

CARTA Interdisciplinary Research Initiative

Seed Grant Program Opportunity

CARTA is positioning to attain preeminent program status for its academic units and play an active role in helping the University to achieve Carnegie Very High Research Designation as stated in FIUBeyondPossible 2020 Plan of Action. To incentivize faculty participation, CARTA has established a seed-grant program to support interdisciplinary projects that engage in state-of-the-art research or creative activity. During the 2016-2017 Academic Year, CARTA will award three (3) grants with a maximum budget of \$5000 for each project. The grants seek to enhance competitiveness of innovative proposals for external funding. To facilitate this goal, it is expected that upon completion, the selected projects will be developed into full proposals and be submitted to at least one external public or private funding source.

Eligibility: Principal investigators (PI and co-PIs) must be full-time faculty members on a continuous appointment of tenure-track or tenured with a rank of assistant professor or higher. The project team must be composed of three faculty members, each from a different department with at least one Tenure Track and one other faculty members from CARTA. Faculty members may submit only one application as the Principal Investigator but they can be co-investigators on other projects.

Proposal Preparation: Each proposal should provide a clear idea of the work to be undertaken, expected outcomes, and must include the following sections:

1. Project Description: 1500-word (Maximum) narrative that includes:

Objectives: *What you want to achieve?*

State the objectives, goals and innovative aspects of the project.

Motivation and Needs: *Why you want to conduct the project?*

Describe the challenge, opportunity, or the need that the project is addressing. What is the project's significance? How will the project activities contribute to the advancement of knowledge or push disciplinary boundaries?

Methodology: *How do you plan to proceed?* State the project plan and methodology to achieve goals.

Project Outcomes: *What are the anticipated outcomes of the project activities?*

You could list publications, installations, performances and other products in addition to the submitting a proposal for further funding of the project.

Broader Impacts: *Who will benefit from the project and how?*

Discuss how your project's impact will go beyond the immediate institutional needs and benefit the broader society? Who are the potential beneficiaries?

External Funding Target(s): *What sources are available to fund your project's further development?* Discuss how this seed grant will enhance your chances for developing a strong proposal for external funding. Provide a list (at least three) funding sources with proposal deadlines. Include, the name, URL for the RFP, and the budget limits.

2. Budget and Timeline: Provide a budget, a brief budget justification, and a detailed project schedule for the one-year duration of the proposed work. This part of the proposal could be up to two (2) pages in addition to the narrative. The budget must be appropriate for the proposed scope of work and be below \$5000. Summer salary cannot be included.

3. Supplementary Materials: Up to two pages of supplementary materials, including images, one or two video clips, or other relevant materials as an email attachment.

Evaluation Criteria: Proposals will be evaluated based on:

- Scholarly merit and innovative aspects of the project.
- The potential for developing the project for external funding.
- The quality of the proposal's plan in addressing a national challenge or opportunity.
- Project's potential to gain external recognition for the project team and FIU.
- Suitability of budget, and appropriateness of the project schedule in relation to the scope of work.

Completion and Reporting Requirements: In addition to submitting a final report, the recipient teams must develop a proposal and submit it to an external funding source within 2 months of the project completion date. Failure to submit any of these two documents will disqualify the team from any research related support from the College in the future.

Schedule

**Available Fall of 2016.*

Proposals should be submitted via email to Vassigh@fiu.edu. Please address your questions to the same email or call Shahin Vassigh at (305) 348-3032.