

Urban@UW

Urban@UW Research Spark Grants

Urban@UW invites proposals from across all three UW campuses to pursue 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. Proposals may request up to \$20,000. Urban@UW anticipates funding 2 projects. The application period opens June 15, 2020 and completed proposals are due by July 15, 2020 (see timeline below).

Eligibility:

- Lead applicants must be faculty or PI-eligible research staff at the University of Washington. Individuals may not serve as a lead on more than one project team and teams may not submit more than one application.
- Proposals shall focus on collaborative development of new research in urban scholarship and practice.
- Applications should address an issue related to urban societies. We particularly welcome research projects that engage issues of broad and/or persistent relevance.
- The project team must be cross-disciplinary, and the project should engage or have practical application to external practitioners, stakeholders, agencies, organizations or policy.
- Funds can be used to support conferences or workshops per UW and state [policy](#), and other support to engage in the collaborative effort, including student research assistants, supplies and materials, relevant travel per [UW travel](#) guidelines, and reasonable support for non-UW partners to join. Untenured faculty or research staff may allocate up to 50% of requested funds for salary.
- We will not fund existing projects or general administrative costs.

Timeline:

- May 26, 2020: RFP announced
- June 15, 2020: application period opens
- July 15, 2020: application deadline (11:59pm Pacific)
- August 15, 2020: awardees notified
- September 15, 2020-March 15-2021: period of performance
 - quarterly reports will be requested
- May 15, 2021: final report detailing accomplishments and final budget reconciliation due

Application Format:

- Proposals should be sent by 11:59pm on July 15, 2020 to urbanuw@uw.edu with the subject "Urban@UW Research Spark Grant".
- A PDF proposal of no more than 4 single-spaced pages (12-point font; 1" margins), which includes:
 - the urban topic area/question that is being explored along with a brief context and justification;

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- 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;
 - a work plan including 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
 - 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 separate 1-page budget and budget narrative
 - A separate list of potential partners/stakeholder groups and the status of any relationships with them or rationale for their involvement

Review Criteria:

The following criteria will be examined, in addition to eligibility as described above.

- **Originality:** The project demonstrates an innovative, challenging idea, critical thinking, advanced scholarship, and/or a new or experimental approach
- **Inclusiveness:** The project cuts across disciplines and sectors. We will prioritize applications that are cross-rank and cross-unit, and those that engage scholars and/or partners from underrepresented groups or communities. Projects are also encouraged to involve students.
- **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 regulations. 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.

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- 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.