



Dear Colleague,

We are writing because an exciting new engaged research project through the Institute for Civic Discourse and Democracy at Kansas State University called the **Kansas Civic Life Project (KCLP)** has started and we need your help! With support from the Sunflower Foundation, this engaged research enables Kansans to find individuals and groups in their communities, regions, or across the state with the ability to facilitate difficult public discussions around a host of challenging issues.

The KCLP attempts to 1) understand and assess the ways in which various individuals, organizations, and communities across the state are using public engagement approaches that are rooted in different dialogue and deliberation models and 2) build civic infrastructure in Kansas to better understand and use civic discourse.

To accomplish the first goal, the KCLP utilizes a [nationally recognized set of processes and models](#) from the National Coalition for Dialogue and Deliberation to identify the various streams of engagement being utilized in Kansas. These different processes used to facilitate public discussions represent a wide range of approaches and end goals. The KCLP is attempting to understand the range of processes and models used in Kansas by professionals and ordinary citizens alike.

In order to encourage and further develop civic discourse in Kansas, it is important to first understand what is currently taking place and to capitalize on the existing efforts to date. To do so, KCLP utilizes [Kumu](#), a recognized data visualization program, that enables us to map and categorize the people and organizations using a diverse range of processes, models, and approaches to having public discussions. This map will be a free resource to you and others cultivating more robust civic life through public discussions across Kansas.

As we seek to expand the mapping of Kansans using dialogue and deliberation, we invite you to [please complete the questionnaire](#). This survey will enable ICDD researchers to understand who is doing what, how they are doing this work, and where they are using public discussion to inform and shape civic engagement. Your response to the survey will contribute to the public map that will become freely available to enable you to find others across Kansas doing civic discourse work. More information about the KCLP, in addition to the map that will be available soon, is available at <https://www.k-state.edu/icdd/research/kclp.html>.

You will hear more about the second phase of the KCLP rooted in education and workshops around civic discourse in public conversation in the near future as it will potentially align with your ongoing community-based work using dialogue and deliberation. If you have any questions about the project or would like to provide feedback or comments, please contact us at icdd@ksu.edu or 785-532-6849.

Thanks,



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