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**New Challenges & Next Steps**

*While our project focuses on African-American young women, some partners serve a broader constituency and can only provide programming as such. We will be exploring how to build an inviting and supportive space for African-American young women while not excluding others.*

**Equity**

*Through a participatory design framing, AAMASE will center young African American women’s Making interests and experiences to subvert the inequities often found in making culture and will actualize culturally sustaining pedagogy by amplifying participants’ voices.*

**Lessons Learned & Insights Gained**

*Our project is still in its startup phase where a primary focus is the recruitment of participants. One critical insight is that time and effort must be dedicated to building relationships with local partners who have existing connections with participants.*

**Engaging African American Young Women in STEM and Entrepreneurship Through Community-Centered Making**

Ken Rafanan, Imani Mitchell

NSF Award Number​: 2148543 Dates: 2022-2025

Project type:​ Developing and Testing Innovations

Project URL: https://www.terc.edu/projects/aamase/

Project Overview: The AAMASE project is developing and researching a model for engaging high-school-aged African American women from low-income families in STEM-related making and entrepreneurship educational programs. The project centers participants’ interests and experiences within a product design and build cycle, involving three Making disciplines (e.g., computer-aided design, ceramics, and textiles) integrated with STEM concepts, skills, and entrepreneurship.