



# MARQUETTE DEMOCRACY LAB

## Using Evidence-based Research To Increase Civic Engagement

## MARQUETTE DEMOCRACY LAB

MDL brings together faculty, students and stakeholders to conduct impact evaluations of local policies, programs and practices. Our goal is to identify interventions that can increase civic engagement, strengthen community connections, and increase neighborhood wellbeing. We work collaboratively with community partners to design studies of mutual interest to scholars, organizations, and policymakers. By connecting social science to local public policy, we hope to build a repository of best practices in civic engagement.



## ABOUT OUR TEAM

**Dr. Amber Wichowsky**, Director  
**Dan Matthews**, Assistant Director

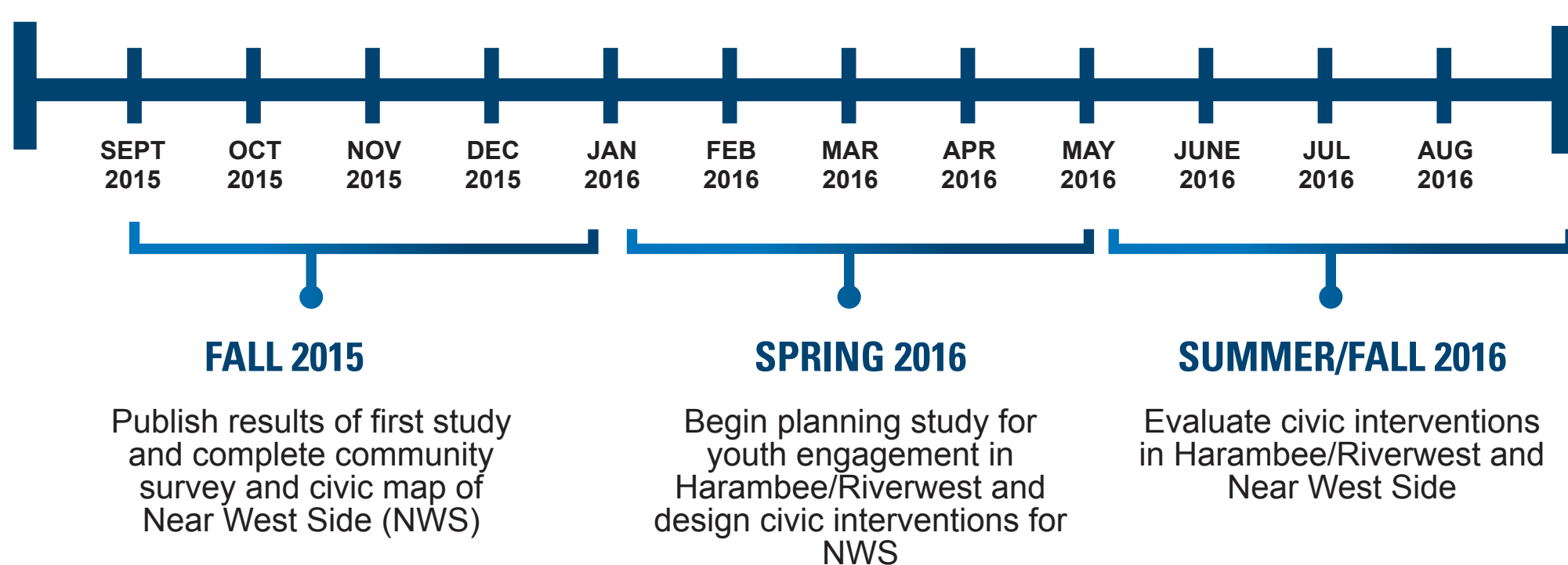
Amber Wichowsky, assistant professor of political science, studies the politics of inequality, particularly the factors that shape socioeconomic disparities in civic engagement. Dan Matthews earned his M.A. in Nonprofit Leadership and Public Administration, with a focus on entrepreneurial leadership and social innovation, in 2015. The proposal for MDL grew out of our work on two pilot evaluations (one conducted in Milwaukee's Harambee neighborhood and the other in collaboration with middle schools in the Milwaukee Archdiocese). Our third study, in partnership with the Near West Side Partners, has just begun.



**SCAN QR CODE FOR**  
[HTTP://WWW.MARQUETTE.EDU/DEMOCRACY-LAB](http://www.marquette.edu/democracy-lab)

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## MILESTONES



## BEYOND BOUNDARIES Social Responsibility and Community Engagement

Our studies engage students in collaborative research that prepares them to be more active in civic life. Through our community partnerships, students apply knowledge and gain skills; community stakeholders learn what works and build relationships across and between sectors; and the research community benefits by conducting these studies and replicating them in a variety of contexts. Most critically, we hope MDL provides students with opportunities to live Marquette's mission as we discover and share knowledge in order to serve others.

