

Call for Proposals Innovation Farm Program

The Innovation Farm program was designed 1) to encourage networks of interdisciplinary scholars and 2) to support the launching of innovative projects that enhance creative scholarship at the University of Arizona.

The 2018 Innovation Farm program invites applications from teams of 2-3 scholars (one a designated PI) from at least 2 of the following colleges: Architecture, Fine Arts, Humanities, Law, Health Sciences, Education, Science and Social and Behavioral Sciences. Projects should produce new interdisciplinary initiatives that lead to sustainable programs, research models, technology trials, community partnerships, and entrepreneurial ventures.

Innovation Farm projects depend on extensive collaboration and dedicated support to be successful. Working groups should be able to use project achievements as “proof of concept” for seeking additional funding from external agencies and donors to sustain their research projects. Director Javier Duran says of past projects, “Innovation Farm has helped launched several vital projects that have invigorated scholarship about human rights, Buddhist studies and documentary filmmaking at the University of Arizona.”

2019 Topic: Inequality

Higher education is often at the forefront when it comes to efforts and scholarship in inclusion and anti-oppression. Such endeavors require sensitive understandings of the histories of inequalities, of higher education as a transformative space within itself and in broader society, and of working directly with those from diverse backgrounds and understandings, all without perpetuating the harm already committed. The Confluentcenter invites University of Arizona faculty to develop the necessary visions, methodologies and challenges faced in addressing the root causes of inequality. The goal of each project should involve identifying a problem relating to inequality and then developing and trying out an application of that research to that problem. Creative applications in particular are encouraged. Examples could include:

- Analyzing student retention on campus
- Exploring how arts and community grapple with urban and rural dynamics
- Contextualizing food insecurity in a city of gastronomy and its impact on UA students
- Mapping health and social disparities in particular communities
- Additional ideas could include workshops, seminars, skill shares, community collaborations, in addition to recordings, websites, social media fora, etc., that

address any topic as it relates to the challenges, realities, and interventions of inequality.

Through the 2019 round of Innovation Farm proposals, Confluentcenter seeks to support the development of new tools to address the harm done by perpetuated inequalities by using innovation and informed approaches.

Eligibility

1. Each working group must have a point person (the Primary Investigator, or PI) who will submit the proposal, and will represent the proposal in communications, promotions, etc. if funded.
2. The PI applicant must be tenured or tenure-eligible, UA faculty (.49 FTE minimum required).
 - a. Teams can involve non-tenure eligible faculty in project activities.
 - b. Teams can include non-academics like non-profit members, independent artists, and community or business leaders not affiliated with the UA.
3. The team members must represent at least two of the following colleges CAPLA, CFA, COH, JRNL, LAW, COM, AZHS, NUR, COS or SBS.
 - a. Additional colleges may also be represented by team members.

Proposal Deadline

Proposals are due on February 15th (no later than 5 p.m., Arizona time), 2019. Proposals received after the date will not be considered.

Awards

Recipients will receive up to \$15,000 in seed funding to be used over a period of three semesters (not including summers) to complete a project.

Announcements

Decisions regarding finalists will be made by the end of March 2019, and award winners will be announced in early April, 2019. Funding will be made available on May 1st, 2019.

Application Process

Written Proposal

A written proposal including the information below should be submitted as a single PDF file and titled as below, and uploaded on the Confluentcenter website.

PDF Title: 2019_ProjectName_IF

1. Project summary/abstract (300 words, maximum)
2. Project narrative (1,500 words, maximum)
 - a. Project rationale and goals
 - b. Project activities and timetable
 - c. Member roles and/or contributions

- d. Anticipated deliverables, including at least one public engagement event
 - e. Benchmarks for evaluating progress and success
 - f. External funding agencies most likely to support future activities
3. Detailed budget and justification (please note the restrictions below)
 - Faculty salaries cannot be included in the budget.
 - Course buyouts cannot be supported by IF funds.
 - IF funds does not fund food and drinks.
 - Only limited domestic travel can be included in the budget.
 - If project expenses exceed \$15,000, identify other sources providing funding.
 4. Applicant team member CVs (two pages maximum for each)

Proposal Evaluation

Proposals will be evaluated by a faculty committee on the criteria listed below.

- **Innovative** by developing or improving research models and/or modes of creative expression to address and apply to complex social and intellectual problems, artistic challenges, or pedagogic questions.
- **Collaborative** by pooling resources and expertise from diverse disciplines and professional domains.
- **Promotes knowledge transfer and academic entrepreneurialism** by marketing UA creative research and artistic accomplishments.
- **Engages the public** by making the arts, humanities and social sciences broadly accessible through at least one public event.
- **Achieves viability** by developing “pilot” projects of interest to external funding agencies and private donors.
- **Clear benchmarks and deliverables** that connect explicitly to the goals of the project and all of the above items.

Award Logistics

Funding

Funding will be managed throughout the Confluentcenter. Specific instructions for using funds will be provided to award winners.

Reports

All proposed changes to the project and to identified benchmarks must be approved by the Confluentcenter.

A final report must be submitted at the end of the project. Benchmarks identified in the initial proposal should be used as the basis for the report. The final report must be submitted within two years of receiving the initial funding. This report should describe the group’s accomplishments, note any programming, publications, or community partnerships

made possible by the seed-funding and identify any external funding procured as a result of the Innovation Farm award.

Awardees will also be expected to respond to a short annual survey thereafter updating the Confluentcenter on the progress of the awarded project and other related projects as they develop.

Acknowledgements

Working groups must acknowledge the Confluentcenter's support in any publications made possible by Innovation Farm funding and display the Confluentcenter's logo (which will be provided by the Confluentcenter when the award is communicated) in any project-related publicity, in addition to tagging the Confluentcenter in any social media and sending all other used publicity materials to the Confluentcenter.

Confluentcenter will also request that the group participate in at least one Confluentcenter public event such as Show & Tell.