



American Society of Interior Designers (ASID) Foundation: *Request for Proposal (RFP)*

TRANSFORM INTERIOR DESIGN RESEARCH GRANT PROGRAM

The ASID Foundation is pleased to announce the sixth annual *Transform Research Grants* to provide essential funding to address critical gaps in industry knowledge, advance design understanding, and transform the practice of interior design for the benefit of everyone. The ASID Foundation exists to advance the profession and communicate the ability of interior design to enhance the human experience through research, scholarships, and education. To expand knowledge about how interior design impacts the world around us, the ASID Foundation is seeking research proposals that address outcomes with practical applications for design practitioners and their clients. Proposals should be for empirical research that design practitioners can apply to their projects. Proposed research should be directly relevant, easily translatable, and of keen interest to both practicing designers and their clients. The Foundation is not seeking proposals for theoretical research, historical research, or literature reviews. The Transform Interior Design Research Grant program is made possible by the generous support of the Donghia Foundation.

Description of the Awards

Up to \$100,000 annually may be awarded between two types of research studies:

GRANT A - Seed/start-up funds: up to \$30,000 to support the exploration or pilot phase of broader research initiatives; to be completed in nine months or less.

GRANT B - Research project: up to \$70,000 to investigate how design can transform lives; to be completed in 18 months or less.

Research Topic: Well-being for All

With mentions in the popular press at every turn, initiatives by the White House, public schools, a multitude of vendors, insurance companies, and healthcare providers, the push for everyday well-being has become mainstream. The built environment is no exception, with a strong emphasis by many in the industry, including ASID, to foster well-being through the spaces we design. At the same time, however, existing research suggests that access to well-being (be it healthy food, exercise, information, advice, or healthy spaces) is not as easily accessible to those working on or below the poverty line. Low income families and individuals may be the most in need of healthy residences, schools, workplaces, and municipal buildings, but the least likely to have access to them.

How can we bring the power of design to include and support vulnerable groups in need of physical, mental, and social well-being? What design interventions can improve the quality of life for populations in need and provide everyday health, safety, and well-being to them? What is the return on investment (financial and/or quality of life) for those interventions?

This year's Transform Grant will specifically fund evidence-based research on interior design or policy solutions that use space to enhance one or more element of well-being for all. For the purpose of this grant, we consider the five elements of well-being to be physical, social (mental/emotional), financial,



career, and community. We invite you to submit your research proposal to the ASID Foundation, and use transformative research to help ensure that the most vulnerable among us also benefit from the mainstream well-being movement.

Submission Guidelines

Please submit the following two (2) files electronically in PDF format to foundation@asid.org by **March 15, 2017 (11:59PM EST)**.

1. PROPOSAL (maximum 8 pages): File name should contain proposal title and grant type – e.g. *Well-being-for-All_GrantB.pdf*
 - Project title and abstract (250 word maximum)
 - Introduction (*including a brief summary of recent relevant research*)
 - Definitions (*for the purposes of this study, how do you define vulnerable populations or populations in need, and how do you define wellness or well-being, or similar critical terms*)
 - Significance of Proposed Research (*including any knowledge gaps your proposed research would fill, and how you expect the outcomes of your research will impact target populations*)
 - Research Questions
 - Methodology
 - Budget (*including other funding sources and expenses for administrative costs¹*)
 - Timeline
 - Dissemination Plan (*including potential audiences and targeted media outlets*)
 - Contingency Plan (*include expected or potential challenges that might delay the research schedule or compromise the findings, and any steps to be taken that minimize risks*)

**Note: This is a blind review process – NO identifiers should be included in the proposal*

2. RESEARCH TEAM (Identifiers): File name should contain proposal title, grant type, and PI's abbreviated affiliation – e.g. *Well-being-for-All_GrantB_ASID.pdf*
 - Cover sheet including:
 - Title
 - Purpose of Study (*one sentence*)
 - Grant Type (*A: seed/start-up fund; B: research project*)
 - Grant Request Total
 - Total Study Budget
 - Dates Covered by Study Budget (*mm/dd/yyyy – mm/dd/yyyy*)
 - Date of Application
 - Applicant contact Information (*legal name, title, affiliation, address, telephone number*)
 - Research team bios (*300 word maximum for each member*)

Evaluation process and criteria

The evaluation process will include a four-stage review:

¹ Note that no more than nine percent (9%) of the Foundation's total grant may be used for administrative expenses, including "indirect" or "overhead" costs.



1. The ASID Research & Knowledge Management team will initially screen all submissions against the guidelines.
2. The Donghia Foundation will inspect alignment/compliance with the ASID Foundation's mission.
3. An expert jury will evaluate the submissions according to the evaluation criteria and prioritize the top five studies for each grant type.
4. The Foundation's Board of Trustees will make the final funding decisions.

The evaluation criteria will be based on:

1. Relevance of research topic
2. Significance of study
3. Innovativeness of research questions,
4. Strength of research methods,
5. Feasibility of budget and timeline,
6. Strength and breadth of target audience reach,
7. Contingency plan, and
8. Overall quality.

**Proposals with interdisciplinary teams and matching funds and/or in-kind resources will receive additional consideration.*

Timeline

RFP Release Date:	January 6, 2016
Submission Due Date:	March 15, 2017 (11:59 p.m. EST)
Announcement of Grant Recipients:	Early May 2017
Project Start Date:	June 1, 2017

Questions? Contact:

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ASID FOUNDATION MISSION

The ASID Foundation advances the interior design profession by drawing upon its resources to promote meaningful collaboration and research, award scholarships, and fund projects that broaden the value of interior design. Created in 1975, the ASID Foundation's mission is to support endeavors that capture and disseminate knowledge, encourage innovation and benefit the health, safety, and welfare of the public through interior design research, scholarships, and education. The Foundation's current initiatives include the National Building Museum Capital Council; The 1+ project with Public Architecture; CIDA's Standards Development Project; the Transform Research Grant; as well as a comprehensive scholarship program. Visit asidfoundation.org for more information.