

Healthy Democracy Ecosystem: Criteria for Inclusion

AMERICA'S HEALTHY DEMOCRACY ECOSYSTEM PROJECT
Working Draft | November 2023

The Healthy Democracy Ecosystem Map will err on the side of inclusivity. It will include groups who engage in, support, or promote work that:

- ◆ Directly engages citizens¹ in public decision-making, public problem-solving, and/or service;
- ◆ Directly engages citizens in voicing their concerns and priorities, regardless of ideology, to elected officials and other decision-makers;
- ◆ Brings people together from different and/or conflicting groups and perspectives to establish relationships, improve communication, and build trust. This includes efforts that expressly pursue “bridge-building” or “conflict resolution” as a goal, as well as those groups who promote relationships, communication, and trust as a significant byproduct of their stated missions (e.g., service organizations, local civics clubs, etc.);
- ◆ Informs the public about democracy and how to participate in civic duties, including voting and the census;
- ◆ Facilitates collaborative interactions between citizens and journalists / media organizations;
- ◆ Facilitates productive, civil, civic-minded interactions between members of a community;
- ◆ Directly engages citizens in forms of economic collaboration and cooperation that are participatory and equitable;
- ◆ Helps citizens use digital technologies (often under the heading of ‘civic tech’) to accomplish any of the types of work listed above;
- ◆ Helps young people learn and do any of the types of work listed above; and/or
- ◆ Upholds the core elements of democracy, principally:
 - Human rights and fundamental freedoms;
 - Universal suffrage and free and fair elections; and
 - Justice, fairness, and the rule of law.

The Ecosystem Map will **exclude** any group, individual, or entity who:

- ◆ Practices, promotes, or actively supports the use of violence; and/or
- ◆ Employs or encourages the use of hate speech.

For purposes of this project, we have also chosen not to include:

- ◆ Political or partisan groups such as political parties or other entities formed specifically to support candidates’ campaigns; and
- ◆ International organizations who do not have a significant presence in the United States.

¹ By “citizens” we mean all the people who live in a place and have a stake in its success. We do not include immigration status as a part of our definition.