



Community Leadership Learning Initiative Awards

February 2, 2020

Nexus Community Partners supports strong, equitable and just communities in which all residents are engaged, are recognized as leaders and have pathways to wealth building opportunities. With support from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, we created the Community Leadership Learning Initiative (CLLI) to raise the visibility and demonstrate the value of community-based leadership that enhances the health and well-being of communities. This work is intended to further strengthen the ecosystem of leadership and community development initiatives and influence how philanthropy understands and funds community-based leadership.

Through the CLLI, Nexus and community-based groups will come together to share our stories and to deepen our collective work. Together, we will cultivate a collection of case studies and stories curated by communities that explore the intersection of culture and leadership using Nexus' framework for community engagement.

Community Storytelling Projects

Food for the Spirit (Buffalo, NY)

Storytellers from communities experiencing the highest rates of chronic illness because of food apartheid will be equipped and empowered to tell their stories of a new food economy in Buffalo. Initiatives, businesses, and services created by community members and for community are supporting food justice, equity and sovereignty.

Intergenerational Multilingual Storytelling Soundscapes (Boston, MA)

Local immigrant community residents, interpreters, and leaders will engage in collaborative storytelling to promote language justice. The project builds solidarity through non-hierarchical *convivir* (living life together), a cultural practice that highlights the centrality of relationship in community building. By weaving participatory arts, interpretation, and popular education, they will create and share a virtual soundscape of personal narratives in multiple languages.

Starseed Earthroot (District of Columbia)

Starseed Earthroot is a collective of Queer, Trans, Black and Indigenous People of Color who are working towards liberation for our people by reclaiming food sovereignty, creative independence and healing. They will be holding space with community to discuss consent-based collaborations and initiatives.

Together Baton Rouge, Spirit & Justice (Baton Rouge, LA)

This project engages multiple constituencies across Together Baton Rouge member institutions to create a storytelling product that highlights collective, community-led practices of relationship-building and leadership capacity-building. Partners will incorporate a new process that allows community members to reflect upon and deepen their growth as leaders as they shift power structures.

Everyone interested in community leadership is invited to engage in our virtual learning community! Join us to uncover and reflect on the many ways community leadership is practiced to enhance the health and well-being of all community members. Below is the schedule of learning opportunities:

VIRTUAL CONVENINGS	
February 26 th 9:30 AM – 11:00 CST 10:30 AM – noon EST	Community Storytelling Launch: DEEP CONNECTION <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Virtual convening and learning community member welcome• Grounding in community engagement framework and core questions for community leadership• Overview of key goals and activities for cooperative learning
April 20 th 1:00 – 2:30 CST 2:00 – 3:30 PM EST	Framing Leadership: COMMUNITY OWNERSHIP & AUTHORSHIP <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Exploring individual, community, and organizational identity and intersectionality• Connecting storytellers and audiences' perspectives to uncover absent narratives• Reflecting on the power of story and storytellers to frame possibilities
June 3 ^d 9:30 AM – 11:00 CST 10:30 AM – noon EST	Making Change: DISCOVERING & DISRUPTING THE STORY OF US <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Discussion of community culture and defining leadership through cultural practices• Name and explore community/cultural ways of knowing• Review/explore a theory of change that brings issues and people together around systems-level solutions for positive outcomes

To join any of the virtual learning opportunities, RSVP to slyxiong@nexuscp.org and receive a link.

With deep appreciation, we want to acknowledge our colleagues whose insights supported this work.

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