

Thank you for attending the 3rd Annual Civic & Community Engagement Summit hosted by the Michigan Nonprofit Association (MNA) and the Council of Michigan Foundations (CMF). This convening was designed to support our sector in strengthen the knowledge, relationships, and actions that help build thriving communities.

Recognizing that reflection is an important step in transforming ideas into impact, we invite you to use the questions in this tool – individually and with your team – to identify key insights, uncover opportunities for growth, and develop concrete next steps that can advance your mission and support the communities you work alongside.

- **Capture Learning:** What new ideas, practices, or perspectives extended your understanding?
- **Identify Application:** How can you integrate what you learned into your daily work, programs, partnerships, or advocacy efforts?
- **Commit to Action:** What specific steps will you take to help build a more informed, engaged, and connected community?

The value of the summit will ultimately be measured not by what was heard, but by what is applied. Let these reflections serve as a bridge between the conversations held at the summit and the actions that will shape stronger communities in the months ahead.

Initial Debrief Questions

- What was inspiring?
- What was challenging?
- What can be implemented immediately?
- What will require additional resources, partnerships, or planning?
- What was learned about advancing equity and inclusion through civic engagement?
- How can community members feel more connected, informed, and empowered?
- What is one commitment I am willing to make before the next quarter?
- What does success look like one year from now if I fully apply what I learned at the summit?

Individual Reflection Questions

Personal Learning

- What was the most important idea, tool, or practice I learned at the Summit, and why did it resonate with me?
- Which session challenged my assumptions about civic engagement, advocacy, community participation, or democracy?
- What new understanding did I gain about how government, laws, public systems, or policymaking affect the communities we serve?
- What questions am I leaving with that I want to explore further?

Application to My Work

- How can I incorporate one key lesson from the summit into my work within the next 30 days?
- What barriers to community participation exist in my organization or community, and how might I address them differently after attending the summit?
- Which strategies presented at the summit could help strengthen relationships with residents, volunteers, partners, or stakeholders?
- What opportunities do I see to increase civic knowledge and understanding among the people we serve?

Leadership and Impact

- How can I use my position to help create a more informed, engaged, and equitable community?
- What is one action I am personally committed to taking as a result of this summit?
- Who should I share my learning with, and what information would be most valuable for them?
- If I attended the summit again next year, what outcomes would I hope to report back on?

Team Reflection Questions

Shared Learning

- What were the most significant insights our team gained from the summit?
- Which ideas appeared across multiple sessions or conversations and seem most relevant to our mission?
- What surprised us most about what we learned regarding community engagement, civic participation, or public decision-making?
- What common themes emerged from the experiences of nonprofit, foundation, and grassroots leaders we heard from?

Organizational Practice

- How effectively are we currently helping community members understand and navigate civic systems?
- In what ways can we strengthen civic engagement within our programs, services, or advocacy efforts?
- Where are we successfully reducing barriers to participation, and where do gaps remain?
- What partnerships should we explore or deepen as a result of connections or ideas from the summit?

Strategic Action

- Which summit ideas align most closely with our strategic plan and organizational priorities?
- What should we start, stop, or continue doing because of what we learned?
- What are three specific actions we can implement within the next six months?
- How will we measure whether these actions increase civic knowledge, participation, community voice, or mission impact?