



ACTIVATING DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION IN DESIGN SOLUTIONS

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 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 improving the human experience. The ASID Foundation exists to advance the profession and communicate the ability of interior design to enhance the human experience through empirical research, scholarships, and education. To expand knowledge about how interior design impacts the world around us, the ASID Foundation is seeking research projects that generate outcomes with practical applications for design practitioners and their clients. 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 may be awarded annually 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 (not including dissemination).

GRANT B: Research Project

Up to \$70,000 to investigate how design can transform lives; to be completed in 15 months or less (not including dissemination).

RESEARCH TOPIC: ACTIVATING DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION IN DESIGN SOLUTIONS

Interior design creates experiences for various populations, industries, and settings. People experience designed interiors constantly as we spend time in our homes, offices, schools, health care facilities, restaurants, shops, hotels, transportation vehicles, etc. These interior environments have the power to positively, or negatively, impact our quality of life.

The COVID-19 pandemic has unearthed many discrepancies in society, including economic and social inequalities. For example, lower-income Americans, women, and minorities have been hit the hardest and will have long-lasting effects on quality of life.¹ How can interior design and its positive impact be available, accessible, and achievable to the larger population? What needs to be considered to have designed environments be more inclusive to diverse occupants? How can organizations use interior design as a tool for providing diversity, equity, and inclusion to their employees, clients, and customers?

This year's Transform Research Grant Program is focusing on how diversity, equity, and inclusivity can be supported through interior design. Researchers are to develop research questions rooted from this topic and propose a project that empirically investigates potential solutions, generates measurable results on the impact of design, and translates the findings into actionable design recommendations, guidelines, and/or tools that designers can apply in their design projects. We invite you to submit your research proposal to the ASID Foundation and use transformative research to help ensure that all people benefit from the power of design.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Please submit the following materials using the online application form (asidfoundation.secure-platform.com/a) by September 15, 2021 (11:59 p.m. EDT).

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

- Grant Type (*A: seed/start-up fund; B: research project*)
- Project Title
- Purpose of Study (*max. 50 words*)
- Project Abstract (*max. 250 words*)
- Proposal (*max. 1200 words*)
 - *brief summary of recent relevant research*
 - *identified knowledge gaps*
 - *research questions and/or hypotheses*
 - *expected outcomes and/or design implications*
 - *significance of research*
- Methodology (*max. 500 words*)
- Images/Graphs/Charts
- Budget (*include other funding sources² and expenses for administrative costs³*)
- Timeline
- Dissemination Plan (*include 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 that will be taken to minimize risks*)
- Resource Citations (*i.e., reference list*)
- Research Team⁴ Bios (*max. 150 words for each member*)
- Applicant Contact Information (*legal name, title, affiliation, address, telephone number*)

¹American Society of Interior Designers (March 2021). [2021 Outlook and State of Interior Design report](#).

²Proposals with matching funds and/or in-kind resources will receive additional consideration.

³No more than nine percent (9%) of the Foundation's total grant may be used for administrative expenses, including "indirect" or "overhead" costs.

⁴Research teams must be multidisciplinary.

EVALUATION PROCESS

The evaluation process will include a four-stage review:

1. The ASID Research & Knowledge team will screen all submissions against the guidelines.
2. The Donghia Foundation will inspect alignment/ compliance with the ASID Foundation's mission.
3. The program jury will evaluate the submissions and discuss the prioritized studies to recommend grant recipients. This is a blind review process.
4. The Foundation's Board of Trustees will make the final funding decisions.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

The evaluation criteria will be based on:

1. Significance of study
 - a. Addresses critical gap in industry knowledge
 - b. Advances design understanding
 - c. Transforms the practice of interior design
2. Innovativeness of research questions
3. Strength of research methods
4. Applicability of research findings
 - a. Directly relevant to design solutions
 - b. Easy to translate
 - c. Keen interest to design practitioners and clients
5. Feasibility of budget and timeline
6. Strength and breadth of target audience reach
7. Contingency plan
8. Overall quality

TIMELINE

RFP Release Date

July 7, 2021

Submission Due Date

September 15, 2021 (11:59 p.m. EDT)

Announcement of Grant Recipients

November 2021

Earliest Project Start Date

December 1, 2021

Grant A Project End Date

August 31, 2022

Grant B Project End Date

February 28, 2023

Latest Project Start Date

January 3, 2022

Grant A Project End Date

September 30, 2022

Grant B Project End Date

March 31, 2023

QUESTIONS?

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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.