DESIGN PROJECT 2
ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

PROJECT CONTEXT

Some background on Muslims and philanthropy
Islam, the world's second largest religion, has 1.5 billion adherents spread across the globe. America's approximately 5 million Muslims have roots in over 80 countries and are now spread across the United States, with large populations in New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, Detroit, and Minneapolis.

Charitable giving is one of Islam's five pillars, along with the worship of God (*shahadah*), daily prayer (*salah*), making pilgrimage to Mecca (*hajj*), and fasting during the month of Ramadan (*sawm*). Muslims may practice obligatory charity (*zakat*) or voluntary charity (*sadaqah*). Zakat consists of giving 2.5% of one's wealth to public welfare each year after meeting household and individual expenses. Sadaqah is a wider term used to cover many forms of charity.

Muslim immigrants donate regularly overseas, especially to victims of natural disasters in their home countries. However, this support does not often extend to the establishment or sustainability of nonprofit institutions. Muslims in America tend to make donations to their local mosques and faith-based schools, but rarely do they give strategic and long-term donations that allow for the establishment of endowments or for the long-term sustainability of the nonprofit organizations that are serving their respective communities.

There has been very little solid research done on this topic; some *theories* for the lack of funding are:

- The lack of religiously-compliant vehicles through which to give, especially to Muslim non-profits
- Lack of understanding about nonprofit organizations and the nonprofit sector in the United States, especially among immigrant Muslim communities
- Lack of awareness about non-Muslim nonprofit organizations addressing issues of common concern
- Insufficient knowledge about different forms of charitable giving in Islam
- Fear of giving in a post 9-11 climate in which Muslim giving is highly scrutinized

Implications & opportunities
Our project partner AMCLI (see next page for detail) is working to build a more robust and dynamic ecosystem of Muslims working in the public and nonprofit sector in the United States. This includes supporting leaders of nonprofit organizations and in public office across the country, and building a dynamic network of organizations in this sector.

A vibrant nonprofit sector requires a healthy philanthropic sector. Therefore AMCLI is looking at how to identify vehicles for giving that create formal structures to unfreeze these assets for the betterment of the world, to fulfill religious obligations, and to participate in the great American tradition of personal giving through a formal process.

In addition, AMCLI's experience is that most Muslims in the US wish to give more than they are currently, but some kind of barrier is preventing them from tapping their resources to do so. For some individuals, this means they are not fulfilling what they feel is their religious obligation.

OUR PARTNER: AMERICAN MUSLIM CIVIC LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE AT USC

The American Muslim Civic Leadership Institute (AMCLI) builds human capital and enhances leadership potential among American Muslims. The Institute believes that a healthy democracy is defined by the participation of all its citizens working in concert — and sometimes in contention — to affect the processes that impact their daily lives. The Institute envisions a new generation of Muslim leaders who are able to fully engage co-religionists, constituents, and fellow citizens in the work of building better communities for all.

AMCLI emerged in 2006 to address an ongoing crisis of leadership within Muslim communities. The rising generation of Muslim civic leaders is being asked to lead, but they are not provided with the tools necessary for effective leadership. Muslim organizations continue to struggle to address community needs and are increasingly isolated from each other. Often the concerns of American Muslims are absent from regional and national campaigns and policy discussions where their voices are vital.

During a nine-month program, AMCLI addresses these issues by enhancing skills, increasing visibility, and establishing networks to help communities move from the margins to the mainstream through civic engagement. AMCLI identifies leaders (ages 25-40) who share this commitment to a vibrant pluralistic public square and provides practical training, community building opportunities, and resources.

AMCLI's methodology focuses on the following areas:
- Identifying leadership needs, gaps in human capital, organizational best practices and theological resources on civic engagement in Islam
- Equipping leaders with practical skills in communication, community mobilization, advocacy, leadership, policy analysis, and organizational management
- Connecting to a network of civic leaders (both Muslim and non-Muslim) across the country and facilitating a forum for constructive intra-Muslim dialogue
- Guiding the development of projects, partnerships, and resources
- Sustaining the learning with ongoing opportunities to interact with fellows and alumni.

Over the past three years, AMCLI has graduated 64 fellows from 59 organizations and 17 states, and it will be welcoming its fourth cohort of fellows in October 2011.

The American Muslim Civic Leadership Institute is housed at the University of Southern California's Center for Religion and Civic Culture and works in partnership with the Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal Center for Muslim Christian Understanding at Georgetown University.

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For more information about the Institute, the curriculum, and fellows, please visit: www.usc.edu/amcli

BACKGROUND READING (OPTIONAL)

AMCLI suggests a few recent reports for background reading that may be useful. The following links will be live on our website after class today: http://dschool.stanford.edu/dbootcamp/

A recent report by the Institute for Social Policy Understanding based in DC/MI:
"Charitable Giving among Muslim Americans: Ten Years after 9/11" by Zahra Jamal.
http://ispu.org/pdfs/ISPU_Policy%20Brief_Jamal_WEB.pdf

Another recent report, from the Center on Philanthropy at Indiana University:
"Zakat in America: The Evolving Role of Islamic Charity in Community Cohesion"
http://www.philanthropy.iupui.edu/Lakefamilyinstitute/docs/LakeLectures/Lake%20Lecture%20-%20Mattson%20-%202010.pdf

A backgrounder on American Muslims by Gallup:
http://www.abudhabigallupcenter.com/143765/muslim-americans-national-portrait.aspx

One Muslim philanthropist's take on the issues – a speech by the leader of the Aga Khan Development Network & Foundation at the Conference on Indigenous Philanthropy in 2000 (Nadia can provide more context on where the Aga Khan sits in the spectrum of Islamic communities):
http://www.akdn.org/speeches_detail.asp?id=312

The American University of Cairo's Gerhart Center on Philanthropy and Civic Engagement is producing most of the research on philanthropy in the Middle East. It is focused on overseas funding. Early chapters might have some good introductory and background information:

From Charity to Social Change: Trends in Arab Philanthropy, edited by Barbara Ibrahim & Dina Sherif http://www.amazon.com/Charity-Social-Change-Trends-Philanthropy/dp/9774162072

Probably not the most accessible book, but provides deep history:
Charity in Islamic Societies (Themes in Islamic History), by Amy Singer
http://www.amazon.com/Charity-Islamic-Societies-Themes-History/dp/0521821649

TEAM CONSIDERATIONS
TRY USING THIS LIST OF TEAM CONSIDERATIONS TO PROMOTE GREAT COMMUNICATION AND TEAM EXCELLENCE

real communication
- taking time for reflection and evaluation of team process
- initiating difficult conversations when necessary
- being direct instead of gossiping about team members

openness
- being open to offerings of others on the design team
- sharing project resources
- reducing concern about ownership of project ideas
- minimizing competition

focus
- being clear about goals
- biasing toward action
- cultivating a team atmosphere that's not too chaotic
- staying together under pressure

balance
- enjoying enough hangout time with team members
- having enough fun
- cultivating a team atmosphere that's not too uptight

responsibility
- keeping agreements with other members of the design team
- dividing team work relatively evenly
- accepting enough responsibility for problems instead of blaming
- avoiding saving the team by "heroic" overproduction
- minimizing scheduling conflict

respectfulness
- respecting shared physical team space
- being tolerant of personal and professional differences
- embracing failure as inherent in the design process

d.

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