



# BRIDGING CAMPUS & COMMUNITY: Collaborating for Impact

## SUMMIT REPORT

October 1, 2025

On October 1, 2025, the Principal's Office hosted *Bridging Campus & Community: Collaborating for Impact* along with Dr. Michelle Searle – Special Advisor to the Principal on Community Engagement and a team of volunteers. This event brought together the voices of community organizations, faculty, staff, and students.

**150 REGISTRANTS**

**12 STUDENT VOLUNTEERS**

**16 POSTER PRESENTERS**

This event included introductions to community engagement efforts at Queen's, a gallery walk celebrating some community engagement projects, and roundtable discussions to learn from one another and uncover future opportunities and actionable insights.



We're working to turn your ideas into action so this is the first of many updates and community-engagement opportunities. Thank you for the thoughtful feedback and advice shared at the Community Engagement Summit. We have worked with the ideas from across sources to document key ideas. Below are a few of the insights, recommendations, and suggestions gathered through this event.

### What we heard

- Community partners need to be able to more openly see Queen's commitment to relationship-building, trust, and reciprocity.
- We need more mechanisms to recognize community expertise and invite participation in decision-making.

### What we are doing

We are reflecting on opportunities to amplify and incorporate community feedback into decision-making at Queen's.

We are investigating ways to signify the university's commitment to relevant and reciprocal research such as [The San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment \(DORA\)](#).

Also in development is **Queen's Community Partnership Network, launching in January 2026 and open to all.**

“We don't engage in a research project unless it's going to have a meaningful impact to somebody in the real world. And so the community brings their research questions to us, and we work with them and engage them as true members of the research team throughout this.” - Faculty

“To me, it means different parties at the same table, being equal and discussing issues that are meaningful to us all, everyone in the room, and seeing how they can better the community, making sure that their voices are heard and that they can move forward in collaborating [on] the things that matter the most to the community.” - Community Partner

### What we heard

- Across campus and the wider Kingston community, Queen's needs to have greater visibility and ongoing outreach efforts.
- University-community collaborations must be shared in an accessible format and language.

### What we are doing

The launch of the **Community Engagement Website** provides a one-stop hub for students, staff, faculty, and community members featuring project spotlights, resources, and opportunities. Website development is ongoing.

Future planning is in the works for:

- community knowledge exchanges & community engagement showcases
- in-community and on-campus events to support learning, relationship-building, sharing, and networking

“Creating dialogue directly with the community” - Faculty

“It takes a bit more of an effort to have these respectful and meaningful connections, and to allow social justice to actually take place. So bringing abstract ideas into reality through these community partnerships, that can allow for a more enriched university experience for students, but also give back to the community from which they come from” - Faculty



## What we heard

There is a need for greater capacity building opportunities amongst students, staff, and faculty to create knowledge-driven, sustainable community-centered initiatives, and engaged learning opportunities.

## What we are doing

We are developing a foundational **Community Engagement and SDG course** to be piloted in Winter 2026. This course will be open to students, staff, faculty, and community.

**Stay tuned - you can learn about this course on our website & future sessions**



“[Students] really become ambassadors for promoting the health and well-being of persons with disabilities in a respectful way, which isn't always what we see out in the community.” - Faculty Member

“And it's important for us to feel like we're all at the same level, so that research accurately reflects what the community needs, and we're in touch with the communities that we should be serving.” - Ph.D student

## What we heard

Queen's needs to simplify how, where, when, and in what ways community can get involved. There is a need to continuously provide more support and opportunities to reduce barriers to entry.

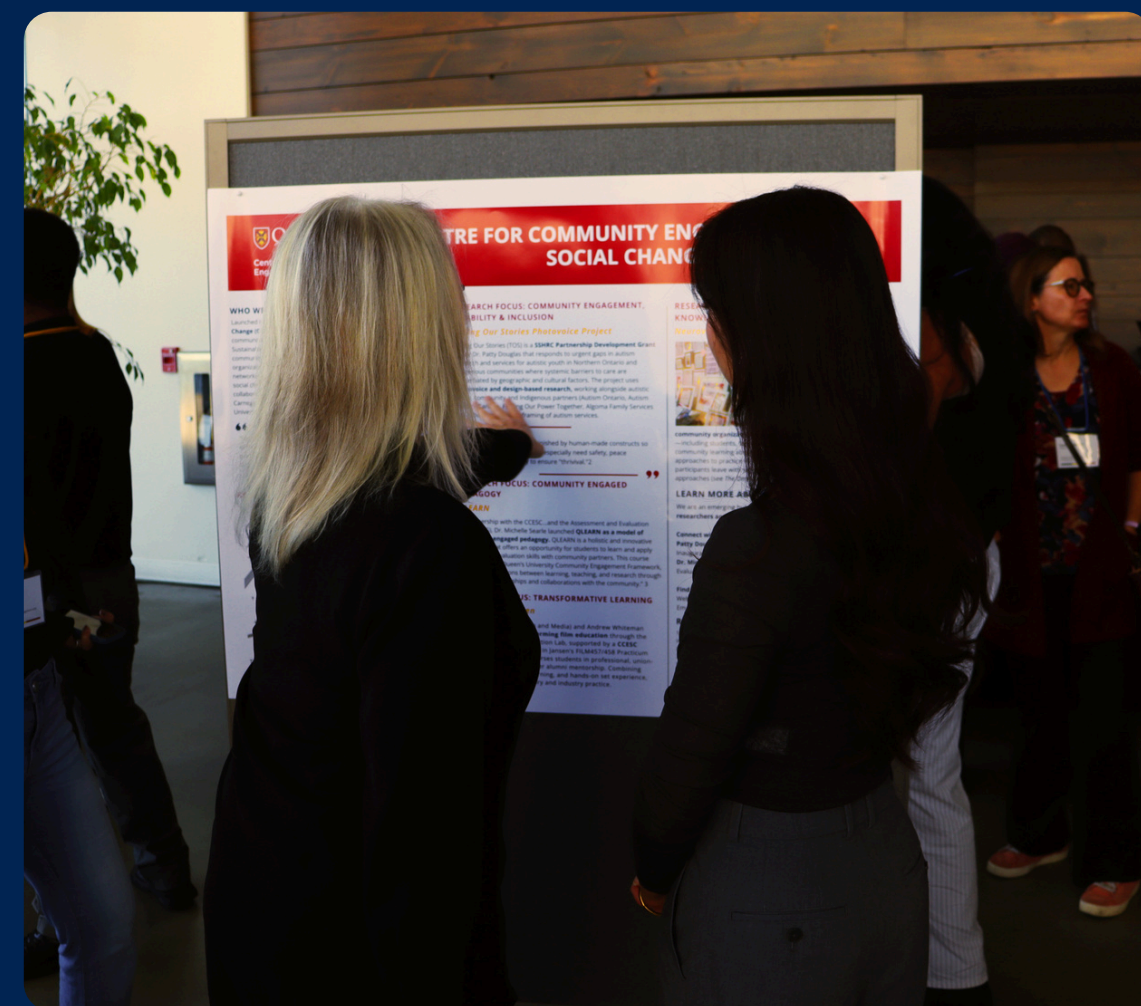
## What we are doing

- We are creating **roles** dedicated towards the promotion of CE at Queen's.
- We are exploring the creation of a **physical & digital space** as an entry point for community engagement, and to encourage the gathering of partners, staff, faculty, and students.

“We don't live in a bubble, right?” - Faculty

“Queen's as an educational institution is embedded in the community. Each one of us, whether we are students, faculty, or administrators, we live in a community.” - Faculty

*“We need to include Queen's students, because they're residents too, they're community members, and they should feel like they're part of the community ... It's funny 'cause you think about who's in Kingston or who's at Queen's, [but] Queen's is in Kingston, even if some people are here for a short while, for four years, you're a Kingstonian for that time. You're part of the community and then your opinions and your boundaries and what you're bringing up [are] meaningful.”*  
- Community member



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