

Art of Change Winter 2022 | Call for Expressions of Interest – Catalyzing Ideas for Change

[PLEASE CLICK HERE TO SHARE YOUR IDEA DIRECTLY](#)

We are currently seeking ideas until Friday January 13, 2023

Context: The *Art of Change - CMTY ENGA 3A03* is a community engagement course—offered virtually—focused on equipping students with the skills and tools they need to support and lead change-based initiatives for a better world. [Learn more about the course and our Art of Change podcast by clicking here.](#)

Opportunity—Sparkling Ideas for Civic Engagement in Hamilton: During the second half of the course—late February to early April 2023—students will be working in small project teams to explore an issue related to civic engagement in Hamilton. **Our team is currently seeking to partner with groups or organizations who are seeking to make change on an issue in Hamilton and require some initial work to help frame:**

1. **An understanding of the issue** that would be summarized in a 4-page document
2. **A “readiness for change” summary** framing strengths in your work and areas for growth
3. **A sense of the people or groups to engage** summarized in a stakeholder analysis document
4. **A list of possible ideas for your organization to run with** summarized in an early April report

Commitment Required: While our teaching team is committed to doing the heavy lifting to coordinate this work, we are seeking groups that are able to commit **roughly 20 hours of your time between January and April 2023** that will include:

- **1-2 meetings in January and February 2023** to understand your ideas and determine if collaboration would benefit both your group and the students in the program
- **Joining a total of 6 classroom sessions—via Zoom—**for one hour each from 9-10am on February 27, March 6, 13, 20, 27, and April 3 (As this is the time our class runs, this timing is unfortunately not flexible).
- **1 meeting in April 2023** to discuss a project report and where your group may take ideas going forward

As a result of this collaboration, our goal is to provide your group or organization with a sense of future directions you might take to advance your ideas and goals going forward. If it is of interest, there may also be opportunities to explore how outcomes of this work could tie into future collaborations with other programs and initiatives at McMaster or beyond.

How do I get involved? If you are interested in getting involved, [please click here to fill out this brief online form to let us know a little bit more about your group and the ideas you would like to explore.](#) **Our current deadline for submission is Friday January 13, 2023.** Questions on the form include:

- **Lead Contact Name:** Please provide the name of the person who will be the primary contact for your group.
- **Group Description:** What is your group and what issues are you involved in within Hamilton?
- **Issues for Exploration:** What questions or issues are you interested in exploring through this process? The more specific the better.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION TO SPARK PROJECT IDEAS

The Art of Change course is part of McMaster's Minor in Community Engagement, meaning we are seeking projects that either involve existing collaborations or could lead to existing collaborations and connections with residents, grassroots groups, and/or local organizations (large or small).

We are seeking projects that....

- **Are at the very early stages of an idea.** This may be a problem your group is facing and you're not sure where to go with it. Or it may be the spark of an idea that you don't have time to explore further at this point.
- **Are based in Hamilton.** We are focused on developing relationships and partnerships with Hamilton-based individuals and groups.
- **Involve civic engagement in some way shape or form.** Is your group attempting to better connect with the City of Hamilton? Are you trying to elevate neighbourhood concerns to a municipal level? Are you unsure of how or where to start?
- **Have more questions than answers.** We are seeking ideas that are new and have not been explored in any great detail yet.
- **Have someone who can be a guide to ensure our students are on the right track.** We really want to work with groups who can make the time for this in some way. We have learned the hard way that even if you have a really good idea, it is difficult to create anything meaningful without someone there to give feedback in a regular manner.

We are not able to take on projects that...

- **Have a focus outside of Hamilton.** Unfortunately we do not have the capacity to work with groups outside of Hamilton at this time.
- **Require more in-depth research activities such as focus groups or interviews.** Our students will be learning small steps about how to connect with people in Hamilton through our classroom environment. We are unable to take on any projects that would require more detailed interviews or conversations.
- **Require fast-paced and ongoing interactions.** This project is only planned to be a 6-7 week experience within a small course. With this in mind, we are not able to take on projects that are part of existing work that requires regular connection and ongoing communication daily or weekly.
- **Are suggested but don't have anyone who can be involved.** We really want to work with groups who can make the time for this in some way. If you are unable to commit the time outlined above, we won't be able to commit to working with you.