# The President’s Awards for Community Engaged Research

# Call for Applications

Nominations are now open for the President’s Awards for Community Engaged Research, which recognize teams of campus and community representatives who have demonstrated a commitment to initiating and supporting excellence in community-campus research initiatives. The award celebrates local[[1]](#footnote-1) community engaged research[[2]](#footnote-2) partnerships that exemplify McMaster’s definition and principles of community engagement. Award winners receive a citation, an invitation to the Awards Recognition at the President’s Retreat, an art print by a local artist, and a $10,000 (ten thousand dollar) grant for a specific community engaged research project.

The selection committee requests nominators submit a nomination package by Monday April 25, 2022 to [community@mcmaster.ca](mailto:community@mcmaster.ca).

## Submissions

Each submission must include the following three (3) components and incomplete submissions will not be assessed for the award:

### 1. Nomination Submission from nominator:

#### Format (choose one (1) of the three (3) listed):

* 1. Written submission: two (2) pages maximum (single-spaced, size 12 (twelve) font, one (1)-inch margins)
  2. Video submission: six (6) minutes maximum (MP4 format)
  3. Audio submission: six (6) minutes maximum (MP3 format)

#### Contents:

1. Context
   1. Who are you nominating?
   2. What is their project?
   3. When did this partnership begin?
   4. Where does the partnership take place?
2. Contributions
   1. Why is the partnership deserving of being nominated (i.e. how has the partnership impacted the broader community)?
   2. How does the partnership meet the criteria of the award?
3. Plans for Funds
   1. How will this partnership use the award money to further their efforts?

### 2. Faculty Member CV(s)

1. One (1) CV per McMaster faculty member involved in the project
2. Please limit CVs to 10 (ten) pages maximum (double-spaced, size 12 font, 1-inch margins), prioritizing research, teaching, and service activities pertaining to community engagement

### 3. Three (3) Letters/Statements of Reference

#### Format (choose one (1) of the three (3) listed):

1. Written submission: two (2) pages maximum (single-spaced, size 12 (twelve) font, one (1)-inch margins)
2. Video submission: six (6) minutes maximum
3. Audio submission: six (6) minutes maximum

#### Contents:

1. Who/which project are you recommending?
2. What is your relationship to the nominee(s)?
3. Why is the partnership deserving of this award?
4. How has the partnership impacted the community?

## Eligibility

### Eligible Nominators

1. McMaster students, staff, faculty, and/or community partners are all able to nominate colleagues and partners

### Eligible Nominees:

1. Teams nominated for the President’s Awards for Community Engaged Scholarship must have a minimum of one (1) faculty member and one (1) representative of a community group[[3]](#footnote-3)
2. Initiatives must be established and in existence for a minimum of one (1) year to be considered

## Evaluation Criteria

All nominations will be evaluated by an interdisciplinary selection committee including student, instructor, staff, and community representatives on the following criteria:

1. Does the partnership align with McMaster’s definition of community engagement and model McMaster’s principles of community engagement?
2. Does the partnership include students in the project, thereby building capacity for future leadership in the field?
3. Does the partnership support and/or inspire change in the community(s) where the partnership is working? Is there clear impact on the community(s)?
4. Does the partnership have a clear plan to use the award money to further their efforts and benefit the community?

The achievements of award recipients will be acknowledged at the President’s Retreat in June 2022. Please direct any inquiries to Shahad Al-Saqqar in the Office of Community Engagement at [alsaqqss@mcmaster.ca](mailto:alsaqqss@mcmaster.ca).

## Appendix A: Definition of Types of Community Engaged Research

Community Engaged Research is a subset of action research: a family of research methodologies that pursue action (or change) and research (or understanding) at the same time. This award particularly recognizes individuals who incorporate the community as partners into their active research.

The Selection Committee especially appreciates nominations of projects which:

1. value the expert knowledge and passion that members of the community have about their communities and issues affecting them
2. foster ongoing collaboration between University and community partners on how to better understand and consider the issues identified as priorities by local communities
3. perform research with community members and partners for the public good within the local community

For the purposes of this award, the two types of Community Engaged Research, Community-Based Research (CBR) and Community Based Participatory Research (CBPR), are equally valued.[[4]](#footnote-4)

Community-Based Research involves collaboration between community groups and researchers for the purpose of creating new knowledge about a practical community issue to bring about social change and/or action. It is:

1. built from the strengths of communities
2. grounded in social justice and equity
3. based on reciprocity and aims to provide mutual benefits to all partners
4. flexible in the forms of knowledge it incorporates, collecting, analyzing, and sharing data in multiple ways to a variety of audiences
5. focused on providing opportunities for co-learning
6. supportive of ongoing collaboration among those involved

Community-Based Participatory Research focuses on joining with the community as full and equal partners in all phases of the research process. It is:

1. focused on social, structural, and physical environmental inequities
2. premised on active participation of community members, organizational representatives, and researchers
3. designed to use partners’ expertise to enhance understanding of a given phenomenon
4. intended to integrate the knowledge gained with action to benefit the community involved
5. committed to ensuring equal partnership in all stages of research, including decision-making and ownership

Program evaluation can be considered a form of community engaged research in two cases:

1. the program under evaluation is community-based **and** program users participate in determining definitions and/or indicators of success, **and** evaluation findings are used to shape program elements and design

**Or**

1. the program under evaluation is a McMaster program **and** community partners participate in determining definitions and/or indicators of success **and** community partners’ feedback shapes program elements and design

## Appendix B: Principles of Community Engagement

The following action-oriented principles were co-developed by community and University partners to inform our community-campus partnerships:

### 1. Relationships

We can’t have community without relationships—these are the connections that build community. Any successful partnership must be built on trusting and respectful relationships guided by integrity. We realize that relationships take time to develop and thus we commit to providing opportunities to connect people across communities, sectors, and disciplines.

### 2. Reciprocity

From design, to participation, to the outcomes of a project, we strive to work together for mutual benefit.

### 3. Equity

We are conscious of the historical and structural inequities that exist in society and strive to provide access and opportunities to all residents and members of our communities.

### 4. Continuity

Acknowledging that different communities work on different timelines and schedules, we strive to consider both the short and long-term implications of our work together.

### 5. Openness to Learning

Change takes time. We are committed to continually learn from and evaluate our work together, reflecting on and sharing both our successes and failures to grow as individuals, partnerships, and communities.

### 6. Commitment to Act

We aspire to make a positive difference in our community by sharing and acting on our knowledge to contribute to the greater social good.

1. For the purposes of this award, “local” is defined as any work taking place within [the Golden Horseshoe](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Golden_Horseshoe#Definition) and [southwestern Ontario](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Southwestern_Ontario). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. For a definition of types of community engaged research, please see Appendix A: Definition of Types of Community Engaged Research. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Community representatives may be from the public, not-for-profit, private sector, or from a grassroots community group, if the overall initiative meets the definition of Community Engagement, defined above. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Some researchers and academics debate differences between these and related approaches, but both approaches clearly centre participation from community members affected by the research or topic of research. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)