*Program/Center Sustainability GRANTS*

Overview

At the International Development Innovation Network (IDIN), we are enthusiastic about helping individual champions and organizations create social impact in their local communities by promoting design and fabrication through offering local innovators access to some combination of education, tools, space and support. Past participants of IDDS have created many community innovation education and support programs around the world and we have supported them with funding, mentorship, and peer-to-peer connections. In our final program year, we are seeking to focus our support for these programs on efforts to establish avenues for long-term sustainability.

Guidelines

* **We are looking to fund activities, personnel, or equipment that will increase the long-term ability of your organization to attract financial support or generate revenue.** Consider:
  + *Is there a revenue stream you’re looking to pursue that requires tools, equipment, or personnel that you don’t have?*
  + *Is there a source of expert help that you need funds in order to take advantage of?*
  + *Is there a staff position that will be necessary to make your long-term plans successful?*
  + *Is there another funder interested in your organization that is asking for matching funds?*
* **Proposals should be for between $3,000 and $10,000 USD.**
* Funds cannot be used for purchase or construction of a building.
* Applications are due **Monday, 14 November 2016**
* Funds will be distributed starting in January, and **must be used** before August 30, 2017

We are Looking For:

* Clear descriptions of how the award funds will build opportunities for future funding/revenue
* Clear demonstration of existing community interest and momentum around your proposed endeavors
* Evidence of organizational capacity to execute on planned use of funds, based on previous activities
* Demonstrated ability to generate sufficient funding without IDIN support after September 2017

Eligibility:

In order to be considered, applicants must be:

* Part of the IDIN Network: an IDDS alum, current summit Lead Organizer, or previous Innovation Center Partner grantee.
* Operating an established center or educational program dedicated to having a social impact through the promotion of design and fabrication in your local community.
* Priority will be given to those programs with greatest demonstrated existing and potential impact in their communities.

Required Reporting:

* Grantees if selected are required to submit monthly narrative and financial reports.

Evaluation Criteria

We are not concerned with your writing skills, but we are looking for clear and thoughtful proposals that demonstrate your enthusiasm, your judgment, and your ability to execute on your plans. We evaluate along the following criteria:

* **The center:** 
  + **Demonstrated impact**
  + **Demonstrated ability to build partnerships and generate revenue**
  + **Skills, experience, and dedication of the team**
* **The grant plan:** 
  + **Clarity of goals/ expected outcomes**
  + **Clarity of activities**
  + **Realistic plans for use of funds to build sustainability**

*You will be notified if your proposal has been selected by December 16.*

*Email any questions to* [*molly.rubenstein@olin.edu*](mailto:molly.rubenstein@olin.edu)*.*

***We look forward to reading your proposal!***

APPLICATION FORM

* **Applications are due by 12:00pm (noon) Eastern Time Monday, 14 November 2016**
* **Please keep your responses to the point**: feel free to use bullet points. Applications will ideally be 3-4 pages long.
* We may contact you with questions while we are in the process of evaluating your proposal.
* *You are welcome to email any questions* [*molly.rubenstein@olin.edu*](mailto:molly.rubenstein@olin.edu) *in advance of submitting your application.*

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**OVERVIEW**

* **Your name:**
* **IDIN affiliation (if an IDDS alum, what year?):**
* **Your email**:
* **Your telephone number:**
* **Location of your center or program:**
* **Amount being requested:**

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**Part 1. CONTEXT: YOUR CURRENT STATUS**

1. **What is your current Vision/Mission?**

*What do you and your team members currently hope for your center to achieve through its work?*

*Whom are you looking to serve?*

1. **What services or programs are you providing or wish to provide?**

*What types of services or programming does the center provide?*

*How do each of those offerings serve to achieve or support the goals stated in #1?*

1. **How would you describe the impact you have had in your community so far?**

*What are you most proud of? Can you put numbers to how much impact you have had?*

1. **Describe your current finances.**

*What are your current operating costs?*

*What are your current/recent sources of revenue?*

*What percent of your costs does each source of revenue cover?*

**Part 2. PROPOSED USE OF FUNDS**

1. **What do you want to spend this grant funding on, and how will this help you attract or raise other funds in the long term?**

*Is this an opportunity to attract other funders or generate earned revenue?*

*What will be different about your organization’s ability to raise money after you use these funds?*

*How much funding do you think this grant will allow you to raise in 6 months, 1 year, 2 years?*

**Please fill out this brief budget summarizing how you intend to use these funds.**\*Include estimates in US Dollars. Here is a conversion tool: <http://www.xe.com/currencyconverter/>

Funds cannot be used for purchase or construction of a building.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Category** | **Amount** | **Description** |
| Personnel |  |  |
| Equipment & Materials |  |  |
| Transportation |  |  |
| Program Activities |  |  |
| Other Direct Costs |  |  |
| **Total Funds Requested** |  |  |

1. **What are some of the challenges you expect to face when pursuing this opportunity? How do you plan to overcome them?**

*What, other than this grant, will you need in order to be able to succeed in this proposal?*

*What makes you uniquely suited to succeed at this opportunity?*

1. **How does this opportunity fit into your larger financial model for the future?**

*How do you expect your costs and incomes to change in the future?*

*Other than this opportunity, what are you doing to your increase revenue-generating ability or reduce your costs in the future?*

*What do you expect your other greatest challenges to be, and how do you expect to overcome them?*

1. **Tell us about the team you have or are assembling to execute this project.**

*Who are they key people you have working for/with your organization? What is each of their role/area of responsibility? What qualifies them for that work? Are they part-time, full-time, or volunteer? How long have they been involved? What roles are you still looking to fill in order to be successful?*

**SUPPLEMENTARY DOCUMENTS**

You can help us assess your application by including supplementary material. You only need to include materials that are relevant to your proposal; these may or may not include:

* Information about other funders/grants
* Return on investment calculations
* Market research about proposed products or services
* Information about qualifications of proposed new staff/ partners
* Other things you think helpful!

**Congratulations! You are finished!**

**Please submit to** [molly.rubenstein@olin.edu](mailto:molly.rubenstein@olin.edu)