

Announcement of 2021 Request for Proposals for Presidential Initiative Seed Grants

To: CU Denver Faculty

From: The Deans of CU Denver

Release Date: June 30, 2021

We are pleased to announce the second round of seed grant funding from the CU Denver Presidential Initiative on Urban and Place-Based Research. As with the previous funding round in 2020, grants will be awarded to individuals or teams from CU Denver to support projects that demonstrate potential to both catalyze innovative research and leverage additional funding in the fields of urban and place-based research and creative work. A description of previous awards can be found at the [Initiative web site](#).

Timeline

- The deadline for submission of proposals is Friday, August 27, 2021 at 5:00 PM.
- Awards will be announced in late September 2021 with expected project start dates in early October.
- Round-two seed grants should be fully expended by the end of December 2022.
- There will be a kickoff event for project leads in fall 2021, and a showcase event in mid-2022.

Program Purpose and Priorities

The Presidential Initiative is intended to foster excellence and preeminence in urban and place-based research and creative work at CU Denver through offering funding, coordinating faculty across units, communicating outcomes, enabling connections with partners in the community, and serving as a resource for sharing data and best practices. It is intended to both increase the impact of CU Denver's urban and place-based research and creative work, and to attract and fund faculty and students interested in this domain. While focused on urban issues generally, the Initiative emphasizes work relevant to the cities of the Front Range, particularly when it has national or international implications.

The Initiative funds projects that address critical and timely topics related to cities, such as: social and environmental justice, equity and inclusion, affordable housing, plan making, public spaces, global cities, smart cities, urban informatics, artificial intelligence for cities, infrastructure, transportation and mobility, climate adaptation, green infrastructure, air and water quality, urban ecology, biomimicry, green real estate development, public health, water and energy use, natural hazards mitigation, environmental policy, public finance, historic preservation, creative industries, placemaking, community development, arts districts, healthcare access, economic development, behavioral economics, education policy and practice, urban public policy and governance, public safety, public engagement processes, entrepreneurship, urban design, urban agriculture, construction management, and much more.

Eligibility

Proposals may be submitted by individuals or teams. The project lead should be a full-time faculty member at CU Denver (including tenure-track, CTT, and research faculty), have Principal Investigator (PI) status, and be eligible to apply for external grants. Current project leads for Round 1 Presidential Initiative grants are ineligible to serve as leads for Round 2 projects but may serve as collaborators. Non-lead collaborators from Round 1 projects may apply to Round 2 as project leads.

Proposal Requirements

- ✓ Title
- ✓ Names and unit affiliations for participants, plus contact information for the lead Investigator(s)
- ✓ Brief (3-5 sentence) abstract
- ✓ Project description: this should address the importance of the topic, how it will advance urban and place-based research and/or creative work, and the methods or approach to be employed
- ✓ Identification of the places or communities to be addressed
- ✓ Role of each member on the proposal team
- ✓ List of other funding opportunities you intend to leverage and a description of how this seed grant will help improve the chances of securing that funding

- ✓ Description of community partner roles, if applicable, with letters of support
- ✓ Timeline and deliverables
- ✓ Budget and brief budget justification
- ✓ Page limit of 9 pages single spaced, excluding references and letters of support
- ✓ Submit the application as a single PDF document, with any letters included as pages in the PDF. Name the document "Initiative2021_Lead PI last name_First three words of title.PDF"
- ✓ Please submit by email to CityCenter@ucdenver.edu with the subject heading "Initiative proposal submission"

Basis for proposal selection

Proposals will be reviewed by a committee including awardees from the previous round of funding, with final decisions made by the CU Denver Deans. Among the factors to be considered in selecting projects for awards will be the following:

Required

- A topic in the domain of the Initiative (see above)
- A project idea that displays promise to lead toward future, larger-scale funding
- A well-considered and feasible research question and methodology or description of proposed creative work
- The proposed use of paid student research assistants

Preferred

- Specific funding sources to which the project team intends to apply are identified
- Meaningful collaboration with community partners is identified, if applicable to the work
- The project team is interdisciplinary or cross-unit, if more than one Investigator is applying

Funding Level and Allowable Costs

Grants will be funded in the range of \$10,000-\$20,000. A larger award may be considered if it involves a larger team that is interdisciplinary and the higher expenditures can be clearly justified. The award can be for a period of up to one year from the start date, although no-cost extensions maybe be possible. In developing the budget, funds may be applied toward materials, equipment, salary for student research assistants, faculty salary (summer salary for 9-month faculty or academic year salary for Research Faculty), and travel. Seed Grants must be used only for legitimate costs directly related to proposed research and creative work and are not to be used for other purposes such as engaging consultants, preparing textbooks, revising courses, preparing class notes, performing editorial duties, compiling bibliographies, researching or preparing a thesis or dissertation, or purchasing equipment that will primarily be used for teaching or other research projects. A portion of funds may be allocated to part-time CU Denver employees or an external partner, but if requested, the rationale must be clearly explained in the budget justification.

Requirements for funded investigators

All funded investigators will be required to attend two in-person events. The first will occur soon after the launch of the projects and the second will occur as the projects are winding down in the following calendar year. In the first meeting, participants will present their proposed research and their plans for seeking future funding and will give feedback to each other. The second meeting will be an opportunity to present the results and outputs of the projects to a larger audience. Final presentations will be posted on the Initiative website. In addition, a final report (3-5 pages), describing outcomes as well as other grant proposals submitted/awarded for this project, will be due within one month of the end of the grant. Project leads are also expected to provide links to outputs from the project, such as publications, creative works, or data sets, for posting on the Initiative web site. Awardees may also be asked to help review proposals in subsequent funding rounds for the Initiative if that occurs. More detailed terms of reporting, including due dates, will be given at the time of award.

Questions can be directed to the Initiative Director at Austin.troy@ucdenver.edu.