



Developing a Network to Coordinate Research on Equity Practices and Cultures in STEM Maker Education



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<https://tinyurl.com/AISLCRAFT>

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Where We're Heading

1. Background

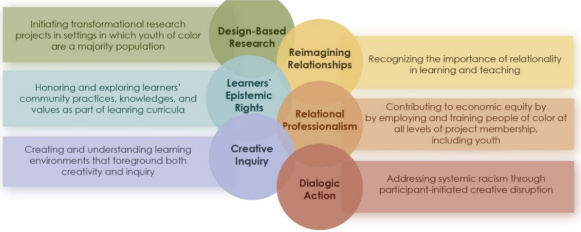


3. Methods



2. Theory

COMMITMENTS of Being - Critical Relationality (Olivares & Tucker-Raymond, 2019)



4. Findings



Critical Relationality Alliance for Transformation (CRAFT) Equity Making Network: *A Research Coordination Network*



Created space to network and discuss ideas, which encouraged collaborative sharing face-to-face & virtually

Focus on people, connections, and relationships built through shared interests and generative ideation

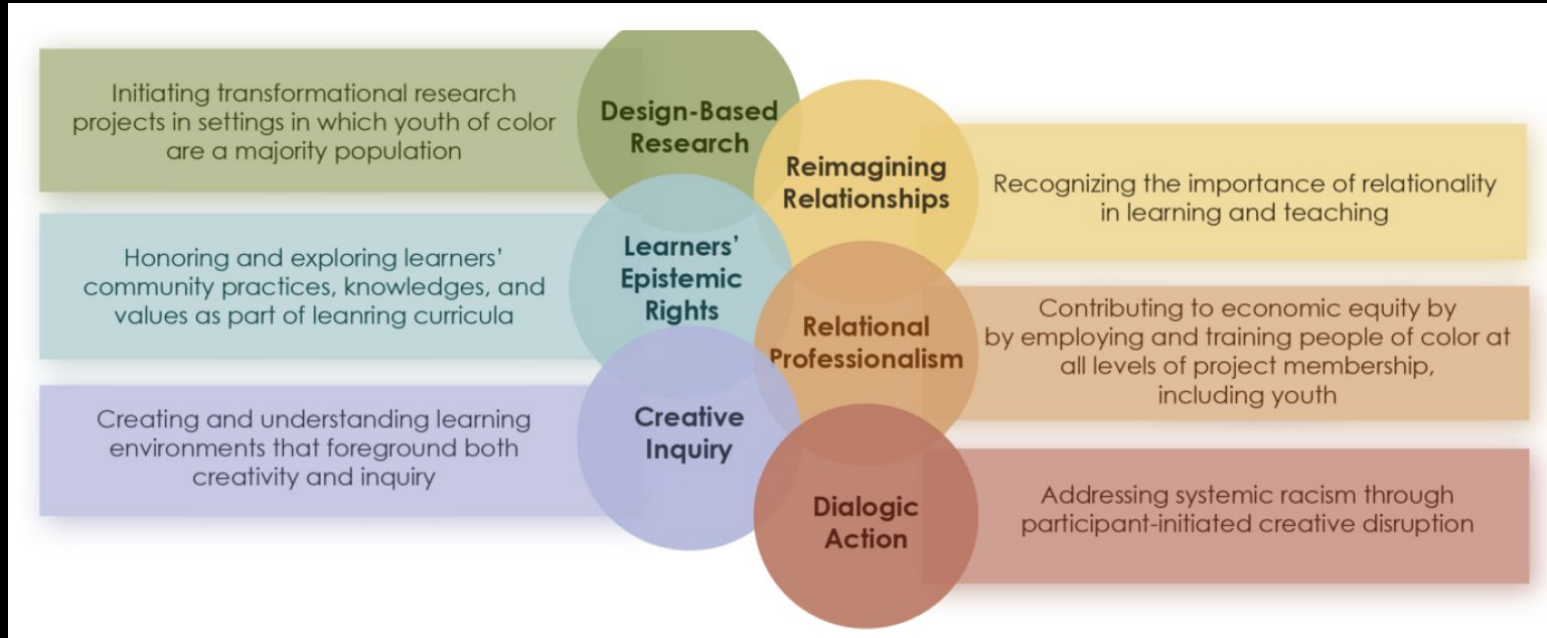


Background

National and Regional Collaborations were built from shared commitments to equity within spaces that are designed for learning-through-making.

Theoretical Framework

COMMITMENTS of Being - Critical Relationality (Olivares & Tucker-Raymond, 2019)



It means: my humanity, my integrity, and my dignity are rooted in my willingness to safeguard your humanity, secure your integrity, and protect your dignity: as a maker, learner, and collaborator.

CRAFT National Network

Greater San Francisco Bay Area Region

Boston/Greater New England Region

Welcoming Wider Participation [Join Us: Link to Jan 2026 CRAFT Newsletter \(Google Forms to reflect your interests & work\)](#)



Join at menti.com | use code **7175 5584**

How does community building show up in your work?



menti.com
7175 5584

Gathering 1-2

Create Community

Build a Shared Sense
of Purpose

Cultivate Joy

Enhance Belonging

Gathering 2-3

Discuss Shared
Commitments

Create Connections

Learn from One
Another

Talk Openly

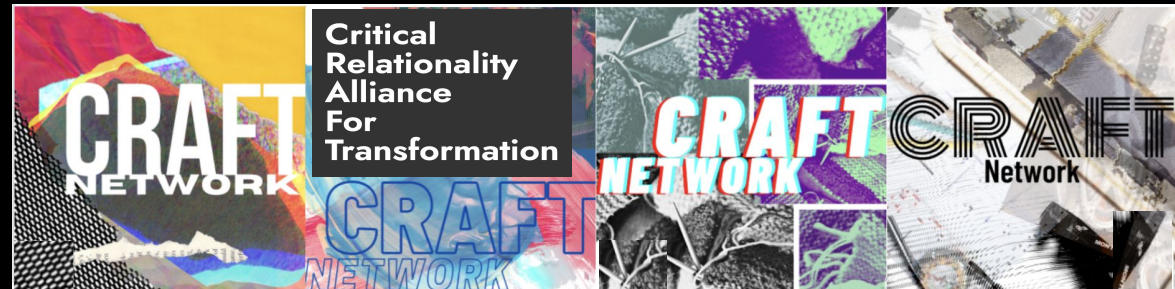
Gathering 3-4

Ground the discussions
in possible actions (5
buckets)

Provide Flexible
Structures and Time to
Share

Focus on shared goals

Methods



**Met to share ideas,
spark discussion, &
discuss resources**

**Goal: To create
community in times
of great uncertainty**



Building community



Data Sources



Artifacts from conversations in the form of anecdotal notes and reflections

Semi structured interviews collected from participants by participants

Asset survey created to address the collective resources that could be pooled from the group

Data Analysis

Collective Thematic Analysis (CTA)

- generate reflective insight across multiple data sources and forms.
- encourage collective sense making, shared meanings and experiences
- contribute conceptual frameworks and critical inquiry to help make sense of patterns across contexts





Findings

Theme 1

Broadening Participation Across the Maker and Maker Education Community

Theme 2

Building Relationships and Belonging

Theme 3

Sustaining Collaborations and Connections

Theme 1

Broadening Participation Across
the Maker and Maker Education
Community



Theme 2

Building Relationships and
Belonging



Theme 3

Sustaining Collaborations and Connections



Connection

Efforts **to connect** elevate the work of all partners across communities, cultures, and learning contexts.

Flexibility

Efforts **to be flexible** encourage wider participation and shared leadership

Relationality

Efforts in shared discussion **sustain relationships** and seed interpersonal connections as well as seed good ideas.

Take Aways and Recommendations

Equity

Efforts to **learn about and practice equity** encourage cross-pollination of ideas to surface innovative solutions to pressing problems.



Website



[Join Us: Link to Jan 2026 CRAFT Newsletter](#)

Reclaiming Craft Collective

Local communities have been “making” for many generations as a way of living, surviving, thriving, learning, growing and connecting to senses and body.

We aim to extend our mission and initiate a creative intergenerational dialogue in STEAM and cultures, leading to the development and reclamation of public, common spaces through the fusion of traditional crafts, street art, science cafés and other forms of "public space" art and STEAM.

The zine-making process is one way of reclaiming craft and community spaces by sharing resources and opening opportunities for community-led craft spaces in STEAM.



How does community building show up in your work?

intentionally leaving time during meetings to have fun check-in questions that let us know more about each other outside of work stuff.
creating group values/group agreements together.

Community building is a cornerstone to conserving natural resources and ushering people out to interact and benefit from these spaces