Urban@UW

Urban@UW Research Spark Grants

Urban@UW invites proposals from UW faculty or PI-eligible research staff, across all three UW campuses, with current or emerging research interests in critical aspects of contemporary urban societies. The goal of this small grants program is to *spark* new and emerging urban research initiatives to scope out their mission and initial research, teaching, and engagement goals via funding for convenings or pilot work. Proposals may request up to $8,000. Urban@UW anticipates funding 2-4 projects.

Eligibility:
- Applicants must be faculty or PI-eligible research staff at the University of Washington. Individuals may not serve as a project lead on more than one project team and teams may not submit more than one application.
- Applications should address an issue related to urban societies, and should represent a new project, emerging research or research direction. The project team must be cross-disciplinary, and the project must substantively engage external practitioners or stakeholders, agencies/organizations or policy makers.
- Funds can be used to support research-related efforts such as conferences or workshops per UW and state policy, student assistants, supplies and materials, relevant travel per UW travel guidelines, and reasonable support for non-UW partners to engage in the effort. Funds are generally not intended to be used for faculty salaries; however, untenured faculty can allocate up to half of requested funds for salary.
- We will not fund existing projects, bridge funds, or general administrative costs.

Timeline:
- February 20, 2020: RFP announced
- March 1, 2020: application period opens
- March 31, 2020: application deadline (11:59 PM Pacific)
- April 15, 2020: awardees notified
- May 1, 2020-April 30-2021: period of performance
    - quarterly reports will be requested
- June 30, 2021: final report detailing accomplishments and final budget reconciliation due

Application Format:
- Proposals should be sent by 11:59pm on March 31, 2020 to urbanuw@uw.edu with the subject "Urban@UW Research Spark Grant".
- A PDF document of no more than 4 single-spaced pages (12-point font; 1" margins), which includes:
    - a list of the members of the project team along with their titles and department or organizational affiliations;
    - a description of the role each member will play in the project;
    - the urban research area/question that is being explored along with a brief context and justification;
    - a work plan including research, collaboration, and/or outreach plans and potential hurdles the team might encounter;
    - a timeline for completing the work, including seeking/receiving IRB approval, if needed;
    - a plan for disseminating and/or using results of the project; and

  - o a brief discussion of whether/how additional funding will be sought for this project, including whether applicants have start-up funds or other funding they could be using.
- A 1-page budget and budget narrative
- A list of potential partners/stakeholder groups and the status of any relationships with them (or, perhaps, rationale for their involvement)

Review Criteria:
- **Originality**: The project demonstrates an innovative, challenging idea, critical thinking, advanced scholarship, and/or a new or experimental approach
- **Inclusiveness**: The projects cuts across disciplines and sectors, engaging academia, decision-makers, and stakeholders/community partners central to the project's topic of inquiry. Proposals are encouraged to include how students are engaged. We will prioritize applications that are cross-rank and cross-unit. We will also prioritize those that engage scholars and/or partners from underrepresented groups or communities.
- **Potential for Impact**: the project holds promise for making a meaningful contribution to discourse and/or the field, and provides a foundation for substantive change in policy, planning, practice or decision-making in the larger urban community. Projects explicitly consider avenues for sustaining interactions after the funds are expended.
- **Feasibility**: the project has clear and realistic goals, time frame, work plan, and budget
- **Capacity**: the applicant team possesses strong qualifications and/or knowledge, demonstrated ability to collaborate, and has access to necessary resources outside the support of Urban@UW.

Terms and Conditions:
- Funds will be disbursed to the department of a single designated project lead for day-to-day administration. Budgets must be able to accept "Designated Operating Funds" transfers.
- For projects that involve research on human subjects or on animals, it is the PI's responsibility to ensure compliance with all applicable federal, state, and institutional requirements including, but not limited to, notifying the appropriate compliance offices on the UW campus (e.g., the Human Subjects Division for the Institutional Review Board or IRB) prior to initiating any work and following all relevant protocols. Similarly, if there are any other compliance issues (e.g., biohazardous material), the PI will certify that the appropriate compliance offices on the UW campus will be made aware prior to initiating any work. If the project team is partnering with a Tribe, that team will be expected to also determine and follow the appropriate Tribal IRB protocols. Work may not begin on the project until all appropriate compliance procedures are complete and verification has been provided to Urban@UW.
- If there is a proposed change or absence (60 days or greater) in PI, recipients will immediately provide justification via email to urbanuw@uw.edu.
- Any unspent funds will be returned to Urban@UW.
- Awardees shall submit final report detailing accomplishments and final budget reconciliation no more than 60 days from the project's conclusion.
- Awardees will be asked to participate in a post-program evaluation survey.
- Awardees may be asked to share their work with an Urban@UW audience.