

# Imagine MSU

A Creative Community-building Initiative



An invitation to reimagine  
community and strengthen  
sense of belonging at MSU.

Project funding  
up to **\$5000**  
available

An initiative of the Office of Graduate Student Life & Wellness  
funded by the Office for Institutional Diversity & Inclusion.

*Imagine MSU* upholds the vision of a thriving university community as one in which a great variety of lived experiences and perspectives find voice, and acknowledges the ways community-building is challenged in our current circumstances. Focused on cultivating a campus ecosystem that foregrounds individuals' **sense of belonging**, *Imagine MSU* will fund project ideas that demonstrate student leadership and creativity in pursuit of **innovative community-building ideas**.

## GUIDELINES FOR PROJECTS

Graduate students are invited to submit **scholarly or creative project proposals** (1-2 pages in length, with a rationale; measurable goals; a budget; and plans for implementation).

The evaluation criteria for *Imagine MSU* projects will draw on the theoretical model of "Culturally Engaging Campus Environments"\* which identifies factors that are most significant in creating cultures in which all students can thrive irrespective of their background. In conceptualizing and describing your project, please articulate how it will invest in **cultural engagement**, such that individuals:

- ◆ See themselves as part of the MSU community and feel the university provides them with opportunities to grow and have diverse experiences
- ◆ Find that their experiences at MSU include sufficient opportunities for meaningful interactions with people from one's community as well as other cultural backgrounds
- ◆ Find that their experiences at MSU include sufficient opportunities to have meaningful discussions about social, cultural, racial and ethnic issues

A project can address one or more of the above.

Submit your proposal **here** by February 28th, 2022

\* Museus, S. D., Yi, V., & Saelua, N. (2017) The impact of culturally engaging campus environments on sense of belonging. *The Review of Higher Education*.

# FAQ's

## **Are there specific expectations regarding the scope of the project?**

The scope of the project is entirely up to you. We welcome projects that cultivate interdisciplinary collaboration and engage a cross-section of the MSU community, but are also open to impactful within-unit projects as well.

## **How will funded amounts be determined?**

Funded amounts will depend on the volume of applicants and the potential of projects proposed. Applicants can request up to \$5,000 in funding for their projects.

## **Will pre-existing projects be considered?**

Yes. If they meet the criteria of the initiative, existing projects requiring funding can be submitted for consideration.

## **When and in what form will funding be awarded to recipients?**

Funding will be remitted to recipients in the form of a Spring 2022 fellowship. Please note that fellowships may be taxable. We expect to select and award recipients by the end of March 2022.

## **What should the timelines be for my project?**

Given the above, your project can be implemented in the second half of the Spring 2022 semester, the Summer 2022 semester, or the 2022-23 academic year. Awardees will be asked to submit a project impact review upon completion of their project (more details will be provided to awardees).

## **Who will evaluate my application?**

A committee of MSU faculty and/or Diversity, Equity & Inclusion officers will review *Imagine MSU* applications and select award recipients.

## **Who should I get in touch with if I have more questions?**

Contact Radhika Sen at [senradhi@msu.edu](mailto:senradhi@msu.edu).

