions:

1. A social gathering to build community among refugees (switched gears as a result of Covid)
2. The development of videos and resources on how to navigate life in Cincinnati
3. A Refugee and Immigrant Civic Leadership Workshop Series



# Civic Engagement and Racial Equity

Lub Zej Zog Project (WI, MN, CA)

## Jenna Cushing-Leubner, Ph.D.

*Assistant Professor*

*University of Wisconsin - Whitewater*

*2018-2021 Grantee*



## Pang Yang, MEd

*Executive Director*

*MN Zej Zog / Lub Zej Zog Project*

*2018-2021 Grantee*



# Civic Engagement and Racial Equity

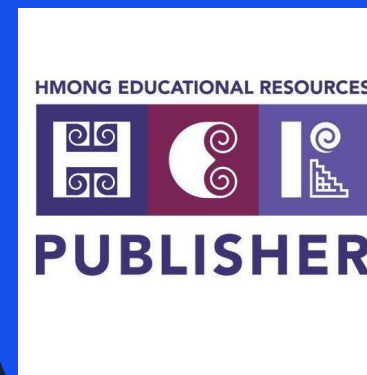
## Grantee Program Accomplishments – Community

[www.hmonglanguageresourcehub.com](http://www.hmonglanguageresourcehub.com)

- 18 community-based units
- Community-developed teaching and learning standards
- Hmong ethnic studies curriculum/ training
- Moob Leeg/Ntsuab curriculum/ trainings



- Hmong language teacher licensing
- 9 Hmong youth/educator/community authored books
- Partnership with Somali heritage language teachers (MN)



# Civic Engagement and Racial Equity

Grantee Program Accomplishments - Scholarship

- 1 peer-reviewed article under review
- 5 articles in preparation
- 2 invited keynote presentations
- 9 regional, national, & international peer-reviewed conference presentations

- participatory infrastructure of complex community-engaged research and change projects
- youth, elder, and teacher collaborations for community-driven education transformation
- critical Hmong studies and heritage language curriculum development



Thong Vang –  
Graduate Research  
Assistant



Vicky Xiong-Lor, Ph.D. –  
Community Researcher

# Civic Engagement and Racial Equity

Young Black Changemakers Study

**Laura Wray-Lake, Ph.D.**

*Associate Professor*

*Luskin School of Public Affairs*

*University of California, Los Angeles*

*2017 Grantee*



# Young Black Changemakers Study

[www.uclaybc.com](http://www.uclaybc.com)

## Key Research Questions:

- How do Black youth become civically engaged?
- What helps Black youth sustain their civic engagement?

## Rationale

- We seek to challenge dominant narratives of Black youth and elevate the voices of young Black civic leaders to inform organizations and strengthen investments in communities of color.

## Methods

- Interviewed 43 youth ages 13-18 who identified as Black and highly civically engaged in Los Angeles.



# The Everyday Fight for Racial Equity

**Racial Justice Motivations** – Youth described feeling a duty to make lasting change for the Black community so that future generations can experience racial equity.

**Everyday Racial Justice Work** – Black youth often educate non-Black peers about racism and correct negative misconceptions about Black youth. These efforts can be exhausting.

**Racial Justice Movement Participation** – Through community-based organizations, some youth challenge racial inequalities in schools and in grass-roots campaigns. Some youth feel empowered while others describe being disregarded.



# Civic Engagement and Racial Equity

**Matthew Hudson-Flege, Ph.D.**

*Research Assistant Professor*

*Clemson University*

*2017 Grantee*





# Civic Engagement and Racial Equity

## Grantee Program Accomplishments

- What are the diverse groups of AmeriCorps members based on age, education level, and public service motivation?
- How do service outcomes differ among these diverse groups?
- How can AmeriCorps program leaders cater recruiting and member retention efforts to these diverse groups?



# Civic Engagement and Racial Equity

Panelist Discussion and Q&A



**Andrea Robles, Ph.D.**

*Research and Evaluation Manager,  
Office of Research and Evaluation,  
AmeriCorps*



**Anjali Dutt, Ph.D.**

*Assistant Professor  
Department of Psychology,  
College of Arts and Sciences  
University of Cincinnati*



**Laura Wray-Lake, Ph.D.**

*Associate Professor  
Luskin School of Public Affairs  
University of California,  
Los Angeles*



**Anita Chikkatur, Ph.D.**

*Associate Professor,  
Carleton College*



**Jenna Cushing-Leubner, Ph.D.**

*Assistant Professor  
World/Heritage Language Education,  
ESL/Bilingual Education  
College of Ed Inclusive Excellence and  
Diversity Coordinator  
UW Whitewater*



**Matthew Hudson-Flege, Ph.D.**

*Research Assistant Professor  
College for Behavioral, Social  
and Health Sciences  
Clemson University*



**Brian Coleman, MBA**

*Equity and Career Coordinator,  
Faribault High School*



**Pang Yang, MEd**

*Executive Director  
MN Zej Zog / Lub Zej Zog Project*