

Equity-Centered Community Design

What is Equity-centered Community Design (ECCD)?

ECCD is a unique, creative problem-solving process based on equity, humility-building, integrating history and healing practices, addressing power dynamics, and co-creating with the community.

This design process focuses on highlighting a community's cultural capital while assessing its needs so that they can gain tools to dismantle systemic oppression and create a future with equity for all.

Why integrate Equity-centered Community Design into the Built Environment?

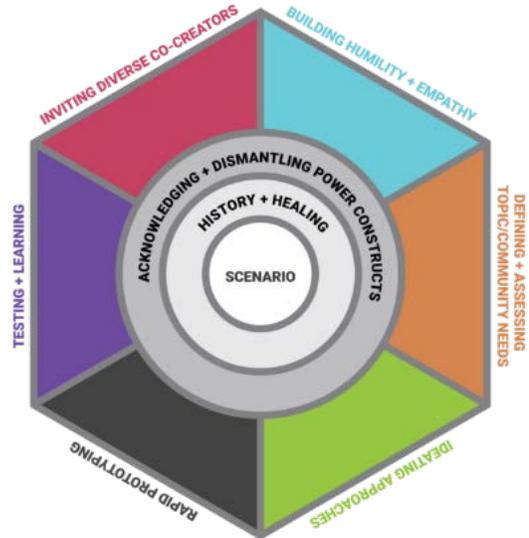
ECCD is a flexible system for intersectional issues.

When solving problems for complex, real-world issues, the process is not linear nor step-by-step.

ECCD allows for various combinations when addressing different challenges and/or situations. Also, within the ECCD process, the integration of 'history + healing' and 'acknowledging + dismantling power constructs' is crucial in every step of the problem-solving process. Tools to dismantle systemic oppression and create a future with equity for all are designed with the community, including youth.

ECCD is different from traditional design processes focusing on four pillars to create the hexagon-shaped framework above.

- **Equity:** When using ECCD, grantees include communities as living experts in all phases of the grantmaking process. Community members are included in assessing their needs, ideating on all suggestions, prototyping feasible, sustainable and desirable ideas, and learning and testing proposed designs. Voices are valued equitably as community members decide on the scenario that best supports their goals.
- **Humility-Building:** In the humility-building process, recognizing the influence of our bias and perspective when attempting to understand another's emotions, thoughts, experiences and actions are pivotal. Using the ECCD framework (above) within the Infusing Equity into Built Environment for Better Health funding opportunity makes space for building humility and empathy continuously as co-creators share ideas and space in the name of enriching their community through the funding opportunity.
- **Integrating History and Healing Practices:** The history of the community and its possible need to heal from past traumas within the community purposely slows down the grantmaking process. The ECCD process requires co-creators to reflect on past products, policies and programs (known as scenarios in ECCD) that negatively impacted community members of multiple generations. Making space for healing and recognizing what had been previously experienced by the community creates an empathetic space where lasting change can be made.



- ***Addressing Power Dynamics:*** Using ECCD, individual or small group power is disseminated between all co-creators, including youth. As a part of the design process, grantees would name individuals or groups within the organization who hold power to make decisions for the entire group. Then, traditional power hierarchies are eliminated in favor of distributing power equitably to all within the group.

ECCD allows for ideation, prototyping and feedback process that must be thoughtful. In addition, the process minimizes the built environment being unusable or obsolete by the community in a short period of time because a swath of individuals must be a part of the design from start to finish.

What are we looking for?

Within the timeline of the funding opportunity, communities will be asked to demonstrate that their community engagement process addresses the four pillars outlined in the ECCD framework. *Communities can do what makes the most sense regarding engaging in the planning process; however, we need to see that applicants can speak to each of these components when they come through.* The connections to living experts, understanding the impact of history on the community, dismantling power constructs and converting problems to projects can be invaluable to change agents experiencing the design process. Communities can also access technical assistance support through the Foundation to support the engagement and design process.

Inspired by Creative Reaction Lab. Click [here](#) to learn more!

