

UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS – PRESIDENT’S OFFICE
Program Announcement
2018 Creative Economy and Social Issues Research Fund

Introduction

The University of Massachusetts President’s Office is pleased to announce the 2018 *Creative Economy and Social Issues Research Fund*. This year’s announcement—with the attendant change in the *Fund’s* name—heralds additional directions for the *Fund*. Originally established in 2007 to complement the President’s Science and Technology Fund, the then Creative Economy Initiatives Fund sought to add to the cultural and creative resources of the Commonwealth, improve the State’s overall quality of life, and raise the University’s level of community engagement. As its name implied, the Creative Economy Fund was oriented heavily toward the roles of the arts, humanities and other “creative” disciplines.

With the 2018 iteration of the *Fund*, we now wish to add to the original purpose a new dimension: social issues--describing and addressing current social needs, making or re-making public policy, identifying emerging social problems of importance in the Commonwealth, the nation and the world. The contributions of the arts and humanities remain integral to the Fund, continue to be welcome and embraced and often intersect this new dimension as it is reflected in literary, performative, visual, and social media. But we also wish to invite colleagues to pursue projects that include social problems, movements, policy dilemmas, and aim – where appropriate – to include a public audience through articles in mass media as well as professional venues important to scholarship.

Creative Economy and Social Issues Fund awards will normally be made in the \$10,000 - \$30,000 range. Total funding available is contingent on the University’s budget situation which always takes time to resolve. The President’s Office specifically reserves the right to recommend changes or reductions in budget requests. The project period is typically twelve months, starting at the beginning of the University’s fiscal year (July 1) but multi-year requests will be considered. **An interim project report is due in mid-December and a final report in mid-June.**

Criteria for Awards (a successful Proposal need not satisfy all criteria)

- Social Issues of local, state, national or international relevance;
- Significant contribution to cultural or creative richness or quality of life of local community, region, or state;
- Potential for external funding or follow-on activities;
- Opportunities for student (graduate or undergraduate) engagement or incorporation in the project;
- Outcomes that can be projected (public writing, performance, exhibitions, scholarly work, engagement with legislators, etc.)
- Multi-discipline or multi-campus engagement where appropriate;

Application and Review Process

Initially, short, 2 page, Concept Papers are requested. Concepts will be reviewed at both the Campus and President's Office; after which the most promising Concepts will be invited to proceed to the Full Proposal stage. The timeline for the application process is as follows:

- Friday, Feb 2: Concept Papers due to **campus research offices**. (Concept Papers are due from the CROs to the UMass President's Office one week later—Friday, Feb. 9.)
- Fri., Feb. 23: President's Office feedback provided to campus research offices.
- Fri., March 30: Full Proposals due to **campus research offices**. (Full Proposals are due from the CROs to the President's Office one week later—Friday, April 6.)
- Fri., May 11: Announcement of awards.
- Mon., July 2: Project start date

Concept Papers should:

- Be no more than two (2) pages in length;
- Outline the expected impact of the project and how it will reflect the goals of the Fund;
- Identify project leadership and provide a brief estimated budget;
- Describe the external funding opportunities to be pursued, if any, and the expected nature of collaborations on or off campus (on a preliminary basis if necessary); and
- **All proposals must be submitted via Campus Research Offices. Forwarding of concept papers and final proposals from Campus Research Offices to the President's Office will indicate approval of Chancellor.**

Creative Economy and Social Issues Fund Concept Papers will be reviewed by the Office of the Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, Student Affairs and International Relations, and potentially by external reviewers with special knowledge of the field. Applicants who submit the strongest Concept Papers will be asked to submit Full Proposals. In some cases, where opportunities for synergy exist, separate applicants may be encouraged to combine their concepts into a single proposal.

Guidance for Full Proposals

Full Proposals should:

- Be no more than five (5) pages in length;
- Elaborate on the ideas presented in the Concept Paper and provide a more thorough project description, including anticipated performance milestones and success measures;
- Explain how the work supported will be communicated to scholarly, public and/or policy audiences.
- Specifically address how the project's impact will meet the goals of the Fund;
- Provide a budget for the proposed use of funds which identifies major spending categories; and

- **All proposals must be submitted via campus Research Offices. Forwarding of concept papers and final proposals from campus Research Offices to the President's Office will indicate approval of Chancellor.**

Proposals will again be reviewed by the Office of the Senior Vice President, which may include consultation with members of proposal teams, campus research offices, or other relevant parties. The Senior Vice President will make funding recommendations to the President, who will have final decision-making authority.

Proposal Submission and For Further Information

All *Creative Economy and Social Issues Fund* Concept Papers and Full Proposals should be sent via Campus Research Offices to Erica White (emwhite@umassp.edu) in the office of the Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, Student Affairs and International Relations, UMass President's Office, One Beacon Street, Floor 31, Boston, Ma. 02108. Electronic submissions in WORD (not pdf, please) are required. For additional information, Katherine Newman may be contacted at 617-287-4097 or at knewman@umassp.edu. Such contact is welcomed at any stage in the grant process.