



Reflecting on co-creation: Learning from museum-community organization partnerships working together to develop locally-relevant experiences.

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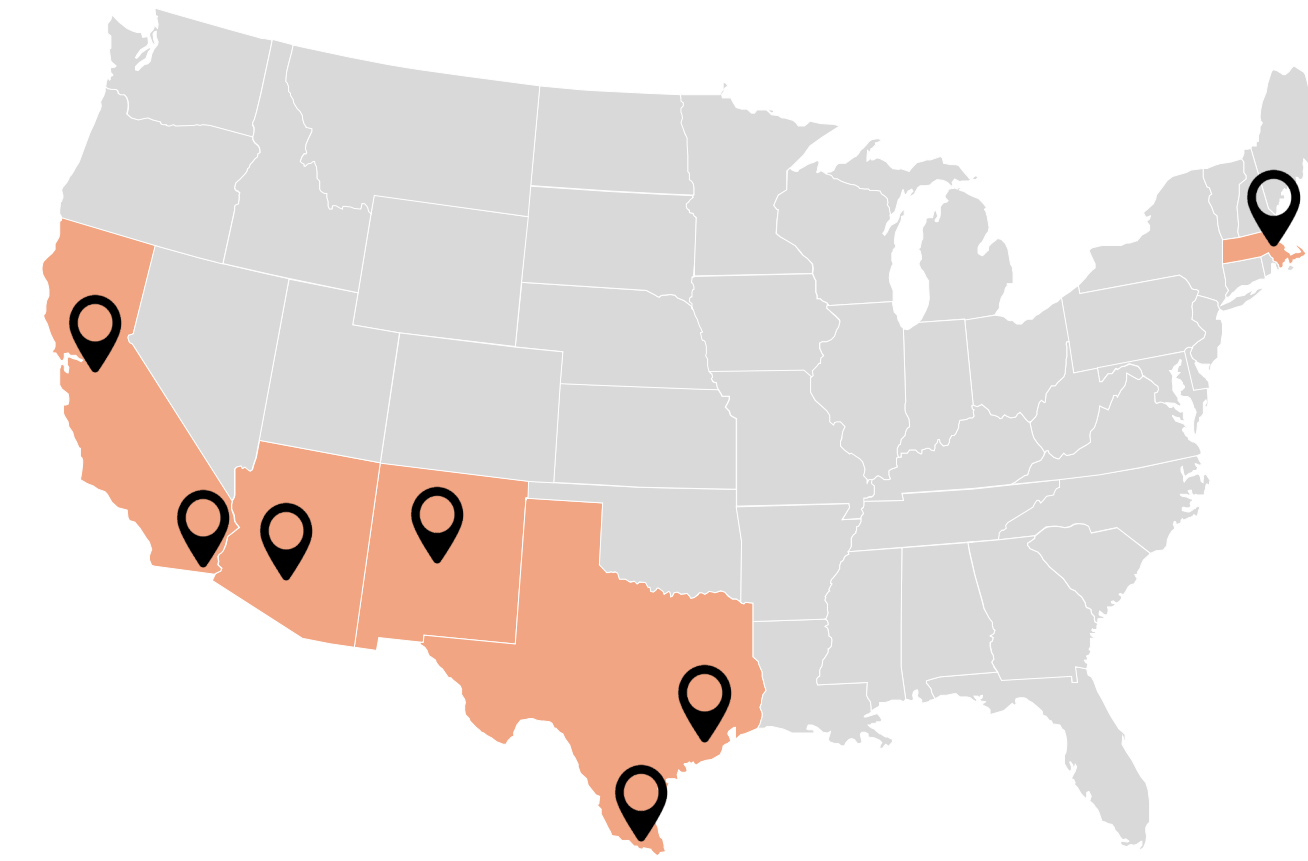
Learning from co-creation is a collaborative process with many people involved - we would like to thank the people everyone involved for their contributions.

¡Adelante, STEAM!

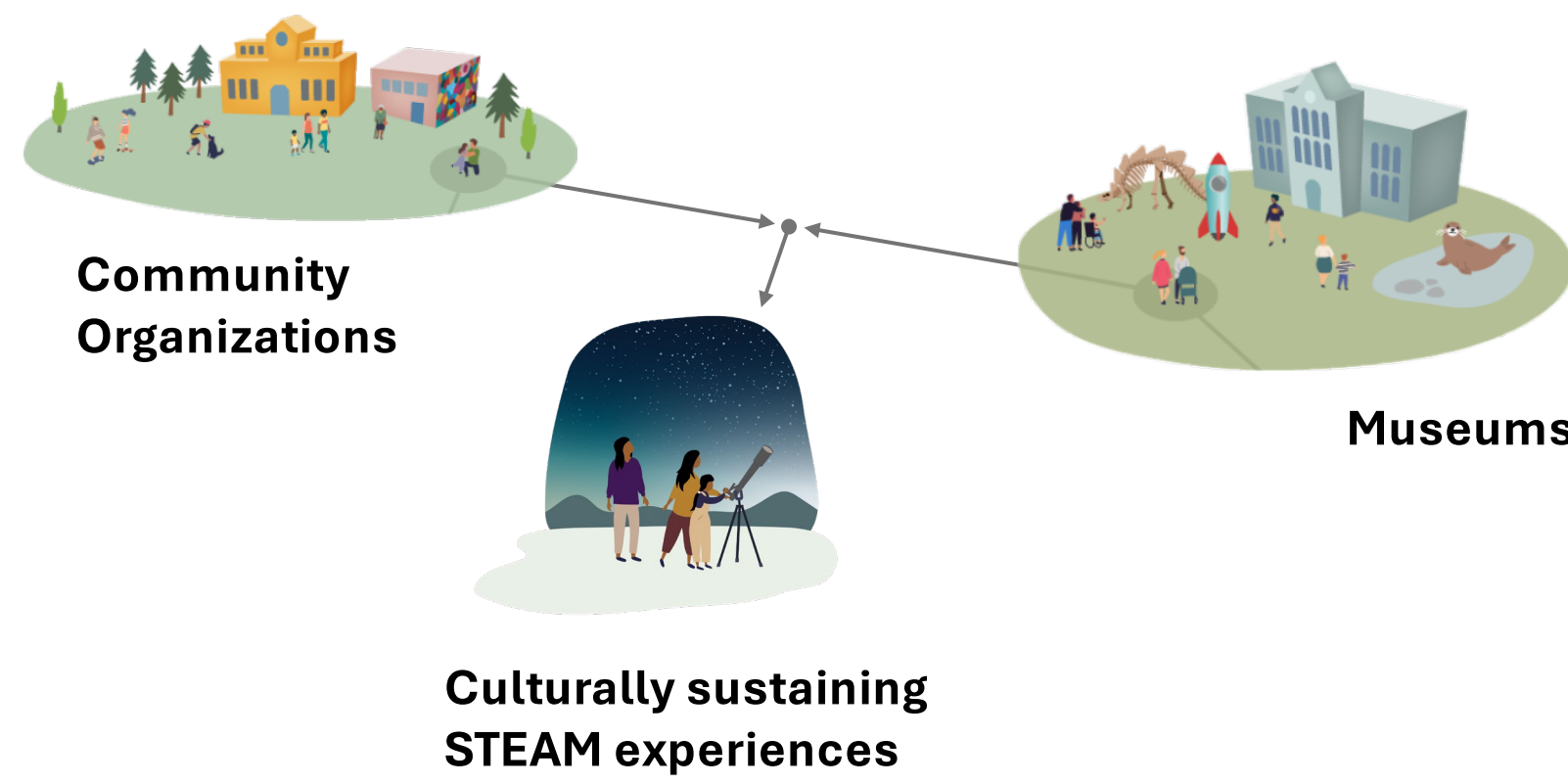
The *¡Adelante, STEAM!* project is working towards engaging local Hispanic and Latinx communities in NASA Earth & space science. Over three years of funding, six teams across the southwest are working with their local communities to co-create, develop, test, and carry out STEAM engagement experiences.

The teams are located in:

- San Francisco Bay area, CA;
- San Diego area, CA;
- Mesa, AZ;
- Albuquerque, NM;
- Brownsville, TX; and
- Houston, TX.



We, the lead evaluators, are based out of the Museum of Science, Boston.



Each team has at least one Museum and one Community organization working together to create culturally sustaining STEAM activities. They are working with additional partners throughout their process, either within the core team, through sub-groups that are pulling in general members of their community, or by working with partners to reach audiences.

Evaluation Principles

Although reaching across the multiple states, *¡Adelante, STEAM!* emphasizes a hyper-local focus with the six teams, meaning that each has different priorities, processes, and products. With that local focus in mind, the evaluation is designed to utilize culturally responsive evaluation, which centers culture, values, and context. Therefore, we are incorporating the local Hispanic context, culture, and language for each area when carrying out the evaluation. Below we share the main principles currently guiding our evaluation and how they align with The Eval Matrix¹, a tool for comparing and selecting culturally responsive and equity-focused evaluation methods.

Principles of Culturally Responsive and Equity-Focused Evaluation¹

- Promotion of equity and social justice; attendance to issues of power
- Engagement of partners and community members, particularly those with less social power, during all phases of the evaluation
- Composition of evaluation team and reflection on assumptions and biases
- Consideration of cultural and historical contexts and different worldviews
- Intentional methods and thoughtful data collection
- Intentional analysis and inclusive interpretation
- Accessible and actionable evaluation findings

Our Evaluation Approach

- Amplifying voices within growing partnerships
- Transparent communication with teams
- Including Hispanic evaluators on the team and as advisors
- Learning about and responding to specific contexts
- Flexibility with goals, methods, analysis, and reporting

¹ Bledsoe, K., Gonzales, F., & Guillen-Woods, B. (2022). The Eval Matrix™. Strategy Learning Partners for Innovation. <https://slp4i.com/the-eval-matrix>.

Learning through Reflection

We are using multiple streams of data to understand teams' experience of co-creation...

Project Team Reflections

What: Monthly reflections led by the evaluation team.

Purpose: Opportunity for the evaluation team to build relationships and listen for team needs. We make space to reflect on the partnering and creation process.

Individual Interviews

What: Bi-monthly one-on-one interviews with an evaluator and team leads at core partner institutions.

Purpose: Focused discussion around being part of partnership and the process.

Group Reflections

What: Quarterly virtual and annual in-person meetings with all working groups.

Purpose: Sharing learnings across projects, work together to brainstorm solutions to shared challenges.

We used the prompts from one of the project team reflections to contemplate our evaluative efforts on this project including what is going well, what we want to improve, and opportunities for growth



Roses

Things we feel we've done well and/or are proud of

Making time and space to reflect on a regular cadence with the different sites

Changing expectations for monthly meetings from a project check-in to a deeper reflection

Making sure to ask clarifying questions of teams

Flexibility -- teams picked a method of reflection that worked for them

Flexibility -- in documentation and to the different ways of engaging in community informed work

Beginning to learn the cultural norms and values of each team

Consistency of which evaluators work with each team = building a foundation for stronger relationships

Reflecting on the meetings with the teams and ensuring that the voices of those that are part of the Hispanic/Latinx community are included in those conversations

Thorns

Things we want to improve

Continued growth in cultural competency - we need to learn each site's context

Whose voice is represented in reporting? Us? The sites?

Who "owns" the data and the stories?

We don't live and work in these communities, how can we best support their evaluation from a distance

Building a summative that works across sites

Bringing together expectations from funders and the reality of the work

Buds

Areas with potential

Identifying shared values and interests across teams to build a stronger community of practice

Growing relationships

Already have some meaningful findings that represent unique contexts of doing this work

In-person quarterly meeting this fall allows for more informal time together (getting to know people beyond project work)

Snapshots of teams over time to show change and growth

Building on the seeds of discussions about what reporting back to participants looks like

Generating ideas for meaningful reflections

