

Questions for Potential Partners

Our institutions have distinct cultures and structures. It's worth spending time getting to know the cultures of your partner organizations. It's easier (and important) to ask questions like the ones below early on in your relationship, so you don't get caught making harmful assumptions.¹

- What challenges and opportunities do you experience in your daily work?
- What challenges and opportunities do you sense within your institution?
- What factors constrain your work?
- Who helps you most, both inside and outside your institution?
- From whom do you have to ask permission?
- Which timelines are important to your work?
- What types of products and/or outcomes does your institution value?
- Who does your organization serve?
- How is your organization funded?
- What are your short-term and long-term needs and hopes?
- In what ways has your organization changed recently?
- What kinds of skills do you and your team members have, and which do you lack?
- What is the nature of your team (how large? volunteer or paid? part-time or full-time? etc.)?
- What is your preferred method/pattern of communication?
- What is your seasonal pattern of work?
- What have you learned from previous experiences working with people from different cultures and institutions?

¹ The 2015-2016 Community Engagement Fellows generated the first edition of this list.