

Educating for American Democracy - 2026 Impact

Thank you for participating in this study about your civics work and the impact of the Educating for American Democracy (EAD) Roadmap. We are excited to hear from you!

A two-year grant from the Carnegie Corporation to the Thomas Jefferson Foundation (Monticello) has made this research, as well as two in-person EAD-CLP summits, possible. This data collection is being fielded by Wilkening Consulting on behalf of the Community Learning Network of Educating for American Democracy.

Some things to note before you begin:

- This survey should take less than 10 minutes but could take more or less time depending on the complexity of your answers.
- **Your active participation in this survey could lead to an invitation to attend the EAD-CLP summit in November 2026, including access to travel stipends as needed, so we encourage you to be thorough!**
- Wilkening Consulting will not share individual responses with anyone, including anyone from Educating for American Democracy. In this way, your results will be kept confidential.
- Aggregate responses *will* be shared with EAD-CLP task force members. That means if you mention the name of your institution in an open-ended response, individuals on this task force at EAD will see that response. You may be 100% comfortable sharing the name of your organization, or you can simply say “my organization is doing ...”
- We may want to share some open-ended comments publicly. If we select an open-ended comment that will be shared *publicly*, we will either:
 1. Make sure the respondent and institution cannot be identified; or
 2. Ask for your explicit permission and credit you as the respondent, giving you the opportunity to approve its usage (or to say no).

If you have any questions or need help with this data collection, please contact Noël Koehn at noel@wilkeningconsulting.com.

First, let's gather a bit of information about you and your organization.

(Your email will only be used in connection with this data collection.)

First Name: _____

Last Name: _____

Name of Your Organization: _____

Title: _____

Email Address: _____

Please add me to the EAD Community Learning Partners newsletter list. (optional)

☐ Yes

Which of the following *best* describes your organization? (You can choose more than one, but please only choose those that describe you well.)

☐ Art museum

☐ History museum, historic site, or historic house

☐ Science museum (including science center, natural history, planetarium, or any other STEM-oriented museum)

☐ Children's museum

☐ Other museum type (please describe):

☐ Civic organization

☐ Youth service organization

☐ Humanities council or organization

☐ Public library

☐ Other library or archive

☐ K-12 education

☐ University/academic institution

☐ Government, public policy, or law

☐ Consultant

☐ Other (please specify): _____

What kinds of content are you personally involved in creating at your institution? (Choose all that apply.)

- ☐ Public programs for adult audiences
- ☐ Public programs for family audiences
- ☐ Programs for K-12 students
- ☐ Programs or content for K-12 educators, including professional development or creation of curricula
- ☐ Programs for early childhood audiences
- ☐ Programs for academic community (i.e., college students, etc.)
- ☐ Service to academic researchers
- ☐ Academic research and/or publications
- ☐ Exhibition development
- ☐ Website development
- ☐ Social media communications
- ☐ Video/movie production (short or long-form)
- ☐ Live virtual programming
- ☐ Other (please specify): _____

What are your organization's primary audiences for civics work? (Choose all that apply.)

- ☐ Adults
- ☐ Families with minor children
- ☐ K-12 students
- ☐ K-12 educators
- ☐ College students
- ☐ Academic researchers
- ☐ Other informal learning professionals
- ☐ None of these
- ☐ Other (please specify): _____

How closely do you collaborate with local K-12 schools and school districts? (Choose all that apply.)

- ☐ We have ongoing collaborations with at least one school or district
- ☐ We collaborate on a project-by-project basis with at least one school or district
- ☐ We have had minimal interactions with at least one school/district
- ☐ Not at all
- ☐ Other (please specify): _____

In a sentence or two, how do you connect the work that you do at your organization with civics? (Feel free to skip if nothing comes to mind.)

Which of the following are ways that you have been involved with Educating for Democracy and the Community Learning Network? (Choose all that apply.)

- ☐ Have visited the website
- ☐ Read email communications regularly
- ☐ Use EAD resources
- ☐ Attend quarterly network meetings via Zoom
- ☐ Member of the task force
- ☐ Worked on developing EAD resources
- ☐ None of these
- ☐ Other (please specify): _____

Why did you first become involved in EAD and civics content? (Choose those that best apply.)

- ☐ My organization has long been engaged with civics work, and we are always looking for similarly-minded organizations and resources
- ☐ My organization has made civics work a priority more recently, and I was looking for resources
- ☐ I attended a conference session on EAD
- ☐ I attended a virtual session about EAD
- ☐ Stumbled upon EAD (e.g., online search)
- ☐ A colleague in the field recommended it to me
- ☐ I think civics is an important part of my work, so I sought out resources
- ☐ None of these
- ☐ Other (please specify): _____

If you had to briefly describe the work of the Community Learning Network of EAD to a colleague, what would you say?

And if your answer is “I don’t know,” it’s totally OK to say that too.

The Community Learning Network has developed some resources and programming to help practitioners in the field with civics programming. Have you used or participated in any of the following?

- ☐ Inquiry Deck
- ☐ Overarching Thematic Questions spreadsheet
- ☐ Developing design challenge posters
- ☐ Quarterly Network meetings (virtual)
- ☐ Conference session, either virtually or in person
- ☐ Aware of these but have not used/participated in
- ☐ Not aware of any of these

Thinking of the things you have used or participated in, what have you found useful or helpful about these resources or programs? (Feel free to skip if nothing comes to mind.)

What is getting in the way of using these resources? What would make them more useful to you?

And are there other resources you would like to see developed to make your civics work more effective? (Feel free to skip if nothing comes to mind.)

We'd love to hear a (brief) example or two about how you have used the resources of the Community Learning Network. This includes the Inquiry Deck, the Overarching Thematic Questions spreadsheet, and the poster design challenge.

Below are some prompts that may help you think about your usage of these resources. Please answer any of the prompts that spark a thought and skip those that don't.

What has been your most effective use of the resources?

What has been your most surprising use of the resources?

Has anything been controversial?

What has gone better than you expected?

Have you used the resources in any other way that you want to share with us?

What are the two things you want EAD to do to make your ability to do this work more effective? (Feel free to skip if nothing comes to mind.)

How much influence do you think the work of EAD and the Community Learning Network has had on your work? (Choose one that best describes the extent of the influence.)

- ☐ It has heavily influenced all of our work, sometimes directly and sometimes in ways we didn't expect
- ☐ We have developed new programming using EAD elements
- ☐ We have developed new programming influenced by, but not directly using, EAD elements
- ☐ We haven't developed new programming, but we have changed our existing programming (such as by changing wording, weaving in new civics themes, etc.)
- ☐ The thinking has influenced our work generally, but not directly changed anything
- ☐ We're following it, but it isn't influencing our work at this time
- ☐ None of these
- ☐ Other (please specify): _____

2025 was an eventful year politically. From your observations working with the public, do you think the politics of the past year have changed how the public thinks of or defines civics? (Choose one.)

- ☐ Yes, it has widened, and topics that in the past would not have been considered civics are now being considered as civics
- ☐ No, what is considered civics is about the same
- ☐ Yes, it has narrowed, and fewer topics are now considered as civics
- ☐ Other (please specify): _____

Similarly, do you think the politics of the past year have changed how your organization thinks of or defines civics? (Choose one.)

- ☐ Yes, it has widened, and topics that in the past would not have been considered civics are now being considered as civics
- ☐ No, what is considered civics is about the same
- ☐ Yes, it has narrowed, and fewer topics are now considered as civics
- ☐ Other (please specify): _____

**As a result of political pressures, has your organization changed its approach to civics?
(Choose one.)**

- ☐ Yes, we are doing *even more* civics work
- ☐ We are staying the course, with no significant changes
- ☐ We are largely staying the course, but we have modified some of our work (such as modifying language or removing elements that some might find objectionable)
- ☐ We are doing *less civics* work
- ☐ We have *stopped* doing civics work
- ☐ Other (please specify): _____

If you have any further thoughts you want to share about political pressures on civics education at your organization, please do so here. This could include content-related pressures, how donors or funders may be responding to the political environment, and anything else that comes to mind.

If not, please continue with the survey.

Is your museum planning on any civics-related programming for the 250th anniversary of the United States?

- ☐ Yes, but EAD has not influenced our planning
- ☐ Yes, and EAD has influenced our planning
- ☐ Maybe – we haven't decided yet
- ☐ No

What kinds of activities are you planning for America 250? (If you don't have firm plans, your ideas are welcome!)

Would you like to receive the posters and Inquiry Deck in the mail?

- ☐ Yes, just the posters
- ☐ Yes, just the Inquiry Deck
- ☐ Both please
- ☐ No thank you

If yes, what's the best mailing address to send them to?

First Name: _____
Last Name: _____
Organization (if applicable): _____
Address: _____
Address 2: _____
City: _____
State: _____
Zip: _____

Are you interested in being invited to the 2026 EAD-CLP Summit in November 2026, hosted by Monticello?

We are in the process of determining how invitees will be identified, but if invited, you will be eligible for a travel stipend depending upon need. The more you share with us in this survey, the more likely you will be included.

- ☐ Yes, I am definitely interested!
- ☐ I'm curious about it, but would like to hear more
- ☐ No, I would not be able to attend/not interested

If there is anything else you would like to share with Educating for American Democracy about civic learning, your work, or anything else that comes to mind, please do so here.

Thank you again for your participation in this research!