

# Advancing the Conversation on Scaling National Informal STEM Programs | AWARD #221449

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**Project Website:** [ngcproject.org/ScalingInformalSTEMPrograms](https://ngcproject.org/ScalingInformalSTEMPrograms)

## Project Description

This conference grant aims to **collectively challenge** and **redefine the conversation** related to how we **equitably scale** informal STEM education programs by **centering the perspective of ISE practitioners** while interrogating our current conceptions of scale and identifying what is essential for equitable scaling.

## Key Achievements

In May 2023, the project team hosted a 2 ½ day conference with 50 participants from across the ISE field. The conference was co-created by a planning committee of ISE program implementers and developers.

### **Key conference learnings:**

- Program scaling must involve co-creation and authentic relationship building; it shouldn't be transactional.
- Program scaling must prioritize flexibility over fidelity.
- The field should strive to share failures, not just successes.

## Audience & Settings

**Audience:** Informal STEM educators, program directors, program developers, researchers, evaluators, and funders

**Disciplinary area:** Scaling informal STEM programs; educator capacity-building; equity and inclusion

**Learning environment:** Libraries, afterschool programs, museums, and other out-of-school time programs

## Access & Inclusion

The goal of our project is to challenge current conceptions of scale, such as fidelity, spread, and sustainability in the context of equity, and consider what new equitable practices need to be considered as programs scale.

The project also prioritizes equity and inclusion by centering the perspective of program implementers in planning and leading conference, and developing post-conference products.

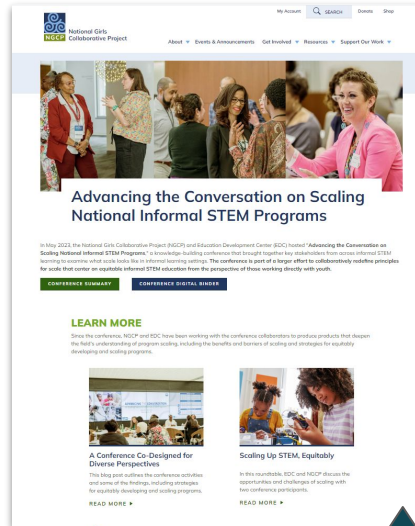
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Conference Participants



Conference Knowledge



Project Website & Products

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