

Call for Community Organization / NGO Collaborators

The Global Classroom for Democracy Innovation (GCDI) brings together students and civil society actors from around the world in a collaborative online format for cross-cultural engagement, learning, and impact. Leveraging the transformative potential of <u>design thinking</u>, we aim to deepen collective pathways towards global citizenship, democracy innovation, and social change, offering students professional skill development such as facilitation training, as well as opportunities for applied learning within curricular and co-curricular settings. Current partners include University of Toronto, University of Toronto Scarborough (Canada), University West (Sweden), Stellenbosch University (South Africa), Participedia, Vancouver Design Nerds and the newly formed Cape Town Design Nerds. We are currently seeking community organizations and NGOs to pose and collaborate on projects or <u>wicked problems</u> for our cohorts.

Process:

Similar to a <u>hackathon</u>, small groups of students participating from distinct global locations will spend 10-15 hours working towards developing a prototype or project that connects to your organization's work. Using design thinking as a tool for this process, groups tailor their project to the issue or problem that is presented by your organization. Students bring their time and energy, and you bring a project or problem to tackle.

Who Can Participate?

- Your organization is working towards democratic innovation, social justice, or other related initiatives.
- Your organization has a defined project or wicked problem that can serve as the basis for group projects.
- A member from your organization can commit 8 hours over 5 weeks engaging with the group and facilitators assigned to your project. This would be made up of synchronous connection, and asynchronous communication (emails, Whatsapp, etc.) to help support the group project. Expected communications might include, context setting, responding to specific project-based questions, providing clarity, etc.
- Your organization can be based anywhere in the world. The work will take place virtually.

Examples of Previous Projects:

- Educational Programs
- App Creation
- Social Media Campaigns
- Workshop Development

For more information, we invite you to review our Fall 2022 Program Report.

If you are interested in exploring how your organization can be a part of the GCDI, please contact us: globalclassroom4democracy@gmail.com