

MiCivics Coalition Presents
Cultivating Civic Education Champions:
Educating for the
Practice of Democracy

December 8, 2022
Marriott East Lansing at University Place



CivXNow
A PROJECT OF iCIVICS



Michigan Center for Civic Education

WWW.MICIVICED.ORG

*Championing education for active and informed
engagement in the practice of democracy.*

Welcome

Dear Colleague in Civic Community,

Thank you for joining us in community as the Michigan Center for Civic Education, along with you and our partners, (re)launch one of the most critical conferences in Michigan serving to inspire, nourish, and challenge all of us involved in civic education, civic engagement, and civic communities.

The *Cultivating Civic Education Champions: Educating for the Practice of Democracy Summit* aims to reframe, refocus, and revitalize our own learning and propel us into greater civic action. Galvanizing our collective wisdom, practice, and spirit hopefully will provide additional fuel and love for our work.

Over a year ago, a small group of concerned educators and community members began to meet to discuss what might we be able to do to learn about, elevate, and advance the state of civic education and the health of Michigan's civic life. From here, we began focus groups to ascertain as to the hopes and needs of administrators, educators, and community members. We are here because so many decided to join in the work, recognizing the need to reshape our own political (note - not partisan) efforts behind school and community based education. We are so thankful you are here, joining us in this work. Thank you for joining in this beautiful adventure, full of learning how and relearning the why every single day of this grassroots initiative.

The evolving vision of the MiCivics Coalition is to create a Michigan where:

- every person has the opportunities, knowledge, and skills to participate meaningfully in the civic life of their community,
- all people are equipped to participate fully in a democratic society,
- everyone has equitable input on deciding what a 'good' democratic society means,
- to advance equity, education, agency, voice, empowerment for all Michiganders, and
- _____ add your why and vision here!

As we launch into the day, please turn to each other and thank one another for being here. Your choice to attend and join in the work is the only way to advance what we are know is so critical in our society. Please share and bring others to the table as well. MCCE thanks each and every coalition member and partner organization. Like the "Tree of 40 fruits", each of us is bound to each other through our civic connections, each with our own expression and perspectives of how to best engage our world.

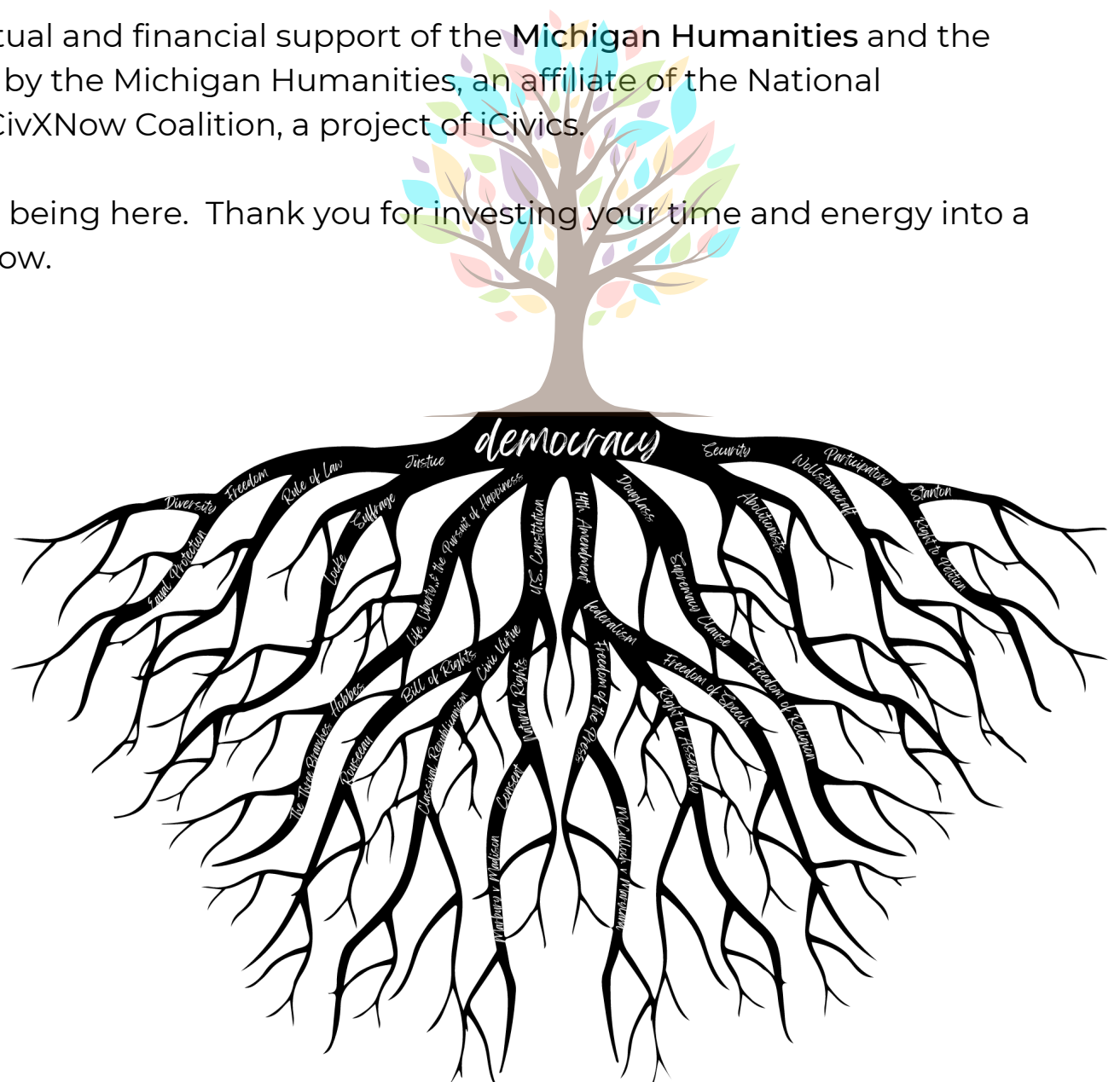
Moreover, MCCE would like to thank the intellectual and financial support of the **Michigan Humanities** and the **CivXNow Coalition**. This project is funded in part by the Michigan Humanities, an affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities along with the CivXNow Coalition, a project of iCivics.

On behalf of the MiCivics Coalition, thank you for being here. Thank you for investing your time and energy into a more expressive and beautiful today and tomorrow.

With appreciation,

The MiCivics Coalition Team
coalition@miciviced.org

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Cultivating Civic Champions Schedule

7:30 AM	Registration	2nd Floor Lobby
8:15 AM	Opening	University BC
8:30 AM	Engaging Legislators	University BC
9:30 AM	Community Resource - In Focus Melissa Kiesewetter, MDCR	University BC
10:30 AM	Breakout Session 1	University A or D
11:30 AM	Lunch	University BC
11:45 AM	Keynote: Mary Ehrenwroth, The Civically Engaged Classroom	University BC
12:45 PM	Community Resource - In Focus Rachael Drenovsky, MI Supreme Court Learning Center	University BC
1:15 PM	Breakout Session 2	University A or D
2:15 PM	Breakout Session 3	University A or D
3:15 PM	MiCivics Listening Tour Reflections and Activation	University BC
4:00 PM	Closing Remarks	University BC



Whole Group Speakers + Sessions

Community Resource in Focus - Morning

Melissa Kiesewetter - Tribal Liaison/Native American Specialist

During this session, the presenter and participants will engage in a conversation about teacher resources and opportunities for incorporating authentic Native American history, elevating the present day existence and contributions of Tribal Nations, and appropriately fostering Native student representation. Discussion will include a review of the Anishinaabe [social studies resource manual - Maawndoonganan](#), an overview of the Native American Heritage Fund program, and other resources. Participants are encouraged to bring questions.

Community Resource in Focus - Afternoon

Rachel Drenovsky - Coordinator Michigan Supreme Court Learning Center

Since 2002, students and the general public have learned about the state's judicial branch of government through guided tours and educational resources provided by the Michigan Supreme Court Learning Center. Since 2002, students and the general public have learned about the state's judicial branch of government through guided tours and educational resources provided by the Michigan Supreme Court Learning Center.

Keynote Speaker - Lunch Session

Dr. Mary Ehrenworth is the author and co-author of many books and articles, among them, *The Civically Engaged Classroom*, *Essential Research Skills for Teens*, *Critical Literacy Clubs*, *The Power of Grammar*, *Pathways to the Common Core*, and many more. She has degrees in history and literature from Harvard, and in curriculum theory from Columbia. She currently helps to lead a think tank in literacy at Columbia University. All of Mary's work is positioned at the intersection of literacies, social justice, and identity.

Breakout Sessions

Session 1 - 10:30 AM

Building the Foundations of Social Justice Work: Establishing a Sense of Belonging, Visibility, and Significance

Location: University A

Dr. Mary Ehrenworth, Teachers College, Columbia University

In this interactive workshop, Dr. Mary Ehrenworth, co-author of: the *Civically Engaged Classroom*; *Essential Research Skills for Teens*; and *Critical Literacy Clubs*, will engage participants in a variety of interactions and methods to help young people express their own identities more fully, engage with each other and issues in the world around them, and create communities of possibility. You'll come away with practical strategies, your own demonstration texts, and a sense of multiple pathways for sustaining this work. Dr. Ehrenworth will also share with you research in culturally responsive pedagogy that you can bring into your own curriculum, so that your students' brilliance can shine.

Educating for American Democracy, Classroom Tools for You

Location: University D

Dr. Jane C. Lo, Associate Professor, Teacher Education, Michigan State University

This session discusses needs of civic education and how the Educating American Democracy Framework can help support the teaching of democracy in the classroom. Connect with each other and learn from Dr. Lo's experiences equipping pre-service teachers to engage classrooms at all levels.

Breakout Sessions

Session 2 - 1:15 PM

Creating Culturally Relevant Classrooms: Ensuring We Are Reaching All Students

Location: University A

Scott Koenig, Social Studies Consultant, Michigan Dept. of Education

Social Studies is an important environment for understanding diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI). We need to do our part as educators to ensure we are reaching all students, that they see diverse representation in the ways they are learning. Join this session for a hands-on learning environment to see how to revise and remix educational resources through a lens of cultural relevance. Learn about how to evaluate resources through a lens of cultural bias and practice remixing resources to address common forms of bias. This presentation will also provide you with a collection of resources.

Civics Secures Democracy Act and State Civics Policy Landscape

Location: University D

Lisa Boudreau, Director of State Policy, iCivics/ iCiVXNow

Get the latest information on the federal Civics Secures Democracy Act—bipartisan legislation representing a generational investment in civics and American history; (2) Emerge empowered to take local action by hearing about the national effort to build a movement through policy to prioritize civic education that helps to ensure the health of our constitutional democracy for future generations.

Session 3 - 2:15 PM

Aligning Curriculum with Student Constitutional Dialogue - Exploring the We the People Program at and for all levels of K-12 learning.

Location: University A

Ellen Zwarensteyn, Executive Director of the Michigan Center for Civic Education

Spend time exploring and engaged in the We the People Program. View and process the various levels of We the People, analyze their correlation to our state standards with a focus on inquiry, student voice, and meaningful dialogue. Receive a set of K-12 books and preview information on upcoming conferences focusing on We the People throughout grades 4-12.

Roundtable Discussion - Implementing "The Civically Engaged Classroom"

Location: University D

Brigid Beaubien, Ph.D., Professor Teacher Education, Eastern Michigan University

Session Resources
follow the QR code



MiCivics Coalition Listening Tour Preliminary Data

Listening Tour stops engage the public in dialogue around their hopes, needs, and wants for civic education.

The Data

Number of Prior Stops - 8

Hancock, Marquette, Ann Arbor, Flint,
Detroit, Grand Rapids, Lansing,
Howell (Students & Teacher Focus)

Number of People Sampled

Approximately < 100

Grounded Theory applied for interview process

Highlighted Feedback

Paraphrased from community listening tours.

- So much of what we learn isn't real. At least it doesn't feel real because it is so far away and focused on the federal government. While that is important, we need more opportunities to demystify and invite us in (as students) into the real local and state opportunities.
- I just don't feel like I know enough about local, state, and federal government to teach it. I mean, I do, but not with the passion and confidence my students deserve.
- I am scared. I live in fear every day for what might be (mis)interpreted as to what I am teaching. Self-censorship and daily stress is real.
- I wish my schooling had equipped me to interact with government and actually practice the skills I needed.
- My school did programs that encouraged me to think about the government and the Constitution and my role in those. I truly believe that changed my trajectory and the only reason I am involved as much as I am.
- My school did not do any programs that demanded me to learn or interact with each other or with my government. I needed it to. I only came into involvement because of personal need - which was way too late.
- There are not enough voices at the [governing] table. So many people are not included and I don't think it is their fault. They need more opportunities and more invitations into civic life - and schools are the best inroad to reach all people.

The Process

- Meet and Greet
- Review MiCivics Coalition Goals and Processes
- Establish Norms of Collaboration
- Provide Questionnaire (sample in folder)
- Provide Processing Time
- Depending on audience size, either:
 - - small group/individual interviews
 - - small group dialogue and reporting to group

Sample Size Limitations

- Sample Size is still rather small to represent majority of view in Michigan (themes were still consistent)
- Limited diversity of perspective and representation based on geography, feeling of invitations/welcomeness, awareness of sessions

Future Plans and Possibilities

- Additional Communities, Geographies
- Virtual Engagement options
- Student Voices

Preliminary Outcomes

Themes and trends have emerged which provide opportunities to operationalize the needs of Michiganders. The five emerging themes are:



Greater emphasis and resources for teaching state, local, and community civics and civic engagement.



Greater investment in K-8, especially K-5 civic knowledge. Reimagine embedding all other disciplines through a strong civics lens.



Greater emphasis on place based and experiential learning to bring civics to life and to demystify political participation.



Greater breadth and depth of teacher, administrator, and community civics knowledge, practices, and engagement.



Significantly greater financial investment in civics as a whole with a focus on those areas identified above.



Select Upcoming Civic Education Opportunities

Event: We the Students - Michigan's We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution Program

What: Students engage in simulated Congressional hearing. Students present prepared testimony on various Constitutional topics and community panels engage in dialogue with the students around critical topics.

When: January 6, 2023 Approximately 8am - 4pm

Where: Michigan State University College of Law

Sign Up: <https://miciviced.org/programs/we-the-people/>



Event: Michigan Mock Trial Series including Companion Programs - Courtroom Journalism and Artistry

What: Students transform themselves into attorneys and witnesses to enact a complex case pattern in front of attorneys, judges, and mock trial experts. Moreover, students have the opportunity to practice and demonstrate skills in courtroom illustration and artistry along with courtroom reporting and journalism. Each event will have the teams showcase plus artists and journalists.

When: Saturdays in February and March.

Where:

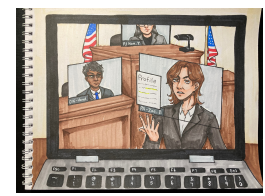
- February 11 (your living room! - virtual event if needed),
- February 18 Washtenaw and Wayne (in Wayne),
- February 25 in Oakland
- March 4 in Macomb and Ingham (Tentative)
- March 11 in Kent
- March 18 in Ingham for the State Finals events.

Sign Up: <https://miciviced.org/programs/mock-trial/>

Note: MCCE extends its appreciation to the Oakland County Bar Foundation and the Macomb County Bar Foundation for their support. More sponsors are needed to invest in these regional events so each and every student can benefit from this program!



Plus Courtroom Artistry & Journalism



Event: Project "C" - Project Citizen and Community

What: Students discover and research issues facing their communities. They then decide what issues they want to explore in depth and worth through understanding the issue and proposing solutions. The class then decides on a public policy proposal to fully develop and present.

When: Showcase on May 11-12, 2023

Where: Likely Virtual with option to gather in Lansing

Sign Up: More coming <https://miciviced.org/programs/project-citizen/>

Plus! Control Teachers are Needed this Year to Advance the Civic Education Research!



Event: Exploring Careers in the Law - Moot Court Student Institute

What: Students explore the practice of Moot Court with legal professionals at the Michigan Supreme Court Learning Center.

When: July 2023

Where: Hall of Justice, Michigan Supreme Court Learning Center

More Information: <https://www.courts.michigan.gov/courts/supreme-court/learning-center/>

Stay Tuned!

Civic Education Summit! Summer Institutes for Students and Teachers

Focus:

- Mock Trial - Grades 6-12
- We the People Grades 4-12
- Project C - K-12

Plus! Check out the MiVote Matters Project!



Cultivating Civic Education Champions

Educating for the Practice of Democracy

Notes, Reflections, Take-Aways, & Action Plans

THE VISION OF THE MICHIGAN CENTER FOR CIVIC EDUCATION

The Michigan Center for Civic Education (MCCE) champions education for active and informed engagement in the practice of democracy.

THE MISSION OF THE MICHIGAN CENTER FOR CIVIC EDUCATION

The Michigan Center for Civic Education (MCCE) provides and strengthens authentic civic education and professional learning. MCCE advances the knowledge, skills, and dispositions of teachers, students, and communities to foster their engagement in equitable and dynamic civic life.

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