

# Co-designing a Participatory STEAM Center at a Midwest Children's Museum

| # 2415966

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## Project Description

This project engages rural and urban schools, youth-serving nonprofits, and local STEM professionals from healthcare, agriculture, and skilled trades, to co-design a future STEAM Center.

Through collaborative research and program development, we will establish a connected learning ecosystem that bridges rural communities with an urban core. Our place-based partnership model will yield transferable insights into how community-driven approaches can inform rural-urban STEM education initiatives across the U.S.

## Key Achievements

The project was funded in September 2024.

Data gathering involves surveys and focus groups, and techniques such as asset mapping and

Photovoice, to link strengths in the community to the design of the STEAM Center.

## Audience & Settings

**Audience:** Elementary School Children (6-10), Museum | ISE Professionals, Learning Researchers, Administration | Leadership | Policymakers

**Discipline type:** General STEM

**Learning environment:** Museums, Informal | Formal  
Connections: K-5 Programs

