



WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY **STEAM CHALLENGE** FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the STEAM Challenge?

The Wayne State University School of Social Work and Mike Ilitch School of Business are proud to host the third annual STEAM Challenge, which brings student teams together to address a social problem in our city. STEAM is an interdisciplinary approach that bridges STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) disciplines with the arts, humanities and social sciences in meaningful ways. The theme of this year's competition is "Innovating Change and Developing Solutions Towards a Just Society".

What can I win?

After competing in a preliminary and final pitch competition judged by a panel of experts, the top three teams will receive a cash prize:

- 1st place: \$12,000
- 2nd place: \$8,000
- 3rd place: \$5,000

Do I have to have a team or an idea right away?

The idea can be a product, service, technology component, an app, or other venture that will help empower social change in Detroit! Your only requirement to participate is to come with an idea or have the interest in working on one with others. This competition is open to WSU students from any discipline; however, each team must be comprised of 3-7 students with at least 3 disciplines represented. For those who don't have teams or an idea, our STEAM Challenge project team will help match you up with others who have similar interests and working styles. To help inspire and guide ideas, we will also be hosting a series of events introducing interested students to the local social entrepreneurship ecosystem. **No technology, programming or business planning experience is needed – we will help guide students through the entire process.**

How do I apply?

Each team will be responsible for submitting the following materials by December 17, 2019 at 5 pm EST:

- Responses to short-form questions regarding their idea, who will benefit and why their team should win
- Three-minute pitch video
- Additional materials, as desired
- Budget for the project

Find details, dates and additional info at
steamchallenge.wayne.edu



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Whom can I turn to for help?

There are multiple ways you can get help with STEAM:

- Visit our website steamchallenge.wayne.edu
- Email or call us at STEAMchallenge@wayne.edu and 313-577-0885
- Come see us at a Drop-In Friday table in the Mike Ilitch School of Business or UGL

What are the time commitments and deadlines?

All events and workshops are optional. If you would like to connect with your fellow competitor and hear from local experts, please attend! If you can't make it, you will not be penalized.

STEAM Challenge Social Justice Mixer

November 15, 1:00 -3:30 PM | Student Center, Lower Level Stage

The purpose of the Social Justice Mixer is to help STEAM participants gain a better understanding of the context of the social problems and to apply a social justice lens to the challenges they seek to address through social entrepreneurship. The event will start out with subject matter experts who will provide a brief overview of this year's Challenge themes. Attendees will then participate in an activity, which allows them to explore the themes further and connect with students to form teams.

Drop-in Fridays

November 22 and December 13, 10 AM - 2 PM | Mike Ilitch School of Business lobby and UGL Blackstone Hub Room

STEAM Challenge leaders, Mairjo Upshaw, Gary Shields, Jerome Gibbs and Frank Goeddeke will be available for participants to swing by and receive mentorship and advice on their proposals. These will be walk-in sessions held simultaneously at two locations on campus.

A Conversation with a Social Entrepreneur

Early December, 1-3:30 PM | 12C Innovation Studio

This event will include an interactive presentation with social entrepreneur Diana Russell, a Wayne State alumnus who graduated with a degree in fashion merchandising and co-founded Rebel Nell. Students will have the opportunity to meet and talk with Diana and tour the Wayne State I2C Innovation Studio with entrepreneur-in-residence, Jennifer Daniels.

APPLICATION DEADLINE – DECEMBER 17

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